

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Dessalegn Obsi Gemedo
Project Title	Strengthening Public Education on Black Crowned cranes and its Habitat Conservation in Seka Chekorsa District of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia
Application ID	25599-D
Grant Amount	£14330
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Date of this Report	June 7, 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
To strengthening public understanding towards the conservation of Black Crowned cranes and its Habitat in Seka Chekorsa district of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia				Various training was conducted. This objective was fully achieved per the design. Mass media was used for public awareness creation. In addition to face to face capacity building, black crowned crane conservation issue has been disseminated for about 5000 people through social media. Although, this objective is fully achieved, still majority of the local community were not aware of the real challenges of black crowned crane in the project site because of financial constraints. Likewise, youth and students capacity building on the ecology, threats and conservation of black crowned cranes has been conducted to bring last long impact on the species conservation.
To minimize public knowledge gap on ecological, social, and cultural values of wetlands				Workshop, training and various outreach activities has been conducted on the ecological, social, and cultural values of wetlands. About 3500 students trained on environmental conservation with special emphasis on the black crowned cranes and wetlands. Around wetland buffer zone, rehabilitation has been conducted to minimise wetland degradation.
To get the attention of the public for the conservation of Black Crowned crane and wetland conservation through various outreach mechanisms (Pamphlet, flayer and t-shirts were				Pamphlet and flayers was developed and distributed for the public. One hundred t-shirts were printed and distributed for students along conservation messages.

printed and distributed)				
Disseminations of the key findings of the Rufford Small Grants project through publication and other networking				I exceed this objective. Three manuscripts has been published on reputable and peer reviewed international journal.

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

In this round I accomplished all project activities without any difficulties and challenges. However, because of various parallel conservation activities from my institution, I am not able to submit the final project evaluation report at the end of June 2019 (June 27 2019). So, the final project evaluation report is delayed by 1 week per the project plan.

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

(i) Local farmers, stakeholders, and youth capacity building through workshop, training, and focus group discussions on the conservation of black crowned cranes and its habitats. Thus, in this project activity, the local communities are empowered to conserve the vulnerable black crowned cranes and its habitat conservation;

(ii) Sharing and disseminating the issues of black crowned cranes and wetland conservation through international conference (9th European crane conference), Ethiopian Rufford Small Grants conference, social media, and organisational website like Jimma University and others crane working groups both in Africa continent and abroad. Two manuscripts were published in peer reviewed international journal.

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/Strengthening-Public-Education-on-Black-Crowned-Cranes-and-its-Habitat-Conservation-in-Seka-Chekorsa-District-of-Jimma-Zone-Ethiopia>

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?start=0&q=dessalegn+obsi+gemedda&hl=en&as_sdt=0,5

<http://cavm.ju.edu.et/content/strengthening-environmental-conservation-through-planting-trees>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkK99bSB8vs>

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

<https://jdmlm.ub.ac.id/index.php/jdmlm/article/view/523>

DOI <https://doi.org/10.15243/jdmlm.2019.063.1705>

<https://www.facebook.com/gammadaaf/posts/3732768703414864>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=3732760180082383&set=pcb.3732762440082157&type=3&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=3693669907324744&set=pcb.3693678210657247&type=3&theater>

(iii), Rehabilitation of degraded land around wetland buffer zone: 900 environmental friendly plant seedlings were planted with the support of the RSG Project.

Capacity building

Similar to the previous Rufford small grants the importance of black crowned crane and its habitat (wetland) conservation was delivered for stakeholders with special emphasis on the grassroots community and youth to bring last long conservation. During capacity building, the importance of wetland ecosystems for species conservation as well as the well being of an individual were presented and discussed for future actions. For instance, wetland provides water for the public; purify water (natural water purification), a place of fish production, source of medicinal plants and shrubs and others. However, because of little understanding about the importance of wetland ecosystem, our community is over-utilising wetland for agricultural activities in the form of irrigation. Even though, habitat loss is the main threats of black crowned cranes, there are other factors that disturbs the life of the species: invasive species particularly around wetlands, disease, climate change, expansions of eucalyptus tree around wetlands, black crowned cranes egg destruction by children (cattle keepers, free grazing) and other factors like collisions with power lines has be identified in the project area.

People harvest wetlands for food and/or transform them into built up areas for the purpose of shelter and other business. If wetlands is not conserved by the community and concerned stakeholders, the Black Crowned cranes will be endangered and local extinct which leads to global extinction and biodiversity loss (Rufford Small Grants: 22247-B: Gemedda, 2018).

To accomplish our project objective, various training and workshop has been organised for the local community, stakeholders and youth at Seka Chekorsa district. In this capacity building farmers, teachers, students, and agricultural experts has been involved to enhance their understanding on the importance of black crowned cranes and its habitat conservation. In addition to capacity building, the local community involved on wetland rehabilitation through planting trees around wetland buffer zone.

Sharing and disseminating information

I used all existing opportunities to share the project output both in country and abroad for crane working groups and conservationist. During the project life span, various power point presentations have been conducted in different places. For instance, power point presentation has been conducted at Jimma University, at Addis Ababa, Beshale hotel, during Ethiopia Rufford Small Grants conference, in Europe (France), during the 9th European crane conference. In addition to power point presentation, important conservation message has been shared on social media, organisational website like Jimma University and others crane working groups.

Manuscript publication

I am happy to publish two manuscript in collaboration with other conservationist. See the manuscript title and abstract as bellow (also you can referee the full manuscript on the Rufford small grants progress report, https://www.rufford.org/projects/dessaegn_obsi_gemeda_2).

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

Similar to the previous 1st, 2nd, and the 3rd Rufford Small Grant project, in the 4th round the participation of the local communities (specially the farmers) was one of the most important achievements in this project entitled as "Strengthening Public Education on Black Crowned cranes and its Habitat Conservation in Seka Chekorsa District of Jimma Zone, Ethiopia". The most crucial component of this project is to empower the public to conserve the vulnerable black crowned cranes through protection of its habitat. School environmental club was also supported in the form of book donation for the sake of motivation after the student's awareness creation. To minimize the degradation of black crowned crane habitat, reforestation programme has been conducted with financial support of Rufford Small Grants Foundation with in-kind contributions of Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. Public lecture and speech were given both at Jimma University, Seka Chekora primary school, Seka Chekorsa secondary school, and Ula uke village (small village on the way to Jimma mizan tepi main road) in the Seka Chekorsa district with the objective of strengthening the conservation of black crowned cranes and wetland conservation. In addition to capacity building, t-shirt was also distributed along key conservation message for the youth to change their attitudes towards species conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. Even though we contribute a lot towards the conservation of black crowned cranes and its habitat, still the issue of species and its habitat conservation is not well recognised in some villages, which aggravates the threats of black crowned cranes. Therefore, I will continue to work on the conservation of black crowned cranes and its habitat conservation with the support of the Rufford Small Grants Foundation and other funding agencies at local and international level.

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

Until this report generated, two manuscripts was published in the peer reviewed international journal, one poster presentation on international forum (9th European crane conference in France from December 3 to 7, 2018), three power point presentation including the Ethiopian Rufford Small Grants conference at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In addition to manuscript publications, poster and power point presentation, the project activities has been shared on YouTube, face book and research gate where I promoted the Rufford Project activities for the public.

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

The Rufford Foundation grant was used over the anticipated period from July 2018 to June 2019. Even though, the project activities were accomplished within 1 year after the grant has been released, the project evaluation has been delayed for one week because of other institutional work load, conservation activities, and internet connection interruptions.

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
Outreach activities	£450	£450		
Environmental club support	£300	£300		
Youth and students workshop/training at various level	£850	£850		
Refreshment cost for the training participants and T-shirt publication for the youth during the workshop	£800	£900	+\$100	Managed by co-funding (Audubon Naturalist Society)
Public education and awareness creations including: stakeholders (1950) and community workshop or training (1850)	£3800	£3350	£-450	
Stationery materials for capacity building	£350	£250	£-100	
Educational materials (Brochures, flyers and posters)	£2600	£2450	£-150	
Equipments (Video camera, photo camera, Laptop, GPS and LCD)	£1000	£1000		In-kind contributions from other donation (IDEA WILD ORG)
Vehicle fuel cost including per diem for driver and experts	£800	£800		
Focus group discussions	£780	£780		
Panel discussions	£700	£700		
Field observation	£600	£950	£+350	Managed by other funding agency (Audubon Naturalist)

				Society)
Honorarium payment	£800	£800		
Seedling plantation around wetland buffer zone		£750	£+750	Included in the project activities after online application
Indirect cost (5%), used for project balance	£500		£-500	Used for under estimated budget request
Total	£14330	£14330		The underestimated budget request is solved by the reserved indirect cost (5%) and other funding organization

Note: from the total project expense £10,000 were supported by the Rufford Small Grants and the remaining £4330 were supported by Jimma University and IDEA WILD ORG (Both are in-kind contributions) and the Audubon Naturalist Society.

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

We try to work more with the integration of research and conservation activities to bring last long impacts on the conservation of black crowned cranes and its habitat mainly wetlands. The public will be more empowered to feel the sense of ownership towards nature conservation in general and black crowned cranes and its habitat conservation in particular.

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?

On every promotional materials prepared, The Rufford Foundation logo has been used. For instance, on every power point and poster presentation (on international and national conference), t-shirt publication, banners, Jimma University website, personal blogs pages like face books, you tubes, research gates were used, along with the clear acknowledgement message. On the published manuscript the support of the Rufford Small Grants has been boldly acknowledged under acknowledgment sections.

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

Ebise Buraka Gemeda (a project team member) has actively involved in youth capacity building and workshop facilitation.

Other experts involved on the project implementation

MS. Zufan Kebede organize the local community for workshop at Ula Uke village

Mr. Boka Fikadu Negassa organize and facilitate Seka high school students for awareness creations

Mr. Kedir A Bulgu organize and facilitate Seka primary school students for awareness creations

12. Any other comments?

I highly appreciate the support of Rufford Small Grants to accomplish my project activities with high achievement in capacity building and scientific article contributions. I am also able to secure funding from other sources by indicating the project accomplishments from RSG. I also get an opportunity to share my experience with international communities through conference participation. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge the Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation for supporting my project, where there is scarcity of resources for public capacity building to minimize the threats of black crowned crane and its habitats.

Supplementary photo verification of the project activities



Figure 1: Black Crowned crane feeding ground in flocks and pair



Figure 2: Black Crowned cranes and goats grazing together in Boye wetland Jimma zone



Figure 3: Black Crowned cranes and cattle's grazing together in Jimma Zone, Ethiopia



Figure 4: Rehabilitation of degraded land around wetland buffer zone by the community



Figure 5: Local community awareness creations at Ula Uke village



Figure 6: Students awareness creation on the conservation of Black crowned cranes and wetlands at different levels



Figure 7: Youth workshop at Jimma University College of Agriculture and veterinary medicine, Ethiopia



Figure 8: Experience sharing and discussion on the Ethiopian Rufford Small Grants
(Photo by conference organizer, April 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

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