

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 | Dessalegn Obsi Gemedo |
| Project title | Enhancing the Conservation of the Vulnerable Black Crowned Crane in Limu district of Jimma Zone. The case of Ethiopia |
| RSG reference | 16968-1 |
| Reporting period | February 2015 to February 2016 |
| Amount of grant | 5000 £ |
| Your email address | Dessalegn.obsi@ju.edu.et OR dasoobsi@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | February 19, 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 identify the distribution of black crowned cranes in Limu district | | | | Black crowned cranes are distributed in different wetlands with high numbers around Cheleleki wetlands. The distributions of black crowned cranes during the dry and wet seasons were analysed. High number of black crowned cranes (273 individuals) was recorded in the area. |
| To assesses the status of black crowned cranes in Limu district of Jimma zone | | | | Except in Cheleleki wetland, in several places the black crowned cranes was Vulnerable due to wetland conversions to agricultural fields. If the wetlands are not protected and managed the life of black crowned cranes are under question |
| To identify the major threats of black crowned cranes in the study area | | | | Based on the data generated through field work, focused group discussions, community training, stakeholders workshop and household survey: Wetland degradations, conversions of wetlands to agricultural fields, overgrazing and siltation are the major threats that affects black crowned cranes Sufficient data have been collected and sent for publication and currently under peer review in Journal of Ecology and The Natural Environment |
| To create community and stakeholders awareness on the status and threats of black crowned cranes for conservation | | | | This objective exceeds the desired objective. I did good job here and I will scale up this activities in the future. Several outreach activities were conducted at different levels (at village, kebele, district and zone). More than 1200 people (community, stakeholders, primary level students and higher institution students) were aware about the status and the conservation needs of black crowned |

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | cranes. Although, this objective goes beyond the planned proposal, still it is very important to excel the outreach for the public in the future. |
| To develop black crowned cranes and its habitat conservation guidelines in Afan oromo language (the most dominant language in the area as well as in the region) and English language | | | | This objective exceeds the desired objective of the project. The Afan oromo version entitled as ‘‘Qajeelcha Kunuunsa Simbira Abbaa Waaqoo Godina Jimmaa Aanaa Cooraa Botor’’ were shared to different people in soft copy and the English Version entitled as ‘‘Black Crowned Crane (<i>Balearica pavonina</i>) Conservation guideline in Chora Boter district of Jimma Zone: The case of Ethiopia’’ were under review in International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation. |
| To share the findings of the project to different stakeholders for conservation actions | | | | This objective exceeds the desired objective. In addition to community and stakeholders workshop at district level, the project findings were presented for 36 key stakeholders of Jimma zone including top officials of Jimma University on December 30, 2015. The outcomes of this project were presented to key stakeholders and discussed on the way forward |

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

- ❖ Some people are not familiar with the name of black crowned cranes during our survey. They provide different names in the local languages (Abba wako, Gutu chungee) and others use general names like birds. To overcome this knowledge gaps the photo of the black crowned cranes were printed and showed for the respondents before asking detailed information about the status of black crowned cranes.

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

- ❖ **Awareness increase:** Training and workshop were conducted for local communities, stakeholders and students at different levels.
- ❖ **Scientific Data and Development of Black Crowned crane conservation guideline:** Sufficient information have been collected on black crowned

cranes and its habitat (1 article and 1 conservation guideline are under per-reviewed for publications). This project confirms that the black crowned cranes are widely distributed around Cheleleki wetland.

- ❖ **Different brochures and documentary videos were developed:** Various outreach activities were conducted to bring impacts towards conservation of black crowned cranes. Four videos were uploaded on YouTube to disseminate and share my project output for international community without border

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

It is true that any project without the involvement of the local communities is unsuccessful. Involving the local people in any conservation project will increase the accountability and belonging of the people on the desired project. It is clear that any conservation initiative without the involvement of local people (who depends on natural resources for their livelihoods) is ineffective because many of biodiversity threats are related to over exploitation of natural resources by the local communities. The local communities are the key actors for conservations. Communities' awareness creation through training and workshop on the use of wetland conservation (habitat of black crowned cranes) for ecosystem services will enhance the knowledge and attitudes of the communities towards wetlands. Local communities contribute basic inputs to the conservation guidelines. The local communities understand the long term advantage of wetland and black crowned crane conservation as a source of income in the form of community based ecotourism.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Absolutely yes. Research and conservation efforts of black crowned cranes and its habitat (specifically wetlands) in Chora boter and the surrounding area will be continued with the support of Rufford Foundation and other funding organisation. I would like to continue working on conservation of the Vulnerable black crowned cranes in Jimma zone. I would like to apply 2nd Rufford Small Grants with modified proposal based on the result and recommendation of this project.

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

The outcome of the project has already been presented to different stakeholders of Jimma zone and top officials of Jimma University for further research and conservations. One research article is under peer review in international journal. After publication the paper will be accessible to any conservationist and

birdwatchers. Some outcomes of the field survey (photos and videos) were shared to International Crane Foundation staff members and other organizations. The black crowned crane conservation guideline is also under peer review. After publication other ornithologist and conservationist will use the guideline. I will use social media to disseminate the information for the mass population with cost effective. Based on the existing opportunities of higher institutions I will present the findings of this project to scientific conferences. In addition to this, copies of the project finding will be presented to key offices of Chora boter district and Jimma zone.

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

This grant was used from February 2015 to February 2016. The project was successfully completed within 12 months. The time given was sufficient with the anticipated timeline originally developed for the project.

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 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Launching of project (informing the local communities and stakeholders) | £45 | £45 | 0 | |
| Conducting preliminary survey (preference site of black crowned crane) | £400 | £450 | -£50 | More field days than the proposed dates during application |
| Black crowned cranes survey in dry and wet season: Per diem for experts and fuel cost | £758 | £650 | £108 | £108 was accommodate other activities because of reduction of fuel cost |
| Conducting interviews | £495 | £499 | -£4 | |
| FGD | £460 | £500 | -£40 | Original requested budget was under-estimated |
| Big poster | £38 | £30 | £8 | |
| Hall rent for community | £300 | 0 | | The district give the hall for free |

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|--|--------------|--------------|----------|--|
| and stakeholders training | | | | and the community workshop and training was conducted on fields |
| Community training and workshop | £620 | £661 | -£41 | Original requested budget was under-estimated |
| Stakeholders workshop | £450 | £450 | 0 | |
| Professional fee | £280 | £280 | 0 | |
| Field guide book | £29 | | 0 | The planned field guide book does not exist in the local market. Our system is not allowed as to purchase online by using visa or master card. |
| Mobile top up | £45 | £45 | 0 | |
| Outreach/education: brochure, T-shirt and video edition cost | £650 | £760 | -£110 | The requested budget is less than the actual cost particularly t-shirts. |
| Data entry and organising | £25 | £25 | 0 | |
| Data analysis and interpretation | £40 | £40 | 0 | |
| Literature review | £50 | | | I did not purchase articles for my manuscripts. I used electronics library without any charges |
| Report writing | £15 | £15 | 0 | |
| Bank transferee charge from Rufford Foundation | £50 | | | RSG transfer the requested budget without any reduction of Bank transfer charges |
| Conservation guideline translation to Afan Oromo language | | £300 | | This element was added. It was managed by the grant balance |
| In-direct cost | £250 | £250 | 0 | This cost accommodated the under-estimated cost requested during application |
| Total | £5000 | £5000 | 0 | |

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

The next step is to scale up the outreach activities to change the attitude of the communities towards black crowned crane conservation. Since black crowned crane is disappearing in some countries, awareness creation for conservation action is critically important. Increase awareness within Chora boter district and Jimma

zone about the importance of black crowned crane conservation and educating people on the ecosystem services of wetlands. Determinations of black crowned population variations across different months in Chora boter district, specifically around Cheleleki wetland. This should be carried out over a minimum of 10 months. Environmental education programmes conducted in this project will be scale up to establish environmental conservation clubs in school.

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. Rufford Foundation logo was used on t-shirts, brochures, banners and conservation guideline. Scientific data are being prepared for publication, on the manuscript the Rufford Foundation acknowledged in appropriate way. I expected the article under peer review will be published. Upon publication I will share the article to Rufford and other scientific and conservation organisations specifically those working on birds.

11. Any other comments?

I developed a wonderful experience in communities and stakeholders workshop as well as conservation guideline preparation. I am grateful for the support of RSG. I strongly request RSG for follow up conservation grants to enhance the conservation of black crowned cranes.