

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. 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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Martin Dallimer
Project title	The impact of rapid land redistribution on avian diversity and abundance
RSG reference	10915-1
Reporting period	2012
Amount of grant	£6026
Your email address	mada@life.ku.dk
Date of this report	March 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
(1) Re-establishment of a long-term monitoring programme for internationally important populations of ground hornbills and Cape vultures using the same personnel and methods that were employed prior to land redistribution.		X		We have re-visited the Cape vulture roost at Wabai Hills several times during the course of the grant and have been able to survey ground hornbills. Future monitoring efforts rely on securing longer term funds.
(2) Comparison of avian diversity and abundance across resettled and non-resettled land.			X	We have gathered a comprehensive dataset of bird occurrence and abundance across both resettled and non-resettled land. These data will allow a comparison of the biodiversity value of the two land uses.
(3) Determine what physical aspects of newly established farms (e.g. crop types, farming system, topography, habitat structure) supports high avian richness and abundance, especially those species listed as nationally or regionally threatened			X	For each survey site we have a comprehensive supplementary dataset regarding crop types, topography and habitat type/structure which will allow us to pinpoint which variables are associated with high avian diversity and abundance.
Retain biodiversity conservation capacity within Zimbabwe by establishing an active collaboration with Ngoni Chiweshe.			X	Ngoni Chiweshe has taken a full and active part in the project and has been able to continue to develop his expertise in avian ecology and biodiversity conservation.
Re-establish avian conservation links within Zimbabwe between Ngoni Chiweshe, Prof. Peter Mundy and BirdLife Zimbabwe			X	The project has been the catalyst for regular meetings.
Establish relationships with resettled			X	We have established excellent working relationships with the

<p>communities with the long term aim of actively engaging communities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable agricultural production.</p>				<p>resettled communities, local council officials and village leaders. Such relationships will stand us in good stead for future work in the area.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Although we were able to re-establish monitoring for the Cape vulture and include ground hornbills in our surveys, it proved more difficult than anticipated to access historical data. Some records have been located, but since the original surveys were last carried out in the early 2000s, data and reports have not been stored in an easily accessible fashion.

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

- (1) Retaining and developing avian ecology and biodiversity conservation capacity within Zimbabwe.
- (2) Collecting the first dataset relating the avian community to land use change under rapid land re-distribution.
- (3) Establishing excellent local contacts with staff and managers at Debshan Ranch, DeBeers Ptv and forging working relationships with key members of the local community in the resettled areas.

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

Engaging with the local communities was essential in order to secure access to their land to carry out the bird surveys. However delivering benefits to the community remains a longer term goal that will only be feasible in the coming years with further funding. Please see Section 5 for more information regarding our longer term plans for how the local community will be able to benefit from our research.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Most definitely: (i) we have developed excellent working relationships with all the relevant parties in the region which will facilitate future field work; (ii) we will continue to analyse data gathered as part of this project

We would like to continue the work in two complementary directions:

Firstly, as with all biodiversity research, a single year's data only provides us with a snap shot of the current situation. This is always unsatisfactory when examining processes linking to land use change, which is constantly on-going.

Secondly, we would like to assess the crop type, yields, fertiliser and pesticide input, cash and non-cash incomes of newly settled farms and use these data to build coupled economic-ecological models that relate household incomes and activities to biodiversity.

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

We intend to share our results through scientific papers and presentations at national and international meetings. We will also produce an internal report for Debshan Ranch. In addition, if we secure funds to prolong the project, we will share our results with the local participants. This is likely to be in the form of meetings with villagers in order to deliver information through verbal presentations.

The following scientific articles are planned from the research. Articles will be submitted to leading international conservation journals and to regional and national journals which are more likely to be read and have impact within Zimbabwe itself.

1. The impact of rapid land redistribution on avian richness, abundance and functional diversity. Target journal: *Conservation Biology*
2. Density and abundance of game birds and mammals under rapid land redistribution in Zimbabwe. Target journal: *African Journal of Ecology*
3. Distribution of raptors in Debshan Ranch 10 years after land redistribution. Target journal: *Honeyguide*

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

Anticipated timescale: 11 months from receipt of funds

Actual timescale: April 2012 to end February 2013

The start of the project was delayed until April 2012. This was to ensure that bird surveys could be conducted at the most appropriate times of year, which includes summer (January/February).

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
International travel (International flight, visa and accommodation in Harare before and after fieldwork)	1226	1095	131	There was an under-spend on international travel by £131 as accommodation in Harare was not required for the full budgeted period of time. The addition £131 was used to prolong time spent in the field.
Field costs (travel to and from the field sites, daily subsistence for Ngoni Chiweshe, stationary and consumables)	4800	4931		The initial project proposal and subsequent field trips were carefully planned to ensure that funds were fully used and no additional expenditure was required. The £131 transferred from International travel enabled

				additional days to be spent in the field.
TOTAL	6026	6026		

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

We have been able to establish good working relationships both with the management of Debshan Ranch and council members and village leaders throughout the resettled areas of land. This is a key element in the long term goals of the project. The next step is to begin the process of understanding how farming and natural resource management practices may be impacting (in both positive and negative ways) on the bird communities in the resettled areas. This will be important if we wish to help the local communities manage their land in ways that offer the prospect of long term persistence of diverse bird communities both in this landscape, and more broadly through Zimbabwe as a whole.

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 in all instances where we presented our results, including: (i) at the Third Diamond Route Conference in Johannesburg where we delivered an invited presentation on our research; (ii) internal reports to Debshan Ranch regarding the progress of our research, (iii) interactions with “VulPro” a South African vulture conservation NGO who were interested in our work at the Wabai Hills roost. We also ensured that the Rufford Small Grants Programme was mentioned in any correspondence and communication regarding our research. We will acknowledge the RSGF in all manuscripts that are developed as a result of the project, as well as any subsequent outreach activities.

11. Any other comments?

Many thanks to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for funding this project. I hope that we are able to build on our excellent progress to date and build a long-term project in this area.