

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	Dereje Yazezew Mammo
Project title	Population estimate, habitat use, feeding ecology and activity budget of the Omo River Guereza (<i>Colobus guereza guereza</i>) in Wof-Washa Natural Forest, Ethiopia
RSG reference	16931-1
Reporting period	June 2015 to June 2016
Amount of grant	£4999
Your email address	deredbu2003@gmail.com
Date of this report	28 th June 2016

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
To estimate the population size and density of Omo River Guerezas at Wof-Washa Natural State Forest			✓	
To determine the patterns of habitat use and distribution of Omo River Guerezas			✓	
To determine the diet and foraging behaviour of Omo River Guerezas			✓	
To assess the activity and ranging patterns of Omo River Guerezas			✓	
To assess the phenology of food plant species of Omo River Guereza in the home range of two study groups			✓	
To assess the vegetation composition of the forest with in the home range of the study groups of Omo River Guereza			✓	

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

- ✓ The local communities were not friendly with the researcher during the commencement of preliminary survey. Especially they were pessimists with regard to the issues concerning forest protection as their livelihood highly dependent on the forest. They have been utilised the forest for timber, construction materials, animal fodder, grazing land and apiculture, which definitely affect the long term survival of Omo River Guereza. Accordingly, the local communities used to destruct trees labelled for phenological study assuming that the researcher will give up conducting the research. To overcome this unanticipated problem the researcher recognised awareness creation

among local people as the first hand tool not only for short term solution to conduct the current research but also to integrate the communities' resource use pattern from the forest and survival of the Omo River Guereza and other wildlife. In line with this, the researcher along with local officials organized a discussion to promote awareness of the communities about the importance of the protection of the forest and the wildlife therein for better environmental sustainability. To this end, the researcher recruited some individuals from the community provided employment opportunities as local field assistants, field guidance, camp attendants and cooks that benefited them economically. Such involvement of local people in research and conservation affairs gives them a sense of ownership and responsibility to be friendly with the researchers and conserve wildlife. Moreover, at the moment the forest is owned by the local communities under the supervision of the local governmental and nongovernmental officials.

- ✓ The other unexpected problem is death of individual Omo River Guereza from the group selected for behavioural study. Carcass of the study animal is found in the forest during data collection period although the predator animals and the process of predation are not clearly predicted. Therefore, the behavioural data were collected for the existed animals as the size is tolerable.
- ✓ There were also problem of labourer cost increment due to a decrease in purchasing power of the money at the market. This is tackled by raising additional funds from local and national funding organisations in the country.

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

- ✓ This study will provide baseline data on the population estimate, habitat use, feeding ecology, activity and ranging patterns of Omo River Guerezas in Wof Washa Natural State Forest which are important to devise management plan.
- ✓ I aim to publish at least three peer-reviewed papers entitled: i. "Population estimate and habitat use of Omo River Guerezas in Wof Washa Natural State Forest"; ii, "Feeding ecology and resource availability of Omo River Guerezas and iii) Activity budget and ranging ecology of Omo River Guerezas aiming to publish in reputable journals: *Oryx*, *American Journal of Primatology*, *Biotropica* or *International Journal of Primatology*.
- ✓ At the end of the project, a copy of these results will be given to the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the relevant local, regional government, IUCN/SSC, donors, and NGOs to implement conservation actions.
- ✓ Data on the habitat use, feeding, activity budget and ranging ecology are essential to convince conservation managers of the importance to preserve the monkeys and to devise feasible management scheme in Wof Washa Natural State Forest and other similar habitats. The study will also help to promote habitat management through restoration of the degraded and fragmented habitats suitable for the survival of guerezas.

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

- ✓ The local communities are involved in this project as field guide and field assistants and benefited economically from the project during the data collection process. They also benefited in sharing skills in data collection to be employed for future research undertaken in the area. In so doing, the local people involved in this project can promote awareness through the community on the conservation of colobus monkey and other wildlife in relation with forest habitats.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- ✓ Yes. I have planned to conduct the population genetics study of Omo River Guereza in the country and polyspecific association with grivet monkey in Wof-Washa Natural State Forest, after completing the publication work of this project.

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

- ✓ Through publication: a total of three peer-reviewed scientific papers will be published in reputable international journals comparing the behavior and ecology of Omo River Guerezas to those of other Guereza subspecies.
- ✓ At the end of the project, a copy of the report and results will be given to the funding agencies, relevant local, regional, and federal government and non-governmental agencies to implement the conservation of monkeys and their habitats.
- ✓ The results will also be disseminated through websites of wildlife associations, natural history museums, universities, and other media and used for increasing the awareness of both the scientific and general public.
- ✓ Besides these publications, I have also planned to advertise the area through workshop presentations, with regard to the biodiversity resources and the spectacular landscape in the study area. This will raise awareness among the international scientific community and ecotourists. So that, the government and local people will get benefit from tourism both domestic and foreign visitors.

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

- ✓ The time duration: June 2015 to June 2016.

- ✓ Percentage from the total project period: It is more than 65% of the project duration.

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
Equipment				
Sony Dev-50 digital recording binocular	£1259	£1259		
Garmin GPSMAP 62s Handheld navigator	£221	£221		
Costs for services related to field work				
Food and accommodation for researcher	£1636	£1636		
Per diem for local field guides	£401	£401		
Per diem for field assistants	£516	£516		
Stationery items, literature and documentation				
Stationery items	£75	£75		
Copy of relevant literatures	£65	£65		
Printing of relevant literatures	£50	£50		
Final thesis printing / binding	£80	£80		
Expendable supplies				
All-Terrain First Aid Kit	£112	£112		
Rocky® 16" Prolight Snake Boots	£92	£92		
Mountain Hardwear Lamina™ 35 32°F Mummy Sleeping Bag	£115	£115		
Data storage device/Hard disk drive	£110	£110		
tents	£145	£145		
Batteries for torch and GPS	£122	£122		
Total	£4999	£4999		

*Exchange rate during obtaining the grant fund; £1=32.41

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

- ✓ The next steps for this project are to finalise all the data analysis and write up process, and proceed to the publication tasks. Afterwards, I will start my further research works on the conservation of Ethiopian primates and management of their habitats at large. Because, conservation work is endless as it is not bounded in time and space.

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?

- ✓ Although I did not use the logo so far, now it is the time to use The Rufford Foundation logo in all of the materials that I will produced in relation to this project. For instance, I will use the logo on my Dissertation paper, and all the publication works that I will do.
- ✓ With regard to the publicity of Rufford Small Grant Fund, I have already publicised the RSGF for all of my research colleagues at Addis Ababa University with more emphasis for whom working their research on different primate species of Ethiopia. Even some of them applied and are successful for the same.

11. Any other comments?

- ✓ As a PhD candidate and aspiring to climb the ladder of academic hierarchy up, I highly acknowledge the role that The Rufford Foundation played in qualifying the new generation researchers by filling the gap of financial constraints. This financial support enables us to focus our intensions towards achieving our settled goals.
- ✓ Moreover, we grantees of The Rufford Foundation should work towards producing peer-reviewed papers on the internationally reputable journals for two reasons. Firstly, to acknowledge The Rufford Foundation contribution played in the conservation sphere. Secondly, to make ease access of dissemination of our findings to the international scientific communities in order to trigger conservation of species worldwide in the wilderness.