

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	Martin Odino
Project title	Community-based commercial fowl farming for inexpensive, nutritious alternatives to poisoned birds and enhanced anti-poisoning activities in Bunyala, Kenya
RSG reference	17750-B
Reporting period	July 2015 to August 2017
Amount of grant	£10, 000
Your email address	martinchael@gmail.com
Date of this report	22 nd September 2017

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. Poultry farming initiative				Women are the caretakers but our stock comprised of fewer birds and project start-up phase had a few challenges as outlined below
2. Education of the local society on issues of bird poisoning				This was widely promoted especially by targeting informal audiences especially at the irrigation plantation. Students and pupils from multiple schools were also sensitised in such awareness creation sessions. Poachers were however generally suspicious and elusive.
3. Field monitoring, advocacy & marketing				Although an equipped team of 3-8 (some are scholars hence the variation) men is in place, it operates discretely following increased threats from poachers. My lead scout had to be away from the site between July 2016 to November 2016 following being constantly threatened and being stalked by poachers. Advocacy on the other hand has led to people getting interested including at an international scale. For example, In December 2015 we had a National Geographic Magazine photographer, Charlie Hamilton James, come to take photos of bird poisoning in Bunyala to be integrated in the story "Poisoning Africa" due in March 2018, and which will help with further in advocating against poisoning.
4. Self-sustenance of the poultry venture & the monitoring team.				Motor cycle taxi was meant to cater for scouts' income, servicing the motor cycles & fund raptor road surveys monitoring. Sadly, the returns cannot service these

			needs. Also, it is tough for the poultry scheme to be self-sustaining and profitable with low pricing of our products.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

i) Security concerns from poachers

Poachers became particularly aggressive starting December 2015 which was 5 months into the project. The major upheaval came after the National Geographic photoshoot that annoyed the poachers. Even then, the scouting team was also obviously putting more pressure on the poachers that resulted in the poachers issuing real threats and stalking us especially in the evenings. This discouraged obvious patrols and scouting. We have since decided that the team operates less conspicuously on the field as well as minimise confrontations with poachers. The latter is specifically addressed by the PI as we realised it puts at risk the safety of the full-time scouts on the ground.

ii) Heavy rains and flooding

Heavy rains in 2015 leading to flooding problems led to us having to change the site of chicken pens several times as well as delaying the poultry venture start up until February 2016.

ii) Inflation

Generally the characteristic economic inflation that has been experienced in Kenya in the last 2 years has worked against profitability of this basic project whose principle I had modelled on the grounds of the then more stable economy. However, had the venture been of a larger scale, it might have coped better.

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

i) The start-up poultry scheme

Although still struggling to obtain self-sufficiency and profitability, this initiative is vital in addressing the problem of bird poisoning and consumption. We should however expand it and explore broader avenues to promote self-sufficiency and profitability such as higher pricing of commodities to be sold in external markets.

ii) Broader outreach and advocacy

A broader audience of children, women and men has been enlightened about the bird poisoning and consumption concerns. Much as there is still no scientifically illustrated incident of poisoning to humans which means that the locals remain not convinced that they are being harmed, they are aware that they are subjecting themselves to some form of health risk nonetheless. Even then, the fact that all are now involved is a step towards wooing them altogether from poisoning birds and their consumption.

II) Promoted human health, birdlife and possible avitourism

While this is still work in progress, the broader audience extended by this project has made known to people the risk they are in from consuming poisoned meat and the yet to be appreciated and exploited avitourism value of live birds.

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

Four family men (the other four are school-goers) are still involved in scouting for poisoning and monitoring birds and in turn are able to derive some sustenance from motorbike taxi returns. Two different women alternate at the poultry units and also derive some upkeep from proceeding of sales. Up to 15 kids that showed outstanding keenness in anti-bird poisoning issues during our random informal addresses were awarded the children story book CHILDREN BRING STORKS TO THE WILD by Ran Levy-Yamamori that documents a similar to Bunyala but success story of how white storks were nearly wiped from the rice farms of Toyooka in Japan through poisoning but then through advocacy efforts by the children (and through conservationists efforts including reintroduction) their populations sprung back.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

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

I am involved in part with the Peregrine Fund in training community persons including scouts and rangers on how to respond to poisoning incidences elsewhere in the country. During this training, I shared some experiences of this project including how to counter poisoning using knowledgeable scouts in the community who know what to look for in poisoning scenarios. As a lesson learnt from the Bunyala project, I stress the great importance of all-stakeholder involvement in countering poisoning. In particular, the National Geographic photoshoot that angered poachers in Bunyala stressed the need to work with the perpetrators of poisoning.

In a 3-week course on Conservation for Sustainable development in Jerusalem, Israel where I was invited to attend during March 2017 following the knowledge about this project by one of the tutors, ran Levy-Yamamori (who also provided the books CHILDREN BRING STORKS TO THE WILD), I shared partial results of this project (as well as that of previous studies funded by other RSG).

Also, every year, I am involved in training post-graduate conservation students from the University of Exeter and I usually illustrate the case of conservation action in Kenya using the case of Bunyala anti-bird poisoning project that has been very largely sponsored by the RSGs; needless to say some students present a poster on the same as part of their assessment on this field course. This project's results will be likewise be shares with next year's visiting team of students of the University of Exeter.

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 project ran from July 2015 to July 2017. Originally, the plan was for this project to run for 1 year from July 2015 to July 2016. However, there were disjointed periods when there were hiatuses. First, the main activity (poultry farming) was delayed by heavy rains and accompanying floods between September 2015 and January 2016. Quite a considerable amount of this time was spent shifting the poultry pens position and for a moment this site was surrounded by flood water and even after the water subsided there was still need to allow sometime for the soft earth to dry before we could get the poultry on site. Following this was the PI attending the Education for Sustainable Course in Israel during March-April 2016. I also had a preassigned task to lead a team on raptor surveys at a potential windfarm site known as Kipeto in Kajjado, Kenya between June 2016 to October 2016 (although is extended to December 2016). During this time, while the project was running, my supervisory part was lacking and I could only make up after December 2016 until July 2017 which explains why the project started in July 2015 and ended in July 2017.

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. Exchange rate £1=Ksh150

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Stocking Chicken	1250	1000	250	We had to cut down our start-up stock from 400 to 100 birds after building exceeded our budget. Also, we purchased adult birds @ £9 which was more costly but necessary as we were behind schedule to rear younger bird (which would acclimatize better) that would take a while before starting to yield poultry products.
Poultry specialist consultancy	400	0	400	The lady in charge of the poultry project has good experience so we decided to save on consultancy fee.
Building, labour	3175	4200	-1125	We moved site 3 times so labour increased
Motorcycles	2673	2450	223	
Living Expenses for PI	2502	2700	198	Travel & boarding costs had appreciated following my delay into the second year.

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

- i) Involve poachers who feel they have been marginalised in our conservation activities.
- ii) Exploring a wider, higher priced market for our egg and meat products to ensure profitability and sustainability of the poultry scheme.
- iii) Market the site more vigorously and explore the prospect of avitourism for the satisfactory sustenance of the scouts

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Not yet but it will use in the detailed report hopefully to be published. However the RF has received publicity through the shoot by National Geographic in November-December 2015 and I have been acknowledging it in my presentations during my training on how to respond to poisoning as mentioned above as well as in my presentations to students including the University of Exeter students.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

At least 28 people (20 women, eight men) have been involved in this project but those that have led and been in charge throughout include: Martin Odino-PI, Brian Alela-Lead Scout, and Rose Ouma - In charge of Chicken Project.

12. Any other comments?

I thank RF for the continued support of the Bunyala project and without whom possibly no conservation work would have been initiated leaving birdlife and human livelihoods at risk.



Left: Scouts surveying for and against poisoning. Right: Educating locals including school children.



Left: Inside look of one of our two poultry pens. Right: Kuroiler parental stock at our poultry pens.