

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Bunmi Jegede
Project Title	Integrated Conservation Approach for Hooded Vultures in a New Range, in Lagos, Nigeria
Application ID	24870-1
Grant Amount	£4,960
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Date of this Report	28 May 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
Conduct research to collect data on the ecological associations of Hooded Vultures with Ekki Trees				Data collection went as planned with a slight delay during the dry season survey due to tensions arising from the then forthcoming general elections.
Facilitate consultations and create awareness around communities including on social media platforms about Hooded Vultures and project activities				Consultations with communities and awareness activities were well taken by the locals. Their participation, knowledge about vultures, and general reception was well beyond our expectations.
Setup site monitoring and patrol to systematically collect biological data and protect the habitat				This was thoroughly supported as the monitoring and patrol would cover other biodiversity species within LUFASI forest for protection and collation of relevant data. Unfortunately, we were unable to use the drones as initially planned.

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

The election year in Nigeria is always a big deal and with it comes agitations and unnecessary tensions. While this caused a slight delay during the rainy season survey, we were still able to continue with work because the locals were already familiar with us and we knew the terrain in case of any threat. Fortunately, there was no threat to the team and the project implementation progressed without any hitch. Another unforeseen difficulty was the departure of a team member who left the country. During the project initiation workshop with the team members, we had already appointed a lead for each major project activity and defined a backup for each role. This made it easier to fill the gap left by the departed team member.

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

(i.) Hooded vulture population in LUFASI forest may be unaffected. Contrary to our initial hypothesis that there is strong correlation between hooded vultures and the Ekki trees in LUFASI, our study revealed that there might be none. We observed that hooded vultures utilised emergent trees (with clean bole) along forest edge as roost site. A few Ekki trees deep in the forest had little or no hooded vulture activity but all

emergent trees with clean bole along the forest edge were utilised as roost sites, while nearby dumpsites and abattoirs were utilised as foraging grounds.

Furthermore, we also theorised that due to the surge in the population of species like black kite, the population of hooded vultures may become affected during vulnerable periods like the breeding season. However, during the rainy season we observed a significant drop in the activities and population of black kites in the forest. This drop may be because large areas of the forest became waterlogged due to the rains, consequently triggering a drop in food and/or prey abundance/availability for black kites. Furthermore, the hooded vultures never left their roosts unmanned as we observed at least two individuals within the roost when most went in search for food.

(ii.) The unprecedented reception by the locals, their level of participation, and their requisite knowledge about vultures. During the preliminary meetings and community entry prior to the awareness, there was interest shown among the locals with their frequent questions and sharing of local knowledge about the species. The fact that some of the team members spoke in the local dialect also helped the outcome of the awareness campaign. This improved the understanding of the message by locals and help foster better relationships with them. Over 200 locals participated in the project when we only envisaged about 70 people.

(iii.) Livelihood is not always the major driver of unsustainable biodiversity harvest and awareness can change a firmly held cultural belief. During the panel discussion, the traditional healers and herbalists in attendance (those who use animal parts for their medicine) all agreed that there is a decline of up to 90% in their supplies of vultures and its parts, and that they had already agreed to look for alternatives at their council meetings. While the decline, in part, is due to the drop of vulture populations in native habitats, it also reflects the disruption of the supply chain of trade (hunting and selling) in vulture parts through awareness. Generally, the traditional healers are looking elsewhere for alternatives, as the market for vulture is no longer lucrative.

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

The locals pulled a strong participation during the project and we may be right to say that we probably benefitted more from them than they did from the project. Majority of the locals we met and spoke with during the preliminary meetings and community entry became advocates within their local community and they were instrumental in mobilising people for the project. This help set the tone for their involvement and they became more receptive during subsequent project visits and fieldwork, which really helped a great deal especially during the build-up period to the election. The knowledge they acquired will come handy when working with the LUFASI team to monitor Vultures around the site.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

During the awareness campaign, we worked with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF – BirdLife in Nigeria) and the Lagos State Ministry of Environment based on shared views about vulture conservation in Nigeria. Through this effort, plans are in the pipeline to designate LUFASI forest as the first KBA (Key Biodiversity Area) in Lagos State based on being an important site for hooded vultures. To realise this, relevant collaboration between institutions and training is important.

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

The team is currently working on two manuscripts for publication; one is on the roost site and foraging patch preference of hooded vultures in urban forests, while the other focuses more on the role of traditional healers and herbalists in vulture conservation. Currently, excerpts from the project are being used to develop environmental education materials for schools and tourists that visit LUFASI. Furthermore, outputs from the project are being compiled for contribution into a larger regional action plan for African-Eurasian vultures. In addition, the project shared updates and publicity information via social media platform during project implementation.

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 during the period of 1 year, from June 2018 to May 2019, which is the actual length 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
Report Compilation and Development	230	230		
Data Analysis	495	495		
Training Workshops	158	158		
Media and Communications	706	703	-3	
Refreshments for Campaign, Allowance for Field Assistants during Survey	670	681	+11	Turn up was high, so we had to prepare for the extras

Logistics for Community and School Visit	100	104	+4	Turn up was high, so we had to prepare for the extras
Education and Campaign Materials	860	857	-3	
Field Items and Materials	1545	1538	-6	
Preliminary Activities and Training	196	193	-3	
TOTAL	4960	4961	+1	£1 = N455

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

First and foremost, we need to keep the momentum going through more awareness and active engagement of stakeholders. Collaboration with relevant individuals and organisations is also very important to consolidate efforts across the region. Secondly, the coordination of relevant institutions and individuals to realise the designation of LUFASI forest as a KBA is also crucial.

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, we used the logo of The Rufford Foundation in our project materials, specifically the campaign and educational materials. We also publicised the foundation during the project through mentions and tags on social media platform.

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

Bunmi Jegede – Team leader. Worked together with the team to implement project.

Monica Fatogun – Field research/data collection, training of monitoring team and report compilation.

Abel Mukoro – Environmental education, awareness campaign, and report compilation.

Rhoda Omotoye – Data gathering and social media.

Oscar Ekanem – Data gathering and community entry

Evans Basil – Community entry, awareness campaign, and training of monitoring team.

12. Any other comments?

The team is very grateful to The Rufford Foundation for the grant, which gave us the opportunity to contribute to vulture conservation in Nigeria. For some team members, it was our first project experience and indeed a major capacity building for us and an advancement for our careers.