

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	Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh
Project title	National awareness campaign using the Djibouti Francolin as a flagship species for the conservation of biodiversity in Djibouti
RSG reference	13301-B
Reporting period	January to December 2013
Amount of grant	£11980
Your email address	naturedjibouti@gmail.com
Date of this report	October 6 th , 2014

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 national awareness campaign amongst community, local NGOs, local and regional decision-makers		X		<p>Different focus groups with students of Djibouti University, regional authority representatives of Tadjoura, Obock, Arta and Ali-Sabieh, villagers of Arta, Day, Khor Angar and Assamo on relevant topics such as the importance of nature for communities and individuals livelihoods and the negative impact of human practices on the natural resources, cutting down trees for firewood and charcoal production for selling, and what the groups and individuals do to safe nature were necessary.</p> <p>To consolidate actions done previously, a formal environmental education programme with teachers and educational support staff of elementary schools department so that has been carried to spread the information to students and teacher who will further spread to their parents , and their colleagues. The environmental education programme could not be completed due to the fact that this was the first time that local communities, teachers and educational support staff of elementary schools received such an educational programme, and a lack of time, limited resources and logistical challenges.</p>
Carrying training sessions to build capacity of local NGOs		X		<p>The project had targeted to organise 10 training sessions of 1 day each in the six regions of the country but only six have been carried out. This has been attributed by the remoteness and difficulties related to the accessibility of community living and around biodiversity hotspots that we identified as targets to our project activities.</p> <p>Fortunately, our environmental education programme that we started with our previous Rufford small grants</p>

				has been continued to reach more people in various areas of the country. Of course, it is challenging to talk environment protection issues within communities that the daily life is uncertain.
Consolidating and maintaining of the Forêt du Day's protection Agreement		X		More needs to be done to ensure full support from the pastoralists and villagers members. Though majority of the villagers and pastoralists are now aware of the project activities, still some challenges have to be encountered because of those who are traditionally hooked with open range livestock grazing and wouldn't easily let it go. The good outcomes registered, all areas obtained from the community living in and around Foret du Day and fenced during our previous projects supported by Rufford Small Grant, are maintained as agreed to keep out livestock. Still and from the government side, the status of Foret du Day and many other areas are not yet completed as functioning protected area.
And collecting of data to improve the ecological profile of Djibouti francolin and globally threatened species		X		The fieldwork part of the project to collect data to improve the ecological profile of Djibouti francolin and other globally threatened species has been concentrated at Foret du Day in the Goda mountains one of the most important birds and biodiversity areas (IBAs) in the country which is the stronghold of the target species. We were still able to record species of fauna and flora which are attractive to tourists such as Livistona palm trees and dragon tree and Egyptian vultures respectively vulnerable and endangered species. The field survey was mainly focused on the Critically Endangered Djibouti francolin which is used in this project as "flagship species". The fieldwork has allowed us to obtain relevant data on Djibouti francolin's behaviour, contributing to improve the baseline ecological knowledge of this francolin and to the better understand the species dynamics and trend in forest

				<p>fragments where inhabit this. Also, during this fieldwork we have been able to record important data on plants, mammals, birds and reptiles' species that share the habitat with Djibouti francolin, many of these species have deficient data.</p>
--	--	--	--	--

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

The project did not meet much difficulty except for logistical challenges related to the accessibility and the remoteness of some of our targeted community that we planned to reach.

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

The project has registered great outcomes within the implementation period. Among these outcomes include:

Djibouti Francolin Conservation

There has been countable result in the enhancement of Djibouti francolin and other globally threatened species conservation in the Foret du Day and other important ecosystems. The project has managed to mobilise villagers and pastoralist groups which were organised and sensitised during our previous activities carried out with the support from Rufford Small Grants and other donors. In Foret du Day which is our main focus, through the emerging support site group (SSG) established in the area, the project undertook to initiate discussion forum between the villagers and pastoralists community which included members from schools, traditional stakeholders and members from Association Djibouti Nature for nature conservation and grazing land use. This emerging support site group has now been welcomed by the larger villagers and pastoralists who collaborate with us in the field.

During the implementation of the project's activities, many open talk sessions "Tree Talk Assembly-traditional way of meeting in the field" have been organized in Goda Mountain and Mabla mountain "natural ranges of Djibouti francolin". In each site, participation of people, among others pastoralists, villagers, community tourist camp owners, elementary school teachers, Association Djibouti Nature members, etc... were very significant.

Participation of local community members who produce charcoals was encouraging. Open talks have held between the participants and important information came out from the exchanges on cutting live trees where very small wooded sites for the survival of Francolin and other threatened species.

To gather such relevant information was almost impossible when first, we arrived and started to work in the region. Villagers, pastoralists and other people were not aware of the benefit they could get from using their forest except for making charcoal. The project activity on raising conservation and ecotourism among the local people brings a total change on villagers' perception and enlarges their knowledge on the forest resources.

One of the most important achievements of the project was the active involvement of community local members in many activities for wildlife and natural resources conservation. Now, Day Village/Foret du Day is shown as an example community by its high awareness level about the Francolin conservation and their habitat, and its commitment about the environmental protection.

Another achievement to be considered is the contribution to the baseline of knowledge concerning the Djibouti francolin and other threatened species of fauna and flora. With the data obtained in field during the habitat assessment, now we have a better understanding on the ecology and natural history of the francolin, which in the near future will be relevant at the time to take decisions regarding the conservation of this species.

Finally, the Rufford finance supports the implementation of the National awareness campaign using the Djibouti francolin as a flagship species for the conservation of biodiversity in Djibouti, project, and has contributed that the villagers and pastoralists become more aware about their resources. Besides the emerging and growing interest of the Foret du Day as tourist destination may have a socio-economic positive impact on the local community livelihoods. Even if it is very small, we believe that the project contributed to boost the tourism growth in the project area and somehow the local community's economy, through the generation of new revenue as nature guides, etc.

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

Local people have played a major role in this project. They have been involved from the beginning of the project. We have always been accompanied by villagers and/or pastoralists to guide us and to take part on the research and other aspects of the project activities which needed their involvement. This allowed us to know the villagers and pastoralists capacity on guiding visitors and to train them to become local guides and to identify common species of fauna and flora.

Local community members gave invaluable information on the use of elements from the biodiversity. They have also given us detailed information especially during the field survey and the bird study.

As we already worked in the area, it was a good opportunity to meet again people who assisted and help us previously in guiding and in community mobilization even though we know very well the people of the project area. Further and by tradition, the villagers/pastoralists are conservative and seem much "closed" so we used the environmental education not just to repeat what we did in our previous projects with them but to reinforce our focus groups where villagers/pastoralists could express themselves so that they could become more at ease with outsiders.

Community participation in implementation of the project's activities has been very encouraging. The project has seen the participation of more women than before which is a big score especially in the sustainability aspect as women are hard workers and are always associated with success in the local context. In the project area, some of the local community tourist camps' owners have been seeing our presence as a promotional events for their business and have shown interest to an extent that they joined the target groups. With such a leadership in-place, the project will see greater success and a decrease in destructive behaviour.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Our organisation “Association Djibouti Nature” has developed a website (www.djiboutinature.org) with important documents on environmental education, videos and other potential source of information that can help to meet our future goals to education Djiboutian.

Yes, we would like to continue this work after this recent project which proves that it has registered great outcomes within the implementation period.

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

During the implementation of this project we worked to inform different categories of government and NGOs working in conservation, and we presented the project to stakeholders at all levels (local, regional and national).

With the support of other partners, we have also produced a video documentary from our work on environmental education programme which is already show cast on Association Djibouti Nature website and YouTube.

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

As planned the project period was 12 months. The project activities have been carried out after receipt of fund in late January 2013. The grant from Rufford was used during all period of the project since we did not get an extra funding from another organisation.

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 x12 months@£112.5	1200	1350	150	
Project Assistants: 1. Ali Dabale/local community mobilization/ 2. Malabo Said Ismael/Admin & Finance -Djibouti Nature) DSA 2 x 12 months @£64.5	1500	1550	50	
Field assistants team: 1. Mr. Mohamed Abdallah Ali 2. Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed	1300	1300	0	

Media: Mr. Omar Hassan Awaleh, freelance journalist	250	250	0	
Transportation expenses : Car rent: 6 round trip@£100	2000	2240	240	Underestimated during the project development
Subsistence: Accommodation and food in the field	2100	2200	100	
Meetings with local communities	0	1000	1000	
Workshops for local NGOs and eco-talks at the university	1200	1450	250	
Communication and office supplies	600	600	0	
Printing of posters and environmental education tools	1230	1350	120	t-shirts have been produced and created a website for my organization as follow: www.djiboutinature.org
Contingencies	600	600	0	
Total	11980	13890	1910	To cover the balance, additional funds came from BirdLife International and NABU-Birdlife Germany

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

In Djibouti, even if nowadays, governmental institutions working on natural resources management receiving important funds for development and environment conservation, the main 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 national conscience on the value of nature. To reverse this situation, even if what we are doing is like a drop in an ocean, we believe that it makes big difference on the ground and that it will build the basis of what important next steps will step on to move.

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?

Yes, the RSG logo has been used in training workshops, conferences, eco-talks sessions and other awareness campaigns. Further, Djibouti Nature created its own website and the logo of RSG and The Rufford Foundation's website link has been added.

11. Any other comments?

On behalf of the implementation team, I am very grateful to the Trustees of The Rufford Small Grants Foundation for their permanent supports started with 1st RSG funds for Djibouti francolin conservation programme in 2009, 2011 and 2013 and if the delay happened to submit my current does not affect, I look forward to applying to another fund to consolidate my work which is very important for the safeguard of this species but also many other threatened species of mammals, plants and birds of my country.

Note:

As my computer has been stolen and that all data, photos and other relevant information collected during my field left with, I had difficulties to rewrite my report. And the contents became weak once I was rewritten again.