

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh
<b>Project title</b>	Improving our ecological knowledge to aid conservation of the Critically Endangered Djibouti francolin in Djibouti
<b>RSG reference</b>	18.03.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	July 2009 to December 2010
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5610
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:naturedjibouti@gmail.com">naturedjibouti@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	May 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2011

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
Carry out survey to collect additional ecological data on the Djibouti Francolin.		x		The Djibouti Francolin is Critically Endangered, endemic to Djibouti and only known from two small forested areas in the north of the country. The Forêt du Day which is the core area of the species has been the focus for systematic research into numbers in collaboration with World Pheasant Association since 2004. During the implementation of my project, the main focus was to resurvey the species' core range in Forêt du Day to collect additional ecological data on the Djibouti Francolin information on numbers and distribution of the species in its core range area in the Forêt du Day. Because of access difficulties and budget shortage, this objective is partially achieved. Despite concerns that we would not be able to survey the whole core range of the species, a large part of the time was spent assessing the outer limits of the species' distribution in the Forêt du Day in order to be able to develop a more accurate estimate of the core population. The current estimate of 612-723 adult birds is based on surveys in the core area in the upper part of the Forêt du Day but the species is known to also occur in the <i>Buxus</i> and <i>Acacia</i> woodland at lower altitudes but many areas of potentially suitable habitat have never been checked for the presence of the species.

<p>Train field assistants from the local community in surveying and monitoring the Djibouti Francolin</p>			<p>x</p>	<p>There are no academic or high school skilled people in the local community and even in the country level, familiar with the target species, the Djibouti francolin or other bird species and the global conservation issues, except the environment department staff which are not very interested to join the fieldwork planned with this project.</p> <p>With regards to this lack of skilled people, in September and November 2009 and early January 2010, four women and three young people from the Forêt du Day area were trained respectively in nursery management and common bird identification and very low way system to monitor the Djibouti francolin in local language because of their low education level.</p> <p>The local community staff trained were enthusiastic and hope now that may be will fully contribute.</p>
<p>Form a nature-based group in Forêt du Day including local communities and Djibouti Nature to work on the conservation of the Djibouti francolin and the natural resources.</p>			<p>x</p>	<p>The knowledge on the biological conservation concept is very poor in the country in general and further the Djibouti francolin conservation issue is very basic.</p> <p>By this concern, a nature-based group (SSG) has been formed at Day village* and trained and currently working.</p> <p>*Day village is the major human settlement next to the Djibouti francolin's natural stronghold.</p> <p>Forêt du Day's SSG has 7 members' composed five people from the local community and two from Djibouti Nature).</p> <p>In February and April 2010, training sessions of 3 days each were organised for the Forêt du</p>

				<p>Day's SSG.</p> <p>In March 2010, 10 days survey have been conducted in Mabla area, the second natural habitat of the Djibouti francolin and relevant young local community members were identified and now in regular contact as a node group to be prepared as future nature based group for in Mabla.</p>
<p>Establish exclusion zones and pilot tree nurseries to enhance the protection of the Djibouti francolin's habitat from further destruction and to demonstrate an approach to forest restoration which will be of long-term benefit to local communities.</p>			x	<p>The idea of the three exclusion zones established in the Forêt du Day were negotiated before the project got funds and accepted by the community.</p> <p>Also, the establishment of a nursery of an area of 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> located near the school village was approved by the stakeholders of the local community.</p> <p>The objective to fence a pilot zone in the Forêt du Day ecosystem was to keep out livestock and to help the natural regeneration of the forest.</p>

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

The main problem encountered during the project implementation period was the accessibility to the project area related to the difficulties of the landscape (no roads) and the high costs to hire vehicles. The situation has been ameliorated by the reception of additional finance support from other donors to cover the needed amount of money. A small but significant fund from Ethiopia Wildlife and Natural History Society/BirdLife in Ethiopia allowed us to complete the project activities.

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

The project follows up to implement some of recommendations arising from previous work that I carried out by in collaboration with World Pheasant Association (WPA), including: (1) collecting of sufficient ecological data on the Djibouti francolin; (2) planning a restoration action of the juniper forest by establishing tree nurseries and raising local community awareness on environmental issues; and (3) involving local stakeholders in establishing a nature-site based group (Support Site Group).

So far, the three most important outcomes of my project are: (1) the establishment of three exclusion zones and pilot tree nursery; (2) four women and three young people from the community were trained respectively in tree nursery management and low level monitoring system for the

Djibouti Francolin and other common bird species identification; and (3) and the relative increase of community's knowledge about the threats to the Forêt du Day ecosystem and associated threatened species.

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

This project increased local communities' understanding about the threats to the Forêt du Day ecosystem for further secure the long term future of the Critically Endangered Djibouti francolin and the threatened species associated in the Goda mountain relict juniper forests.

The direct benefit of the project for the local communities was the establishment of a pilot tree nursery which has to two objectives: (1) contribute the restoration efforts of the forest by planting juniper seedlings; and (2) serve as a pedagogic tool for the primary school of the village. Further, the community accepted the exclusion zones.

On the other hand, all stakeholders approached, Mr. Abdallah Dabale, the traditional head of the Day village, Mr. Ali Dabale Mohamed, the Day village school director, members of the Association pour le développement et la protection de l'environnement du Day, teachers of Day village school, tourist camps owners at the following villages (Day, Randa, Bankoualé and Dittilou), Dr. Said Baragoïta, Manager of the project in the area "Mobilization of rain water and sustainable use of land" funded by IFAD and French-GEF of the ministry of agriculture, and Mr. Mohamed Abdillahi Waïs, Director of office national du Tourisme, etc., have shown their commitment to support those ongoing initiatives to safe the last few forested area of Djibouti, the Forêt du Day Ecosystem.

In addition, because of an intensive advocacy campaign programme undertaken during the project implementation, images of Djibouti francolin and other threatened species of Djibouti fauna and flora were included in the 2009 and 2010 Official Government's Diary. And I believe that this successful inclusion of the Djibouti francolin is seen to be a potential way of raising the species profile nationally and this is an important step on the way forward for the conservation in Djibouti

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, because, firstly, raising interest amongst local communities, policy and other prominent stakeholders into different level of decision making has been challenging. However, the biodiversity conservation agenda has recently been included in the Djibouti Government's policy and the difficulties in addressing the issue are compounded by the weakness and/or lack of capacity, knowledge and/or political will regarding the nature conservation issue.

Referring to this upcoming will, we developed many other project proposals to continue our activities on the ground to bring the local community to participate actively the conservation efforts for the Forêt du Day ecosystem, including the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin and other associated threatened species.

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

A fundamental problem in tackling the conservation issues globally in my Djibouti is both the lack of clear environmental policy at government level and a traditional lack of civil society capacity.

As in many African countries, the Djiboutian civil society organisations, particularly, those working in conservation issues are weak. If a national network of civil society organisations is formed and their capacity has to be increased beyond the current BirdLife Species Guardian and Djibouti Nature, this will create those opportunities to share the experiences gained during this project.

Again as the species status is still little known, the present results of the project have direct relevance to the future work and should be a great assistance to our organisation in developing a conservation strategy for the species.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of 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 in £ UK	Actual Amount in £ UK	Difference in £ UK	Comments
Project Leader (Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh/Djibouti Nature): coordination and management/DSA x18 months@£56	900	1012	112	The implementation period was exceeded that the planned period and complementary funds covered the budget for the coordination and management fees.
Project Assistants (Ali Dabale/local community and Malabo Ismael/Djibouti Nature): respectively field and office assistances/DSA x 18 months x 2@£37,5	1200	1350	150	The implementation period was exceeded that the planned period and complementary funds covered the budget for the coordination and management fees.
Airfare for UK advisor (Dr. Clive Bealey/Research Associate to WPA): 1 Air ticket UK/Djibouti/UK @£1000	1000	1000		The airfare budget didn't change
Transportation expenses : Car rent: 12 round trip@£92.5	600	1110	510	Funds from EWNHS/BirdLife in Ethiopia allowed us to visit more times the project area and covered the exceeded needed budget.

Visa, insurance and inoculations for UK advisor (Dr. Clive Bealey/Research Associate to WPA)	210	210	0	The budget for visa, insurance and inoculations for the UK advisor didn't change.
Subsistence: Lodging in the field/12 round trip@£80 Food in the field /12 round trip@£75 Meetings with local community stakeholders on sites	1700	2175	475	This item, the planned budget was not enough and EWNHS's support fulfilled the gaps registered in the budget.
Equipment: Fence and other construction materials for the nursery Labour –Nursery and enclosures construction Gardening tools (nursery) Supply of 1000 "grow" bags for seedlings		2422	2422	These items were not planned in the project but the community emphasised the needs and after we developed another proposal for funding, we received additional funds from EWNHS/BirdLife in Ethiopia and this, allowed to the project to fulfil its aims.
Training for nursery and francolin monitoring local staff.		350	350	This item was a query from the community and the implementation of this project with the support from EWNHS support, it became possible.
<b>Total</b>	<b>5610</b>	<b>9629</b>	<b>4019</b>	

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

Over the last 10 years, I was engaged in advocacy work on conservation issues at local, national, regional and global levels. Regionally and globally, I focussed my energy to join nature conservation networks and successfully, Djibouti Nature, my organisation became member of the followings: BirdLife International Partnership, East Africa Environment Network, Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network and Wetlands International.

Further, in the framework of BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme. Further, I was appointed since 2008, as BirdLife Species Guardian for the Critically Endangered Djibouti francolin. Based on conservation work done, there is increasing interest in species conservation priorities in Djibouti amongst international conservation communities such as BirdLife International, World Pheasant Association and IUCN-SSC Specialist Groups.

At national and local levels, environmental education booklet, brochures and posters have been produced and distributed to schools and people in nationwide. Community tree nursery and stock

enclosures to enhance restoration of few forested areas have been secured and an Emerging Support Site Group -SSG to work on conservation issues has been established.

With reference to the emerging will from all level stakeholders (grassroots, academia and government levels), intensive awareness raising has to be one of the main next step to be accentuated the efforts to maintain the level of upcoming interest registered during the implementation of this small but important project where supported by Rufford Small Grant Foundation.

On the other hand and with financial and technical support from World Pheasant Association and BirdLife International, a Djibouti Francolin's conservation strategy was drafted to enhance an interest amongst all national stakeholders and series of lecturers and discussion seminars on nature conservation will be delivered at Djibouti University to enhance an interest amongst students in conservation efforts for the benefit of country's biological diversity.

**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, in a presentation on the species presented during the workshop on Djibouti Francolin held in February 2010 at the University of Djibouti.

**11. Any other comments?**

Because of the weakness and/or lack of capacity, knowledge and/or clear environmental policy regarding the nature conservation issues at national level, raising interest amongst local communities, policy makers and other prominent stakeholders into different level of decision making has been challenging. However, the biodiversity conservation agenda has recently been included in the Djibouti Government's policy.

Below: Annex I: Photos (© Houssein Rayaleh)



Mohamed, one of the trained field assistant in duty



Habitats of Djibouti Francolin at Forêt du Day Ecosystem



One of the enclosures in the forest to exclude the livestock



Visit in one of the enclosures with the Coordinator of an ongoing IFAD/GEF funded project implementing by the ministry of Agriculture in the area of our project.



Visit in a nursery of the Agriculture department



Meeting with the Traditional Chief of Day village



Discussion with local community members in the field



Adult female of Djibouti Francolin



Adult female of Djibouti Francolin and young foraging