

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Hassan Al-Razi
Project title	Population Status, Threats, and Conservation of Bengal Slow Loris (<i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i>) in Northeast Bangladesh
RSG reference	21701-1
Reporting period	June 2018
Amount of grant	£4980
Your email address	Chayan1999@yahoo.com
Date of this report	September, 2018

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Survey of the Bengal slow loris population in five protected areas and reserve forests of Bangladesh				With financial support from The Rufford Foundation, we have successfully surveyed five protected areas and reserve forests. Beside direct observation we also collected data on slow loris encounters from the forest staff, tribal and local people.
Assessment of Bengal slow loris habitat				This goal is partially achieved. Because we conducted habitat assessment in three study sites among a total of five. We did not collect habitat data in Juri due to no occurrence of slow loris.
Identify the threats of Bengal slow loris by conducting a questionnaire survey.				To identify the threats of Bengal slow loris we conducted a questionnaire survey within the tribal people, local people, and forest staffs. A total 87 interview surveys were conducted in five study sites. Beside this we also collected road kill and electrocution mortality data of Bengal slow loris.
Conservation initiative to conserve Bengal Slow loris				As a part of conservation initiative we arranged an awareness programme among the local people and forest staffs in four sites. We arranged a drawing competition among school kids to introduce them with Bengal slow loris. We provided poster and leaflet containing message on save Bengal slow loris among school going children and local people in forest adjacent areas. We also rescued an adult slow loris from Netrokona District and released it in Satchari National Park.
Publish the results in International peer review journal				We have already submitted our research work in an International journal and some data is under processing.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

As slow loris is a nocturnal and shy animal, so it is very difficult to work on it. During our night survey we faced many difficulties. Sometimes we had to face the night duty cops when we were returning home after our field work in the midnight. As the police have very limited idea on wildlife research, so it was very difficult for us to make them clear about our work.

Because of heavy rainfall in north-east region of Bangladesh, we were unable to conduct the surveys during the monsoon. As a result, it has taken more time to complete the project. Flash flood was another challenging factor for us. Several times we faced flash flood in Satchari National Park and Kalenga wildlife sanctuary.



Difficulties during night survey

Dealing with tribal people was another big challenge. Most of the tribal people were not willing to talk to us and participate to an interview. Most of them thought that, we are from the forest department and taking their information to abolish them from the forest area.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

Outcome 1: By this project we have confirmed the presence of Bengal slow loris in four forest patches of north-east Bangladesh. The encounter rate is higher in Satchari National Park than rest three forest patches. We also found out the habitat type of Bengal slow loris.

Outcome 2: We have conducted a total of 87 interview surveys among tribal people, local people and forest staffs. This survey helped us to understand people's attitude towards Bengal slow loris. From this survey we came to know that, hunting occurs only in Rajkandhi Reserve Forest. Road kill and electrocution are an alarming threat for slow loris in Satchari and Lawachara National Park.



Field Activities to Collect Population Data



Interview Survey among Forest Staffs and Local People



Interview Survey among Tribal people

Outcome 3: The greatest outcome from this project is, rescue and release of an adult Bengal slow loris. We also train up the local people and school kids, what they will do when a slow loris comes human habitation. How they will rescue and release slow loris with the help of forest staffs. We also distribute some poster where we present the importance of Bengal slow loris and instruction of rescue process.



Introducing School Kids with Bengal Slow Loris



Poster for Awareness



Drawing Competition on the Occasion of Loris Week- 2017

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Not relevant.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have a plan to study about the feeding and breeding ecology and home range of Bengal slow loris using radio collars.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We have been sharing our project updates on the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/slowlorisbd/>) with 1,245 followers (18th September 2018).

We have already share our project results with university students and wildlife biologists. Now we will share the result with authority of Bangladesh Forest Department, and possibly also at the next Rufford meeting in India or Nepal. In addition, all the results obtained will be published in peer-reviewed scientific papers.



Sharing Project Result with Others

7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The grant was used from April 2017 to August 2018. Though according to project proposal, the ending date of the project was May 2018. But due to heavy rainfall and complexity to get permission to work in the forest it have taken four months more to complete the project.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Salary for field assistant	880	880	0	
Camera with lens	900	970	-70	That time camera price was rose in Bangladesh.
Binoculars	150	150	0	
Laptop	200	90	+110	We did not buy any laptop and used an old one. But we buy a portable hard drive to store data.
Spot Light	50	50	0	
Head Lamp	200	200	0	
Travel to study site & return	700	690	+10	
Local travel	200	220	-20	We had to travel for buying food from nearby market.
Accommodation	500	445	+55	In Rajkandhi forest we got free accommodation from forest department
Food	950	930	+20	
Awareness materials	250	260	-10	We arranged a drawing competition and managed the cost from here
Total	4980	4885	+95	We used this excess amount to rescue a Bengal slow loris from Netrokona District and release it in Satchari National Park.

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

We are planning to conduct our further surveys in south-eastern region of the country, where assumed to be occupied large populations of Bengal slow loris remain undiscovered.

The ecology of Bengal slow loris is almost unknown. Especially the breeding biology of wild Bengle slow loris is almost unknown and it is not possible without radio collaring. So, population survey in south-eastern region of Bangladesh and study on ecology by using radio collar track will be my next step.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The RF logo was used in every printed awareness materials (banner, poster and t-shirt). The RF has acquired publicity and acknowledgement in our scientific publications. We have also used the logo at the presentation slides during every presentation.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Hassan Al-Razi: He is the chief investigator of this project. He was responsible for research design, data collection, data analysis, presentation of the findings and preparation of scientific papers.

Dr. Sabir Bin Muzaffar: Associate Professor of Department of Biology at United Arab Emirates University who is the advisor of our all projects and provided valuable comments on field methods. He is also responsible for data analysis and preparation of scientific papers.

Sabit Hasan: He is currently doing his MSc in Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation at Jagannath University. He played an important role in field data collection.

Shimul Nath: He is a BSc student and he worked as a field assistant of this project.

Marjan Maria: She is a student of Department of Zoology, Jagannath University Dhaka. She helped in population data collection and interview survey.

Abdur Rahim: An eco tourist guide who helped to conduct population survey in the field.

12. Any other comments?

Youtube Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWqaw7m9t1g>