

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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. 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. 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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Tefera Belay Endalamaw
<b>Project title</b>	Non-Timber Forest Products innovation and Commercialization in Ethiopia: Implication on Forest Conservation and Local Livelihood
<b>RSG reference</b>	10898-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2012- January 2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Tefera10@yahoo.com">Tefera10@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	January 28, 2013

**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 important NTFPs and floristic composition of NTFP source forest			X	The common NTFPs were systematically studied and their major economic, social and cultural values were fully documented. The major tree and shrub species that provide NTFP were also assessed using species inventory methods in the forest and agro-forestry systems. The NTFP production system as primarily forest, agro-forest or plantation forest in each respective region is also described.
Study the effects of indigenous technology and innovations, cultural differences, commercialisation approaches and policy conditions on sustainable NTFP management		X		This objective was addressed fully in Bench Maji. In other areas comparison of cultural differences was difficult as residents are more or less homogenous. The aspect on bamboo is also partially addressed since a different approach was required as there is little interventions and policies so far for this particular NTFP.
Explore the impact of income from bamboo, forest coffee and honey in conserving/convertng the forest			X	This objective is fully addressed by comparing ecological and economic feasibilities, benefits obtained in agro-forest and forest system where the NTFPs activity practised
Develop conceptual model for sustainable NTFP utilisation			X	A conceptual model is developed that incorporate cultural conditions, incentives (value added benefits), inclusive approach (local, private sector and public) and principle of productive conservation

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

The most difficult problem was the distance to be covered for data collection. It was fairly ambitious to compare those too distance places. It was also time consuming to introduce the project objectives in many places which by itself was time consuming. Only after community leaders understand and internalize the project aim that actual data collection conducted.

Moreover, comparison of the cases was also difficult since they are more divergent than I expected. For instance, Bench-Maji have both natural forest and agro-forest, Sidama has mainly agro-forest and Awi almost exclusively plantation forest. Therefore, only issues that are comparable were compared. Unique issues were dealt separately and according to the specific site condition.

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

The relative contribution of NTFP for conservation and livelihood is understood. Non-timber forest products were assessed in the selected sites using interview questionnaires and group discussion. In some places there is no natural forest and NTFP assessment was made from trees in agro-forestry and plantation forests. Several marketable and subsistence NTFPs were identified and their economic benefits were understood in detail. This outcome will be important in development and conservation planning in forest ecosystems.

The tree-shrub diversity in forest and agro-forest system is made known. The diversity of tree species and their population status has been investigated using transect based nested sampling method. Diversities were found higher as expected in forest ecosystem. However, recently established agro-forestry systems near natural forest have lower species diversity than old matured agro-forestry system of Sidama.

The research enabled us to understand the various socio-cultural and political factors affecting the harmonisation of conservation and livelihood. The cultural differences, socio-economic parameters and policy conditions were studied using data from multiple sources. The study shows that some species especially those nationally and internationally marketed are favoured by the state and regulatory policies are set in place. Local people preference is not associated with market but the benefits they get from the products for subsistence or cash. Generally little attention is given to bamboo both from the government and local people, as both groups obtain meagre benefit from it so far.

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

At this stage of the project the participation of local people was limited to knowledge generation through interview and group discussion. However, development agents and local leaders was active participant in the data collection process and their role was indispensable. The role of the entire communities will increase in the coming phases of the project.

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

Yes, with a focus on bamboo and forest coffee. The honey resources development has been taken by other NGO-private partnership. And commercialisation of the resource has been well underway. The forest coffee project is also handled similarly by government and the private sector though too much domestication is a treat which need to be addressed from the conservation perspective. The most untouched potential area of intervention from both conservation and development perspective is bamboo. I am planning an action research on creating skill and linking to market. So in my subsequent work I will address the bamboo case first and look to the Forest coffee conservation issue as my second priority.

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

I have already started sharing my results by presenting in academic conferences. Part of the result has been presented in two conferences where invaluable comments and critics obtained. I am also still working on the data and publication in scientific article. Dissemination of result for non-epistemic communities, however, is limited and will be incorporated in the subsequent action research phases.

It is my plan to produce a manual written in simple local language of most useful honey trees, coffee shade and most common uses of bamboo in the different study region. This manual will help farmers to compare their experience from other farmers outside their community and regions.

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

I have completed the data collection in slightly less than I planned despite, as mentioned above, I have elapsed extra time during familiarisation of the project. I made the remaining activities a little faster through extra assistant's support during the interview process. However, data analysis and reporting has taken more time than I planned. Since the data collected was quite huge and took longer than expected. Some data recording and analysis is still to be completed.

## 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
Fuel and mileage costs	3420	2900	+520	The price of petrol was slightly lower, and we were able to get car rent was also modestly cheaper than planned
Field assistants and translators	1350	1890	-540	The current rate of payment for field assistants and translated was higher than the budgeted amount
Driver	750	750		The payment rate for driver was higher than budgeted but we were able to slightly reduce the field stay and negotiate payment rate taking the budget constraints into consideration
Technical assistant	500	500		Budgeted amount was paid
Stationary and telephone	80	80		Stationery materials were bought based on budgeted amount and found more than adequate (some stationary still available)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>6020</b>	<b>-</b>	

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

While Ethiopia's bamboo potential is immense, it is still underutilised. Bamboo publicity in the western market and in the world has grown spectacularly. We need to change the resource from underutilised useful species to highly commercial product. It requires behavioural change locally from producer to consumer level. Only if capacity is built on this level that we can enter in the international competitive market. Therefore, an action research for capacity development and knowledge and technology communication among relevant stakeholders is timely. Bamboo conservation will be achieved only if it is utilised in value added form. Otherwise the resource will be depleted or replaced by other alternative land uses as it is the trend now. A pilot site(s) will be selected for intervention and to promote intervention outputs (innovations) in Ethiopia. Once the Bamboo project started going well, a project for responsible utilisation of forest coffee resource will be developed and implemented.

In fact, all the three NTFPs studied need to be further promoted since the economic and ecological threshold level has not yet reached. But as mentioned above priority will be given for bamboo which is still least commercialised and requires intensive knowledge and skill development. I have also a plan to work in collaboration with other researchers to increase efficiency and quality of the development work.

### **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?**

Yes, I have acknowledged Rufford during the conferences and I will do so when I do publish my work. Moreover, during the data collection and within among my colleagues, I inform people that I am doing research with a grant from Rufford conservation and if they are researchers I do encourage them to identify researchable area and apply for it.

### **11. Any other comments?**

The Rufford conservation grant has enabled me to understand in depth the status and potential of NTFP in Ethiopia and pave the way for further research and development on selected NTFPs. I thank the RSGF for the generous support it rendered me. A lot of data is yet to be published and will be available for application.