

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Dorah Mbogo
Project Title	Engendering Conservation: Gender-Responsive Approach in Restoring Habitat for Globally Endangered Bird <i>Anthus sokokensis</i> in Ruvu-South Coastal Forest, Tanzania
Application ID	24155-1
Grant Amount	£5,000
Email Address	dmbogo8@gmail.com
Date of this Report	16 November, 2018

1. 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
Project start-up activities				The project successful started as planned.
Bird Census and Ecological Habitat Survey				Team were able to survey only 5% of the forest reserve.
Forest Management Capacity Building				We found no staff stationed at the reserve; only one staff from district office is assigned for visits and patrol
Local Community Conservation Awareness Training				Total of 278 adult community members from seven villages were trained.
Women Economic Groups Empowerment				Income generating groups were mobilised at five villages

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

Continuous heavy rainfall during March and April 2018, obstructed access into the forest reserve due to difficult forest roads and navigating along transects and sample plots. We decided to push forward survey work until May 2018 when rain was low and forest is accessible.

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

a. Distribution, population size and habitat conditions of critically endangered Sokoke pipit bird in southern part of Ruvu south forest. Across all plots surveyed, the mean density of Sokoke pipit is 0.02 birds/ha, with a projected overall bird population estimated at 611 individuals in the entire forest. The density was observed to be higher in the relatively less disturbed *Brachystegia* forest zone than the disturbed ones in the northern part.

b. Community gender and conservation education. Training was conducted in each village surrounding the forest reserve. The communities were trained on restoration of endangered Sokoke pipit bird habitat, biodiversity, gender-based conservation awareness and protection. This was done purposely with the aim of addressing activities that endanger habitat of the Sokoke pipit bird and the forest reserve as a whole.

c. Mobilisation, initiation and strengthening of small income generating projects. Beekeeping, nursery and chicken keeping groups were established. Prior to support for the income generating groups, group members were trained on basic

business and entrepreneurial knowledge, practices and skills.

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

The central component of the project was the rural communities surrounding the forest reserve. Village leaders were involved during project inception for planning activities and setting logistic and activities schedule. Communities from five villages participated during gender and conservation education programmes. Furthermore, communities actively participated during mobilisation and initiating income generating programme. The established environmentally friendly income generating small project is expected to provide an alternate way of living, reduce dependency to forest resources from the reserve and enhance food, nutrition and livelihood security.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project activities and findings were informative work, focusing on to uncover conservation issues, identify gaps and elements for further action. Project team are on ground work and laying down plans, solicit funds and partners to continue further this work. Detail plan and proposed next step are described in section 9.

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

Dissemination meetings will be conducted at community level to provide summary results and findings.

At district level summary reports and brief will be provided to the district authorities. We will also attend and present our findings to various district level meetings and forums that will be organised by the office of the district forest manager.

Internationally, some of the findings has already been published and shared through the International Journal of Forest Fisheries and Agriculture <http://aipublications.com/ijfaf/detail/potential-distribution-and-conservation-of-endangered-bird-anthussokokensis-in-ruvu-south-coastal-forest-reserve-tanzania/>.

Project team expects to attract attention from global scientific and conservation audience so as to raise awareness and more support to local livelihood.

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

The grant was used from January to November, 2018. This is in accordance to the anticipated and planned timescale of the project.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount(£)	Actual Amount(£)	Difference	Comments
Project administration	150	350	-200	Actual costs for stationaries and communications were higher than anticipated
Bird census and ecological habitat survey	2370	2820	-450	Survey team spent more time on the field due to rains and difficult roads. Higher fuel cost due to inflation than expected
Capacity Building for forest reserve managers	280	100	180	Workshop was not held as there were no forest managers at the reserve. We only conducted a meeting with district forest management officers.
Community Conservation Trainings	600	800	-200	Higher transport and fuel cost due to inflation than expected
Small income generating activities	1600	1200	400	Due to difficult logistical arrangements and other constraints; we were only able to mobilize and strengthen income generating groups in 5 villages out of 8 expected

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

Ruvu-south forest reserve is identified as an area of importance for biodiversity but has been neglected and suffered major land use changes. The long-term survival potential of species in these forests therefore remains uncertain given current trends in anthropogenic threats. The project team therefore strongly believes of the following important next steps:-

- To expand range for surveyed area in order to gain comprehensive overview of buffer zones, habitat conditions and distribution of endangered species.
- In collaboration with the office of the district forest manager, to conduct training to Village Natural Resource Committee members who play a critical role in forest patrols and protection, law enforcement and participatory forest conservation. Unfortunately, they have not attended any training or capacity building to help them implement successful and efficiently their duties and responsibilities. We will organise a capacity building programme in order to increase efficiency during forest conservation and protection.
- Project team observed local communities surrounding forest reserve are

affected by prolonged period of dry seasons, soil erosion along agricultural fields, reduced yields and productivity. Water sources for domestic uses and small income generating projects are scarce and available with difficulties. In order to ensure sustainability of the established projects and enhance forest conservation and livelihood security, the project team intends to conduct awareness raising programme to empower local communities on climate change impacts mitigation and adaptation strategies.

- We intend to conduct monitoring visits, mentoring and support for established small income generating projects.

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

We used Rufford Foundation logo in printed t shirts especially during mobilization of small income generating projects; therefore Rufford foundation received publicity during the course of implementation of the project as indicated in the bellow.

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

Dorah Mbogo	Project lead
Hassan Nyumba	Forest survey
Simon Msua	Bird expert
Mkanobi Melkior	Gender and conservation facilitator
Victus Kimario	Community development and conservation facilitator
Emanuel Nungi	Field assistant
Jackton Msiba	Field assistant

12. Any other comments?

Ruvu south forest reserve is a fragile neglected and threatened forest ecosystem harbouring many endemic and critically endangered species including *Anthus sokokensis*, spiny-throated reed frog and Rondo dwarf galago. Despite high biodiversity and species richness, Ruvu south forest ecosystem is under extreme pressure from illegal logging, charcoal production and railway and road systems passing through hence call for immediate conservation efforts.

This pilot study has informed team on the insufficient conservation efforts, priorities and resources allocation in conservation of this high biodiversity threatened natural forest habitat. To date, there is no any national or international organisation or an institution conducting conservation activities in the forest reserve. Both district forest management, community leaders and community members were appreciative to Rufford Foundation for supporting this pilot project and indicated their need and readiness to support on-going activities and any other future work.

As the project team, we trust that our preliminary work and findings will save as an alarm call to local and national conservation audience, organisation, authorities

and institutions towards directing more conservation efforts, resources and priorities to Ruvu south forest reserve. Our study reports and online publication will elevate and expose conservation and livelihood issues to regional, international players and partners to support conservation of Ruvu-south forest reserve.



Spotted sokoke pipit bird in forest reserve.



Project lead (third from left) in a group photo with members and leaders of Nyota njema chick small project at Soga village.



Group photo with village officials and members in Soga village.



Charcoal making in the reserve.



Tree cutting.