

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Abebayehu Aticho Mentsiro
Project Title	Advance Community Based Conservation of Wattled Crane and Wetland Habitat in Jimma Zone, South-western Ethiopia
Application ID	24448-B
Grant Amount	£9999
Email Address	abebayehu.aticho@ju.edu.et OR j.aticho@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	21 Feb. 2019

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
Engage conservation clubs in wetland bird ecological and conservation practices to cultivate their positive relationship with nature				The students participated in this activity; mentors and schools principals are highly excited with the activity. The students reported that this activity has helped them to practice what they have learnt theoretically in classroom.
Improve local community awareness on global nature conservation concerns mainly wetland ecosystems and threatened species				An awareness conference was held at Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Conference hall in collaboration with nature conservation club of the college on 22 May 2018 (International Biological Diversity Conservation Day). In addition, the awareness creation activity was undertaken at two schools in rural villages.
Scale-up promising efforts to secure WC reproduction				Promising practices are scaled-up. A pair with previously no breeding history has attempted to start breeding via building a nest
Create nesting place for breeding pair situate at flood prone site				Because of unusual flooding event before the breeding season, the nest creation plan was not realised.
Assess local community Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices towards cranes and wetland conservation				Questionnaire survey was conducted and findings were communicated through publishing in peer reviewed journal.

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

Unusual rainfall events before breeding season has caused flooding and affected our plan of nest construction in flood prone area, and interrupted conservation efforts.

Some important activities to realise the project objective were overlooked because of budget planning but they were managed through shifting budget from other related activities without compromising the quality.

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

- a. **Improve wattled crane breeding condition:** the project has undertaken different conservation efforts (such as awareness in community, schools, nesting site creation and breeding site protection) to overcome the causes of poor wattled crane breeding in the project sites. Because of these efforts successful breeding and a new breeding pair (with no previous breeding history) has attempted to start breeding via constructing nests. This indicates a change of conditions that hinder WC breeding in the potential breeding sites, and allows breeding pairs to start to use the site for reproduction.
- b. **Local community capacity building and awareness creation works:** the project has successfully delivered capacity building training and practical activities on water bird ecology and conservation for nature conservation club students, and mentors. The students involved in this field activity (practical ecological and conservation activities) reported that the programme has helped them to exercise what they have learnt in class. They have called this activity as "laboratory in our backyard" but overlooked. Finally, both the students and mentors actively involved in the field work are inspired and continue to exercise it. An awareness creation conference was conducted on May 22nd 2018 (International Day for Biological Diversity Conservation Day) at Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine to improve community (university students studying different fields, staffs) understanding on biodiversity conservation concerns locally as well as globally. At this conference, scientific papers were presented by university professors and conservation experts, and questions on various topics were raised by participants and discussed with the presenters. After the programme some students were interested to network with experts, and engage in biodiversity conservation activities beside their professional works. Consequently, some of the participant students have asked after graduating from university to get reading materials on biodiversity conservation, and request mentorship for future conservation works.
- c. **Research and communication of project works:** the project has successfully studied local community knowledge and perception of environmental issues through conducting questionnaire survey. The findings from this study and data collected on crane population at various time with the support of the Rufford Foundation were effectively communicated to local and international community through publishing the findings on peer reviewed scientific journals. In addition, the project reports were communicated with crane conservation partners in Africa (Endangered Wildlife Trust) and international (e.g., International Crane Foundation). Further, I have a plan to present my project work at the Rufford Small Grants Conference to be held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia from April 27th-28th 2019.

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

The local community (students, farmers and teachers) actively participated in project implementation and benefited from the project in the form of knowledge and skill gains, and material gain. For instance, students' (conservation club members) participation in the assessment of wetland bird ecological studies and their conservation practices, and international biological diversity conservation day have gained knowledge, skill and material benefits like t-shirt and refreshment. Also, local community members involved in wattled crane breeding site protection and questionnaire interview benefited from payment for their work.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes! There is a plan to continue the started project activities by collaborating with local community and funding organisations until sustainable conservation of wetland ecosystem and biodiversity, and local community benefits from wetland resources is ensured. Thus, application will be continued for the 2nd round booster grant, and other potential donors such as Whitley Fund for Nature.

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

Various methods are used to share the project result to others:

- ✚ Project results are shared with other organisations working on conservation (such as International crane foundation, Endangered wildlife trust), and Jimma University community.
- ✚ Further, I have a plan to present the project work at the Rufford Small Grants Conference to be held in Addis Ababa Ethiopia from April 27th-28th 2019.
- ✚ Two articles are published in peer reviewed international journals:

Global Ecology and Conservation 16 (2018) e00459



Original Research Article

Assessment of black crowned crane and wattled crane population and spatiotemporal distribution in Jimma Zone, Southwest Ethiopia

Ababayehu Aticho ^{a,*}, Dessalegn Obsi Gemeda ^a, Debela Hunde Feyssa ^a, Dereje Bekele Jiru ^a, Abebe Beyene ^b, Dinberu Seyoum ^c, Denyse J. Snelder ^d, Gudina Legese Feyisa ^e, Shimelis Aynalem ^f, George Archibald ^g, Tariku Mekonnen Gutema ^{a,h}

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2351989418301653>

Research Article

Assessment of community knowledge and perception on environmental issues in Jimma Zone, Southwest Ethiopia

Abebayehu Aticho^{1*}, Desalegn Obis¹, Tariku Mekonnen^{1,2}, Tamiru Chalchessa³, Deresa Abetu⁴, Kerryn Morrison⁵, George Archibald⁶

<https://doi.org/10.15243/jdmlm.2019.062.1635>

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

The project activities were completed in 12 months as per the plan.

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
Motivational award for best preformed groups in field ecological exercise and conservation plans	462	612	-150	The groups received cash reward to implement their mini conservation projects identified during the field work. This has helped them to develop their skills and increase their attachment with conservation.
Mobile (telephone) air time to communication	300	300		
Local transportation	828	828		
Data entry and statistical analysis	501	501		
Data collectors and respondents	1350	1350		

Questionnaire printing and duplication	495	595	-100	Cost of questionnaire translation from English to local language is not included in the budget plan. But, translation is required to facilitate the data collection process as the interviewers are selected from local community.
T-shirt and other promotion materials for awareness. Plus scientific paper presentation and motivational speech by university professor and experts of biological conservation at International Biological Diversity Conservation Day, 2018.	1012	1012		In addition to promotion materials, experts' motivational speech and scientific presentation on conservation is very important for awareness creation. Because it makes the awareness creation activity more powerful and influences the participants attitude, knowledge and perception. But, in the budget plan this activity is overlooked; so, it was managed by reducing the amounts of proposed promotional materials (e.g., t-shirt) and shift some amount of budget to the presentation and speech.
Mentor for the club's ecological and conservation activities at school	500	700	-200	
DSA and refreshment for training participant	880	880		To minimize extra costs related to transporting and serving the refreshment; only bottled water was supplied and the participants received their DSA in cash.
Training material supply	165	165		
Nesting place creation in flood prone breeding site and fencing island	450	0	+450	The proposed site was totally affected by flooding before the breeding season.
Breeding pairs follow-up and breeding progress monitoring	1400	1400		
DSA for experts during field work	1656	1656		
Totals	9999	9999		

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

During the project period we have conducted training, conferences and consultation with local community, and conducted research, and field observations. From these efforts we have learned lessons and identified activities for the next steps. The activities suggested for next steps are:

- ✚ Continued protection of breeding sites and breeding pair follow up. For example, new breeding pairs trying to start breeding via starting nest construction. This needs continued conservation works and awareness creation to realise successful breeding of the pairs.
- ✚ Measure wetland and river buffer degradation extent, set optimum buffer area for conservation priority that could enhance biodiversity conservation, reduce sedimentation of water body, and income generation of the land user,
- ✚ Identify erosion hotspot sites in the catchment of wetlands (used for wattled crane breeding) frequently affected by flooding that damages wattled crane nest, and interrupt the breeding progress.
- ✚ Provision of scientific support in degraded area rehabilitation practices in erosion hotspot areas of the wetland catchment.
- ✚ Work together with local media to improve community knowledge and perception on environmental issues.

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?

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in awareness creation material production (such as t-shirts, banners), and PowerPoint presentations. In addition, the foundation is duly acknowledged and publicised in published scientific articles, and public meetings.

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

A. A. Mentsiro is an expert and working on Crane and wetlands since 2012. Ababayehu has involved in every activity of the project and lead the team.

T. M. Gutema is team member of this project, and wildlife ecology expert. He has involved in few activity because he has been studying his PhD degree in abroad.

F. Mesele is community development and social work expert, and involved in most field activities and facilitates meetings such as arranging rooms and paying DSA for participants.

Other guest experts are invited in the project to address important activity of the project. For example, university professors and experts invited to present scientific paper and share their experience on conservation awareness creation conference held at International Biological Diversity Conservation Day.

12. Any other comments?

The financial support of Rufford Foundation has played critical role for achievement of our project objectives. Therefore, we are very grateful for the Rufford Foundation support. Final, we would like to thank in advance for the foundation's future support.



