

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Umesh Srinivasan
Project title	An avifaunal survey of Namdapha National Park: exploring the potential for limited bird tourism with local communities
RSG reference	29/09/08
Reporting period	From August 2008 to July 2009
Amount of grant	£5,570
Your email address	<a href="mailto:Umesh.srinivasan@gmail.com">Umesh.srinivasan@gmail.com</a>
Date of this report	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2012

**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
Bird survey of mid and high elevations of Namdapha National Park and surrounding areas			Yes	
Creation of a website on Namdapha National Park			Yes	
Training of guides for potential bird tourism		Yes	No	

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

One of the unforeseen difficulties encountered during the project was the lack of interest in the local community for training to be bird guides. As a result, only one member of the resident community received training in English names of birds and bird identification.

A further difficulty in taking this project forward from this point is to develop bird tourism in the area is the lack of infrastructure such as roads and transport that will make it difficult to begin bird tourism.

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

a. A survey of the poorly explored mid and high elevations of Namdapha National Park and the surrounding community forests was completed, resulting in the identification of 62 species hitherto undescribed from the area, as well as identification of a large number of species that are important from a targeted bird-tourism perspective. In terms of bird diversity, Namdapha is amongst the highest in the world, and can potentially be a tourism destination.

b. We created a website that showcases the biodiversity of the area, while at the same time provides detailed information to the potential visitor ([www.namdapha.in](http://www.namdapha.in)).

c. Two papers have been published on the birds of Namdapha and the surrounding areas in international peer-reviewed journals, and a report on the survey has been communicated to the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department.

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

A few members of the local community benefited from income arising from work as guides, field assistants, and porters. The website and report raise awareness on local communities. Further, we have documented the traditional knowledge of the Lisu community in terms of bird names and other bird information, and this is available in one of the papers that resulted from this project. One member of the community was trained in English bird names and bird identification, while another member is a co-author on one of the papers that we published in the journal *Indian Birds*.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

At the moment, there are no plans to continue this work given reasons detailed in the report. However, the development of infrastructure in the area would make intensifying this effort possible.

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

We have already published two papers in peer-reviewed journals that would be of interest to both serious ornithologists and bird enthusiasts. A report to the Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department has already been submitted. Importantly, the website developed as part of this effort is available online, and not only contains material related to this project, but also a large amount of literature, photographs and other material on Namdapha, its biodiversity and people and history.

Two blogs have also been written that carry pieces of information arising from this project (at <http://www.conservationindia.org/> and [www.migrantwatch.in/blog/2009/07/10/167/](http://www.migrantwatch.in/blog/2009/07/10/167/)).

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The RSG was used for the bird survey from November 2008 to January 2009. The RSG was also used for website development from August 2008 to July 2009.

**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
Stipend for PI	1125	1125	NIL	
Honorarium for bird guide	250	250	NIL	
Porter/guide charge	335	335	NIL	
Equipment (binoculars, field guide, storage hard drive etc.)	570	500	-70	We did not buy all the budgeted binoculars for training field guides because of low number of volunteer trainees.
Accommodation	175	0	175	We did not spend money on accommodation as we were mostly camping in remote areas within the forest, or stayed in the homes of people from the village
Travel	625	625	NIL	
Supplies and consumables (field rations, batteries, etc.)	440	440	NIL	

Website development and maintenance	1250	1695	445	Website development costs exceed the budgeted amount because of use of certain software that were required to make the website more visually appealing.
Miscellaneous (postage, communication, etc.)	600	600	NIL	
Training for field naturalists and bird guides	200	0	-200	We did not spend money on training sessions because of low number of volunteer trainees.
<b>Total</b>	5570	<b>5570</b>	NIL	

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

The important next steps with respect to carrying this work forward are:

- a. To create infrastructure that allows for high-end tourists visiting the area.
- b. To generate interest in the local community in ecotourism, possibly through field visits in other areas where this has proven a success.

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

We used the RSGF logo on the [www.namdapha.in](http://www.namdapha.in) website. The logo appears on the bottom left hand corner of every page of the website.

We have also acknowledged the RSGF on both the papers that were published as a result of this project.

**11. Any other comments?**

Please see the enclosed detailed report for more comments and photographs.