

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	Goytom Abraha Kahsay
Project title	Community-based Forest Management
RSG reference	20317-1
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	goytom@ifro.ku.dk
Date of this report	12/02/2017

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
Evidence on the impact of internal and external monitoring interventions on forest, economic and governance outcomes				<p>-We can see that our interventions that aim at mobilising, enabling, and training forest user groups to monitor and track forest use and management seems to make forest user groups (FUGs) engage in group meetings, take decisions on FUGs' leadership.</p> <p>-For instance, with our interventions, all FUGs in the treatment group have now an internal monitoring committee that monitors forest use and management of FUG members and performance of leaders.</p> <p>-Due our interventions, 18% of FUGs in the internal monitoring committee and 27% of FUGs in the external monitoring committee have replaced their leaders.</p> <p>-As part of our programme, 13% of FUGs in the incentive treatment received a solar panel from Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE) as a reward for their performance. However, rigorous evidence on the impact of our interventions will only be possible after we collect follow-up data at the end of the treatment period. We planned to collect follow-up data in the period June-September 2018.</p>
Forest user groups (FUGs) implemented monitoring and governance institutions				<p>-We have mobilised, enabled, trained FUGs to monitor and track forest use and management.</p> <p>-We have handed FUGs monitoring guidelines and facilitated the election of internal monitoring committees.</p> <p>-We have conducted two rounds of</p>

			<p>follow-ups in which reports are presented (by the group's internal monitoring committee and Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE)), discussed, and decisions are made.</p>
Input to policy makers			<p>-The Adaba-Dodola district office of OFWE has been motivated by the evidence so far and plans to practice the programme even after our project phases out.</p> <p>-In order to help them do this, they have already assigned their experts that fully work on our project with their own resources. Clearly this is very encouraging and shows the interest of the office in the programme.</p> <p>- We have also been updating the progress so far to other OFWE offices (West Arsi zone Branch, and the main branch). We hope they will implement this in other districts.</p> <p>- Finally, we plan to conduct a workshop at the end of the project period inviting relevant stakeholders in which we report our findings. This is expected to motivate policy makers in forest and wildlife management and other areas implement our programme.</p>
Collaboration with stakeholders			<p>-We have been very successful in mobilizing OFWE and the Environmental and Climate Research Centre (ECRC) at the Ethiopian Development and Research Institute (EDRI) to fully commit on our project.</p> <p>-In line with this, they have been assisting us with financial and expert resources. For instance, ECRC has appointed a research assistant that coordinates our project and funded our data entry.</p> <p>-Similarly, OFWE has allocated experts who fully work on our project with their own resources.</p>

Academic papers			<p>-We have developed a working paper "social capital and formal rules: micro evidence from Ethiopia" using the baseline data and follow-up evaluation reports.</p> <p>-We plan to write three or four papers which will be submitted to peer-reviewed academic articles and presented in international conferences.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The implementation of the interventions has been delayed due to unrest in Oromia Regional state in October 2016. In consultation with OFWE and other stakeholders, we had to wait until the security situation improves. We conducted follow-up data collection in March-April 2017, implemented the interventions in May 2017, conducted first round follow-up evaluation in August 2017 and second round follow-up evaluation in the period October-December 2017.

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

Our three most important outcomes of the project so far are the following.

- 1) We motivated, trained, and enabled FUGs in tracking and monitoring forest use and management. As confirmed by the first and second round follow-up evaluations, FUGs have fully implemented the governance and monitoring interventions that we implemented. FUGs have been very active throughout the programme, taking critical decisions on leadership as explained above. This also gives us great hope that FUGs may sustain the programme on their own even without the help of OFWE.
- 2) We have mobilised relevant stakeholders, mainly EDRI (the largest think than research institute and policy advisor to the government) and OFWE. Both these institutions are the key in implementing our interventions in other areas and future projects. Both committed financial and human resources to our project.
- 3) A working paper: We have developed a working paper "social capital and formal rules: micro evidence from Ethiopia" using the baseline data and follow-up evaluation reports.

With the collection of follow-up data, we will able to write three or four papers which will be submitted to peer-reviewed academic journals and presented in international conferences.

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

The involvement of the local communities has been very crucial. Before we train FUG members, local leaders at different levels (FUG, village, and district) have been instrumental in facilitating the invitation of participants in this training. In total, 98% of the 550 invited individuals participated in the training. In this training, local communities were very active discussing the challenges and prospects in forest use and management. Upon their return to their respective forest user groups, the training participants played a very crucial role in terms of organising group meetings and creating awareness and concrete action plan among in their FUGs which we learnt during the first round follow-up meetings. The role of local communities has also been very crucial both in the first and second round follow-up meetings as active implementers of the programme, facilitating follow-up meetings, and subsequent decisions on FUG leadership.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As explained above, we are waiting for the follow-up data which we planned to collect in the summer 2018. The implemented interventions are expected to continue. The local office has already assigned experts who are currently following-up implementation of the interventions. The office is very motivated and plans to continue in this way. Moreover, the office has been helping us implementing and monitoring the interventions. This gives us confidence that our interventions will further be integrated into the day to day activities of the office even after the program period. Depending on outcomes of our research, we plan to do this at larger scale. In fact, there is already a great interest by OFWE and EDRI to implement our interventions and modify them according to the needs of the local context.

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

We plan to write three or four papers. These papers will be presented in international conferences. In collaboration with EDRI, we plan to prepare a policy review paper and a policy workshop in which we present the results to relevant stakeholders. We plan to publish the results in peer-reviewed academic articles and we plan to use media of the involved institutions to present the findings of the project.

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 Rufford Foundation grant was used over a period of 15 months. We had a delay in starting the project due to the 2016 civil unrest in Ethiopia.

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
Training FUGs and local leaders about the intervention	£534	£800	£266	In addition to daily allowance we had to pay transportation costs of training participants. This required additional money which was subsequently financed by the local program implementing institution and money allocated for a workshop.
Implementing the intervention	£1700	£2150	£450	-In addition to more daily allowance, we had to pay transportation costs of experts. This required additional money which was subsequently financed by the local program implementing institution and money allocated for a workshop.
First round follow-up evaluation of FUGs	£500	£500	£0	
Second round follow-up evaluation of FUGs	£940	£1250	£310	Our intensive information collection, inspection of forest blocks and group meetings required additional money which was subsequently financed by the local program implementing institution.
Purchase of equipment to facilitate the intervention and monitoring	£792	£792	£0	
Workshop with representatives of FUGs and local stakeholders	£534	£0	- £534	We did not conduct the concluding workshop as our interventions are still running, but we have reallocated this money to cover extra training, intervention, and monitoring costs of our interventions.

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

- 1) We believe that it is important to write the papers based on the baseline and follow-up data. These results need be presented in international conferences, policy workshops, and the media of the involved local institutions. The papers should also be published in peer-reviewed academic articles.
- 2) It is very important to coordinate with the relevant stakeholders to sustain the interventions in the study area and upscale them to the entire Oromia regional state and the country. In doing so, we plan to communicate with relevant stakeholders from the local academia and policy as well as interested international institutions such as WB and EU that have instrumental in financing PFM in Ethiopia.
- 3) We also believe that the results are relevant to a number already existing and planned REDD+ projects.

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?

All the involved institutions and relevant stakeholders were informed about the Rufford Foundation grant. We have acknowledged the role of Rufford Foundation grant in all of our seminar presentations. Finally, we will acknowledge the role of the Rufford Foundation in all papers that comes out of the project.

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

1. **Goytom Abraha Kahsay** (Principal investigator, postdoc, University of Copenhagen)
2. **Erwin Bulte** (Member of the research team, Professor, Wageningen University)
3. **Lars Gårn Hansen** (Member of the research team, Professor, University of Copenhagen)
4. **Haileselassie Medhin** (Member of the research team, Director of ECRC, EDRI)
5. **Betelhem Mulugeta Negede** (Member of the research team, research assistant at ECRC, EDRI)
6. **Ahmed Mohammed** (Member of the implementation team, Directors of Adaba-Dodola OFWE branch)
7. **Fekadu Tefera** (Member of the implementation team, senior expert at OFWE headquarters)
8. **Zerihun Kinde** (Member of the implementation team, senior expert at Adaba-Dodola OFWE branch)
9. **Sintayehu Adimasu** (Member of the implementation team, senior expert at Adaba-Dodola OFWE branch)
10. **Bedada** (Member of the implementation team, senior expert at Adaba-Dodola OFWE branch)
11. **Janbo** (Member of the implementation team, senior expert at Adaba-Dodola OFWE branch)

12. Any other comments?

We would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for the financial grant. The grant has played a substantial role in training, enabling, and motivating forest user groups to monitor and track forest use and management. In addition to sustainable use and management of forest resources, We believe that this will play critical role in preservation of biodiversity and protection of a number of endangered and critically endangered plant and animal species which are found in Adaba-Dodola forest as well as neighbouring Bale Mountains National Park, and Harena Forest. The fact that community members and policy stakeholders at all levels (national to village levels) are involved in the project implies the a bright prospect for the continuity of the programme in Adaba and Dolola districts in particular and its implementation at regional and country level.

With the report we have included pictures from the follow-up meetings. We acknowledge the role of The Rufford Foundation in all papers that come out of the project. We will also keep The Rufford Foundation updated on the final status of the overall project. We are very eager to work with Rufford Foundation on similar projects and support Rufford Foundation in sustainable forest management, protection and preservation of biodiversity, endangered and critically endangered plant and animal specials.



