

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	Mercy Kariuki
Project title	Empowering sheep farmers to contribute to conservation of Sharpe's Longclaw
RSG reference	24746-B
Reporting period	October 2018 to September 2019
Amount of grant	£9,930
Your email address	Nymas68@yahoo.com
Date of this report	November 2019

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
Conduct a detailed survey on the habitat and grassland bird trends.				The results of the survey indicated that pressure on the remaining grasslands is still very high. More than 50% of primary grasslands recorded during the surveys in 2008 and 2014 led by Luca Borghesio were lost by the time of our surveys in 2019. The quality and extent of the grass cover and the availability of suitable habitat structure – tussocks mixed with short grass is diminishing rapidly. Positively, in all the good plots that were surveyed, Sharpe's longclaw was present in good densities indicating that there is opportunity in helping the species with continuous efforts to manage the grassland.
Issue high quality breeding rams to an additional twenty (20) farmers through the sheep for longclaw scheme.				10 quality rams were bought and issued to farmers. There was a minor error since in the proposal we budgeted for 10 rams as opposed to the 20 that was mentioned in the objective section.
Using lessons from the previous second grant "Sheep for Longclaw II" engage 10 farmers in one-year de-worming programme.				This was very successful and there was a noticeable difference between the farmers who used the traditional way of deworming and the ones who were part of the scheduled system with the contracted veterinary. The most common worms were, liver fluke, wire worm, tape worm and nasal bots but the liver fluke were common due to climate conditions in Kinangop where by free swimming larvae have cilia and Cercarvie (Tail like) to help swim through aquatic environment

				and also allow the reach plants on which they form a cyst (home) whereby they wait to be ingested into the body through the feed or contaminated water and the life cycle starts.
Improve the capacity of local community to add value to wool through training 5 youths in wool spinning, 3 youths in weaving and 2 youths in business management sustainability.				In February, 15 local youths (six men and nine women) were trained on wool spinning and weaving at the Njabini Wool Crafters Society. As a result of the training, two of the new trainees have been absorbed by Njabini Wool Crafters to contribute towards the production of quality wool products by using the wool received from local farmers.
Reach out to farmers and youths on the importance of the grasslands for biodiversity, provision of ecosystem services and livelihoods.				The public was reached out in various ways i.e. farmers directly through the workshops; youths/students through training and the education programme. In addition to this, we used various media platforms (print, electronic and social media) that reached people both locally and internationally. The links are: https://bit.ly/2XeI46U and https://bit.ly/2GnYsfN . The two features were very helpful in highlighting our work.

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

A key challenge faced while implementing the project was the prolonged dry period experienced in Kenya from November 2018 to May 2019. This greatly affected Kinangop grasslands.

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

- *Environmental awareness programme and training*
Participants were taken through introduction to the Kinangop Grasslands and the various biodiversity present in the ecosystem. The sessions were interactive, and they allowed for discussions in English, Swahili and Kikuyu, the local language. The outreach and awareness involved fun, pictography, demos and outdoor activities. The awareness campaign also discussed the direct relationship between the grasslands and the Njabini Wool Workshop.

The programme trained members of the environment clubs in the schools to be trainers of their fellow students and members of the community on the value of biodiversity.

- *Deworming programme*
The capacity of local youths to participate in sustainable development and environmental conservation enhanced through training in wool spinning and weaving.
- *Status of Sharpe's longclaw:*
The knowledge of the status of Sharpe's longclaw, other grassland birds and the general habitat was greatly improved through our field surveys. This knowledge will be very useful in influencing conservation interventions.

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

From the first grant received through to this booster grant, local community engagement has always been a key factor to the success of the project. Youths have been involved in data collection and analysis of the status of Kinangop grasslands and grassland birds. In addition to youths being engaged in biodiversity survey, they were also engaged in wool spinning and weaving workshop that was held early 2019. In both involvements, the youths (men/women) have gained and improved their practical skills. Some of them are currently volunteering in national water bird count as well as working at Njabini Wool Crafters Workshop (a community-based initiative).

At least 30 farmers were engaged in various aspects of the project. 20 farmers who own approximately 1,100 sheep were involved in the deworming programme where some were also part of the 10 farmers who received rams. A total of 50 farmers also participated in the two farmers' workshop held on February and September 2019 with the aim of bringing together initial farmers engaged in the previous projects as well as the new identified farmers. Livestock management experts, a local veterinary officer and county government officials from the ministry of agriculture, livestock and fisheries were invited to educate the farmers on sheep management. The importance of sheep management and its relation towards contribution of conservation of Sharpe's Longclaw and the grassland was emphasised.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We have a strong relationship with the farmers who have participated in this work since 2013 as well as support from the local government. We plan to continue with this engagement.

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

We shall continue to share the results with other relevant institutions including the local government administration and its relevant departments such as the Ministry of

Agriculture and livestock. I also shared some results with Kinship Conservation Fellowship in July 2019. There are also plans to attend relevant seminars/conferences such as the Student Conference in Conservation Science in 2020. The project results will also be updated on the website of the Friends of Kinangop Plateau and the Njabini Wool Crafters.

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 grant was used for 12 months i.e. October 2018 to September 2019. This was the planned project length.

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
2 Skilled personnel (to conduct M&E)				External source
Field travel – Car mileage and fuel (M&E)	240	280	40	
Printing of awareness materials and travel costs to schools	600	520	-80	
3 skilled personnel (Livestock experts and natural resource managers)	240	218	-22	
Food, Venue and Transports for farmers to attend training workshop	550	550		
Train 10 youths in wool spinning and weaving	1000	1200	200	There were more youths who showed interest in the training, therefore we trained 15 of them. There was additional contribution of the cost from other external sources.
Contract a veterinary to facilitate the deworming programme in 10 farms	1300	1300		
Purchase and distribution of 10 rams	3000	2800	-200	
2 Field assistants to	1200	1200		

conduct bird survey				
Travel costs for conducting survey	1800	1880	80	
Total	9930	9948	18	

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

Once again, the project was very successful. The field surveys provided useful insights that feeds into the efforts to have a current estimate of the national, also the global, population of Sharpe’s longclaw. The training wool spinning and weaving for the local youths provided the youths with a skill that will be useful on for a long time. De-worming and the farmers’ workshop was very engaging and farmers expressed the need to work among themselves (with the help of the veterinary) to support each other mostly in the improvement of sheep management. The fact that the high-quality breed offered to the farmers had very positive impact were once again underlined. The improved breeds have led to improved income which has resulted to change of attitude towards biodiversity.

Moving forward, we find it very important to;

- Progress the sheep for longclaw scheme beyond South Kinangop.
- Conduct regular grassland biodiversity survey to improve the knowledge on the status of Sharpe’s longclaw and other highland biodiversity.
- Continue sharing the results of the project through publishing story articles both on print media and social media.
- Encourage and support regular de-worming and housing (sheep shed).
- Engage the youth more.

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?

Yes, Rufford logo was used in the following ways;

- Education programme, participating schools and students received certificates that had Rufford Foundation logo.
- PowerPoint presentations made during the farmers workshops and the trainings held during the project phase.

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

Samuel Bakari: I worked with him closely to manage the project in general. He was also involved in biodiversity survey, monitoring and evaluation, visiting the farmers, organizing for the farmers workshops and training. He also played a key part in meeting up with stakeholders from the local government and Nature Kenya.

John Gitogo and **Abaraham Mwangi**: were the key field assistants who were in charge of conducting the biodiversity survey and reaching out to farmers to invite them for the workshops.

Maryanne Mumbi: she spearheaded the conservation education programme and reached out to 3 schools with an approximate 50 people (students and teachers).

12. Any other comments?

I am very grateful to The Rufford Foundation for the continued support towards conservation of Kinangop grasslands as well as engagement with the local community.



Handing over a ram to one of the farmers. © Mercy Kariuki.