

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh
Project title	Increase Community Understanding on the Threats to the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin in Djibouti
RSG reference	11021-2
Reporting period	September 2011 to December 2012
Amount of grant	£5850
Your email address	naturedjibouti@gmail.com
Date of this report	January 5th 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
Carrying out intensive awareness campaign amongst community stakeholders.		X		The awareness campaign sessions were carried out from September 2011 to November 2012 and were held involving many and various stakeholders in Djibouti, mainly local community living in and around the main targeted site of the project "Forêt du Day Ecosystem", schools at Day, Ardo and Randa villages. Other awareness activities were targeted to people living in Djibouti city, the capital, such as workshops, conferences and seminars for local NGOs and government officials. Eco-talk sessions were organised for teachers and students of Djibouti University and other events such as 2012 world environment day celebrated at Day village that allowed villagers to get to know the species, its habitats and the threats it faces in the Forêt du Day. We are feeling that changes of attitude are starting to appear for the benefit of both people and nature but it needs to be maintained and followed to consolidate it.
Building capacity of the emerging support site group:			X	Five members of the Forêt du SSG received 2 months of direct training on nursery management in the nursery of the government reforestation programme of the Forêt du Day and they are now working fulltime at the nursery of the government reforestation programme. Our environmental education team has continued to foster over five environment clubs formed in Forêt du Day surroundings for Elementary schools' teachers to develop their interest in the environment conservation issues. Two additional villages (Randa and Ardo), located in Goda Mountain close to the project area were incorporated into the programme, and over 15 teachers and 300 children were trained in their respective schools to allow them enough skills to undertake practical environmental education work in their schools.

<p>Securing from the community more stock enclosures to keep out livestock.</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>One more enclosure of 4 ha has been secured from the community and established at Garab plateau in the Forêt du Day to keep out livestock but the idea is make concrete protected area status of the site as it is officially in a law adopted by the government in 2004 but not yet effective on the ground.</p>
<p>And collecting additional ecological data to up date the Djibouti Francolin fact sheet 2006</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>70 hours of active spotting work at the five francolins' spotting points pre-identified (approximately 190 man hours) were undertaken from January to November 2012. The spotters were distanced about 2.5 km each other in an area of approximately 12 km², half of the entire estimated natural habitat range of the Djibouti Francolin in the Forêt du Day Ecosystem. Although birds came close to the spotters, it was clear that birds were not as common as usual due to the regular droughts over last years and rarity of natural food. On many occasions, some birds were observed closely foraging on fresh cattle droppings and soft soils to seek insects (ants, termites). Due to the close proximity of spotters to the birds during spotting periods, it was possible to make some useful records on adult males and females' behaviour, including interactions of family members. It was recorded up to 14 birds constituting at least three adult males and 11 females were observed regularly at "Aiolaf, Algoule and Hamboka", three of the five spotting points pre-identified in the project site</p> <p>No standardised population monitoring using fixed transects within the established spotting points was carried out from January to November 2012. 25 transect locations were covered representing a range of altitude, habitats and physical features within the studied area.</p>

Reporting			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2011: Planning of the activities. The main activities as follow: (1) an intensive awareness campaign amongst community stakeholders; (2) a support site group has been established and trained; (3) enclosures to keep out livestock have been secured in the Forêt du Day; and (4) and additional ecological data on Djibouti Francolin, were carried out from October 2011 to November 2012. July 2012: Interim report December 2012: Preparation of the final report. January 2013: Final report
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

N/A

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

The project “Increase Community Understanding on the Threats to the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin in Djibouti” was early designed to work with the local communities, village leaders living and around the Forêt du Day Ecosystem area. To maximise its benefits, it was expanded to bring together various relevant stakeholders in and out of the project site: elementary school teachers, regional administration authorities, local NGOs and other villages were able to get benefit of the project’s activities.

The three most important outcomes of this project are:

1. Increased local awareness and knowledge about Djibouti Francolin in Forêt du Day Ecosystem area specifically those francolins and other threatened species need to be protected and those local communities can use forest natural resources in sustainable manner without disturbing the francolins.

2. We have made good link to international conservation organisations such as BirdLife International and World Pheasant Association. With World Pheasant Association “a Strategic conservation of the Djibouti Francolin: Djibouti’s most threatened species” has been drafted and shared with BirdLife International and IUCN Galliform Specialist Group for comments and contributions. We hope to secured finance support to edit it and then fund raise for its implementation.

3. Our Bird Elementary Booklet was welcomed by all public (children, teachers and others) as the most important environmental education tools for nature conservation in Djibouti.

The project used environmental education tools previously developed by our organisation in order to generate an interest for this threatened species and a sensibility for the other globally threatened species.



Day village elementary school during environmental education session

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

Five members of the Forêt du Day Support Site Group were trained in nursery management techniques and recruited by an ongoing government's project in the area. Knowledge on nature available in particular to local community stakeholders leads to an important support for actions and decision-making with respect to conservation and livelihoods improvement in the area.

Also, seven elementary schools, three from the project site (Day, Randa and Ardo) and four from Djibouti city (Republic, ZPS, Gachamaleh and Guelleh Batal), were targeted for raising awareness for a trial environmental education teaching methods.

Now, young, teacher and schools in the Forêt du Day area and elsewhere as well as traditional chiefs and regional administration authorities could refer to field guides and information about the importance of the Djibouti Francolin in Djibouti. With this available knowledge, the community will be able to better assist and contribute future efforts and actions to protect biodiversity in Forêt du Day Ecosystem in particular and in Djibouti in general.



Project team in the field work

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project with the previous project's activity built a friendly platform for the future. We have identified potential wills from the local community, local NGOs and prominent stakeholders to support the concept but also we have identified conflict and threats for Djibouti Francolin. Next we feel that there is much remaining to be done considering awareness and educational programme.

We need to reinforce our efforts in Forêt du Day Ecosystem area and also expand it to other important ecosystems and why not expand to nationwide.



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

Once all needed additional ecological information on the species is collected and completed, the data will be analysed and be shared with BirdLife International species data base to feed the Djibouti Francolin fact sheet. A paper will be prepared and presented to the university community at Djibouti University in Djibouti. After that, our plan is to write short note on the project and to publish in BirdLife International bulletin.

It is very important to share our results within all stakeholders that we worked particularly the local communities (presentations for the general public as a part of our environmental education programme, eco-talk sessions for students and teachers of Djibouti University).

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

The timescale of the project was 14 months from September 2011 to December 2012 and therefore comparable to anticipated length.

The project follows up and consolidates recommendations and actions arising from our previous works carried out with financial support respectively from Rufford Small Grant (first grant), BirdLife International and World Pheasant Association, including: (1) awareness campaign by engaging the local and national stakeholders; (2) disseminating of environmental education tools and upgrading the species profile at national and international levels "Djibouti Francolin has been top prioritized in the BirdLife's Preventing Extinctions Programme"; (3) reinforcing the small ongoing restoration of the juniper forest through community tree nursery and a Support Site Group; (4) Deliver series of conferences on biodiversity at Djibouti University and other events; (5) Establish a nature-based group for conservation; (6) equip in field materials (bird books and binoculars) to the conservation group; and (7) organise as network the emerging community based organisations in conservation work.

And the following activities were particularly implemented during the lifetime of this project: (1) an intensive awareness campaign amongst community stakeholders; (2) a support site group has been established and trained; (3) enclosures to keep out livestock have been secured in the Forêt du Day; and (4) additional ecological data have been collected to feed the Djibouti Francolin fact sheet 2006. The other actions were also to show the species to the general public by different informative events such as conferences, round-table nature talks, celebration of 2012 world environment day and some facts about the species and its conservation in Djibouti. By all of these few brief notes we delighted to see that the people, particularly the local community living in and around the project site are starting to change attitudes towards the environment and reducing some of the threats harming the Djibouti Francolin and its habitats in the present and in the near future.

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
Project Leader (Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh/Djibouti Nature): coordination and management/DSA x14 months@£56.	784	784	0	
Project Assistants (Ali Dabale/local community and Malabo Ismael/Djibouti Nature): respectively field and office assistances/DSA x 14 months x 2@£37,5	1050	1200	150	
Project field guides (Mohamed Abdallah Ali and Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed/local community) "Francolins' spotters/DSA x 8 months x 2@£25	256	400	144	Underestimated during the planning of the activity.
Transportation expenses : Car rent: 12 round trip@£92.5	1110	1600	490	Increase of salary of our driver and the price of fuel.
Lodging in the field/12 round trip@£80	850	960	110	Underestimated during the planning of the activity.
Food in the field /12 round trip@£75	600	900	300	Underestimated during the planning of the activity.
Meetings with local community stakeholders on sites	0	300	300	
Teacher workshop in the project area at Randa and Ardo villages	0	550	550	
Eco-talk sessions at Djibouti University	600	600	0	
Printing of awareness materials of the project	600	600	0	
Equipment for the new enclosure secured (fence, labour and supply of grow bags for seedlings)	0	1992	1992	The fenced area was little bit bigger than those already secured previously.
Training for SSG members on nursery management	0	350	350	Training sessions were held in Day village and 5 of them were recruited by the nursery.
Awareness raising workshop on bird conservation issues for local NGOs in Djibouti city	0	950	950	One day workshop was held in Djibouti for 30 people representing local NGOs working on environment

				conservation issues in Djibouti.
Total	£ 5850	£ 11186	£ 5335	Difference was covered by funds from membership fees and local Enterprises.

Exchange rate on Sept 17, 2011, (Djibouti Franc) £1= DJF 273=\$1.55

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

In Djibouti, the fundamental problem in tackling the conservation issues is both the lack of clear environment planning policies at government level, low capacity of existing civil societies (local NGOs) and lack of awareness. At a conserving Djibouti's priority land fauna workshop held in Djibouti in March 2012 organised by the Ministry of Environment of Djibouti in partnership with the IUCN/SSC Species Conservation Planning Sub-committee, The IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), the IUCN/SSC Equid, Antelope, Cat and Galliform Specialist Groups, The World Pheasant Association, Association Beauval Conservation et Recherche, and ZooParc de Beauval, there was a sense of anger in the audience of Djibouti University Conference Room. The few representatives from emerging civil society organisations present at this workshop expressed loudly that they were not aware of this "national emergency" in conservation".

With regards to this reality on the ground, we would like to immediately continue by:

- Evaluate our previous work done with the 1st RSG and this 2nd RSG funds provided by the Trustees of The Rufford Small Grants Foundation in 2009 and 2011 respectively titled as follow: "Improving our ecological knowledge to aid conservation of the Critically Endangered Djibouti francolin in Djibouti" (18.03.09) and "Increase Community Understanding on the Threats to the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin in Djibouti" (11021-2).
- And expand the awareness campaign to cover more villages (communities) that have of recent encroached into the forest with activities (such as charcoal production and agriculture) that highly endanger the Djibouti Francolin.
- Also in the long run develop program to support alternative and eco-friendly income generating activities (such as beekeeping and ecotourism) through training/capacity building and provision of start up beekeeping units and making the communities take high responsibilities in the management of the forest resources.

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, the RSG logo has been used during training workshops, conferences, eco-talks sessions and other awareness campaign.

11. Any other comments?

On behalf of the implementation team, I am very grateful to the Trustees of The Rufford Small Grants Foundation for providing 2nd RSG funds for our project "Increase Community Understanding on the Threats to the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin in Djibouti" and I look forward for applying for a booster fund to consolidate it and to test the framework in different parts of the country.