Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Bayo Martin J
Project Title	Threats, awareness and distribution pattern of the threatened African Clawless Otters (Aonyx capensis) in Mtera Dam Tanzania.
Application ID	25815-1
Grant Amount	£4,306
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Date of this Report	29/7/2019

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
I. To assess the level of awareness by local communities on the African claw less otter in Mtera dam.				The level of awareness was high and some local people have sighted the species in some localities (i.e. lake Nyasa and Victoria) near the dam site.
II. To assess the distribution pattern and abundance of African clawless otters at Mtera dam.				The species are restricted only in protected zone: an area difficult to reach by fishermen due to crocodiles and hippopotamus.
III. To identify threats that contribute to the African clawless otter decline at Mtera dam.				A list of real and perceived threats successfully generated from participatory surveys with local communities
IV. To train 5 local youth for the collection of information about African clawless otter.				We managed to train five local youth who also assisted us in field data collection.
V. Meetings with villages and local authority about the value and means to conserve rare African Clawless otter.				This activity was combined with the conservation education campaign for otters. However due to government illegal fishing operation only three meetings and one conservation awareness was successfully performed. The activity was succeeded by 90%.

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

1. The government illegal fishing was abruptly conducted during the survey and caused mistrust between project leaders and fishermen. The problem was solved through meetings and use of participatory rural appraisal in social survey rather than depending on questionnaire only.
2. Rainfall was another setback causing the researcher to postpone some of the activities and conduct them in the later months.
3. Survey of the protected zone in the dam was not accomplished due time restriction to stay in that guarded area for security purposes.

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

The project succeeded to raise awareness not only to the fishermen in Mtera Dam (through meetings, school visits and distribution of fliers to the community) but also through media interview with over 4300 viewers (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jomce_g7L_E&t=72s) on you tube in Swahili language, one article written in English about the project https://youngconservationistblog.wordpress.com/2019/05/30/human-wildlife-conflict-in-the-mtera-reservoir/), presentation on conservation dinner in Tanzania, training 29 wildlife management students at Sokoine University of Agriculture on ecology and research on otters and lastly a manuscript that will be published to disseminate the project results.

The awareness and threats from fishermen's perception has been well documented and the recommendation will be presented during December 2019 Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute Conference in order to inform key stakeholders so that they can take immediate action. Also the local communities were educated through meetings and fliers distributions. Figure 1 below and the attached photo describe clearly the threats and awareness campaign done.

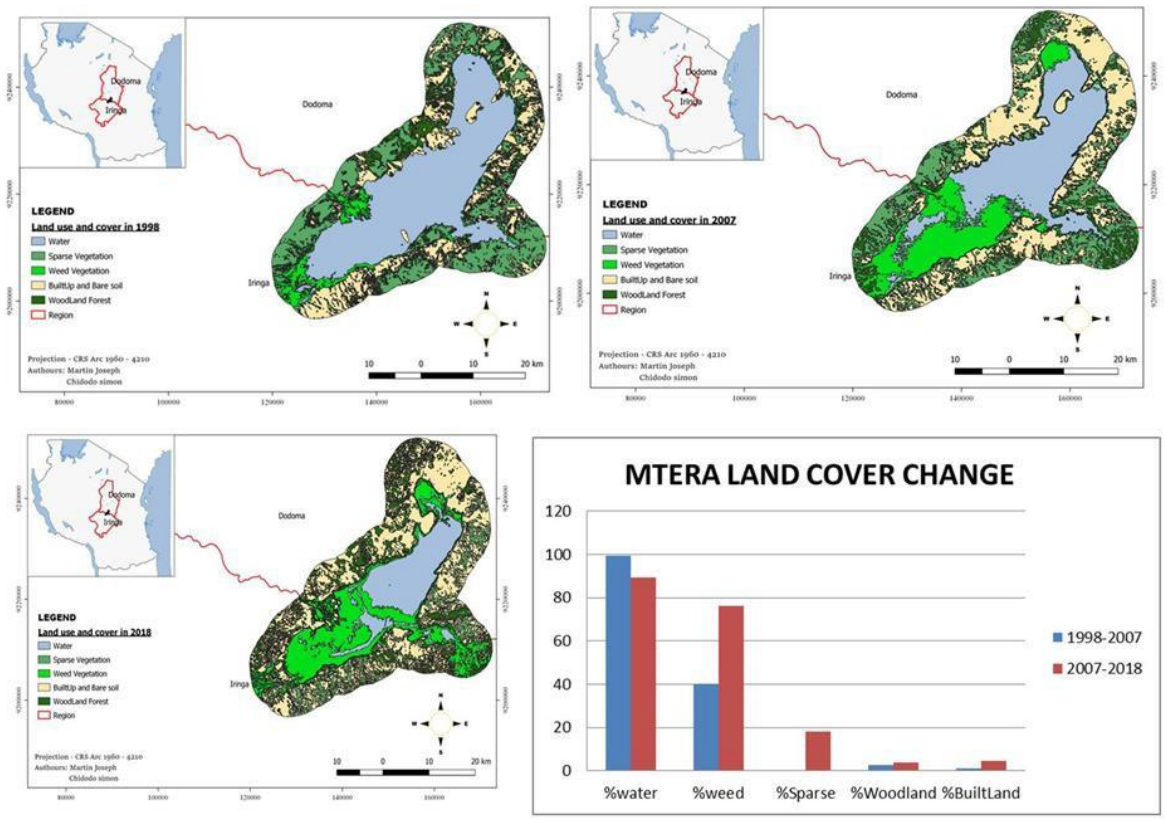

Figure 1 above shows the land use/cover change and percentage of change for 30 years (1988 to 2017). This show how the habitat of otter is affected in the area and constrict species range.

A map on the distribution and area occupied by otters was successfully developed see figure 2 below.

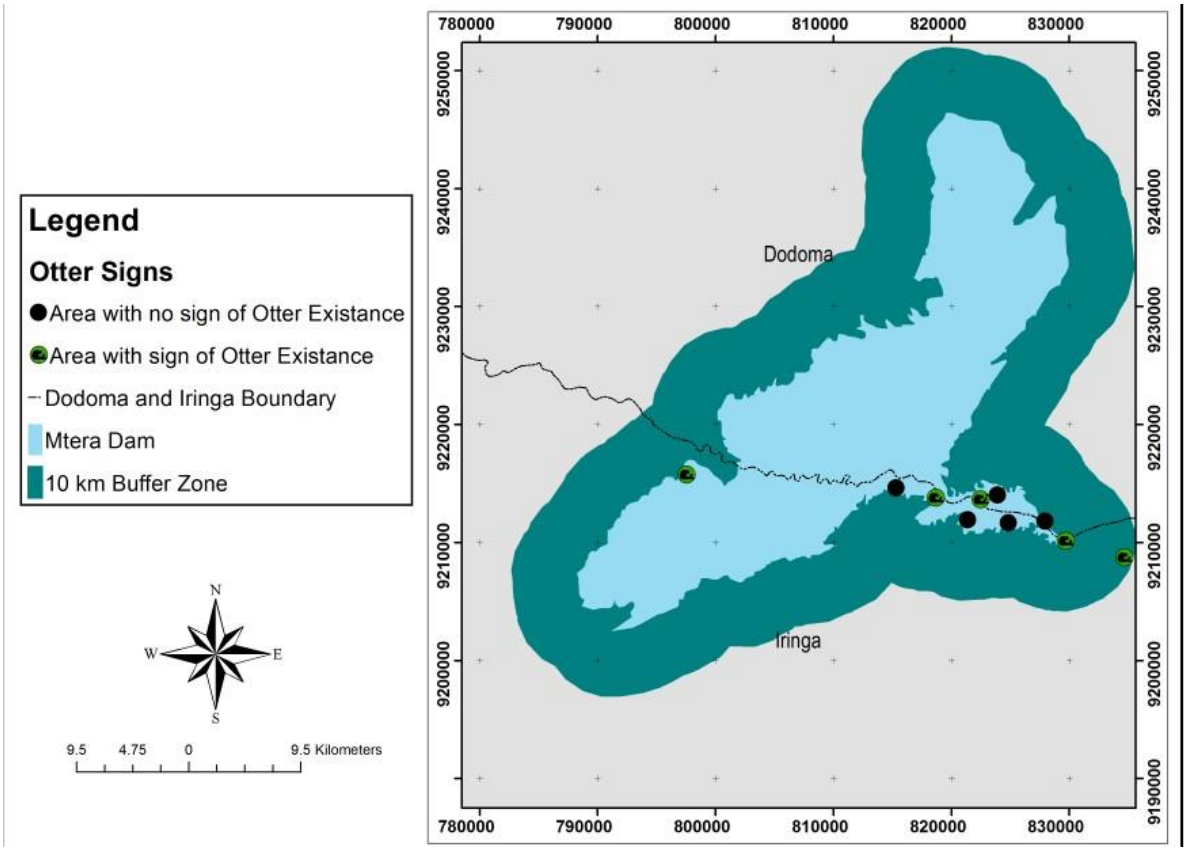

Fig 2. Distribution of otters in Mtera dam using signs and result of community survey.

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

Local communities were given training on the conservation importance of otters and benefit they can achieve through tourism once the population of otters is stable in their area. Also, during public conservation meetings we tried to discuss with local community participants on the negative traditional beliefs that affect otter population.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The completion of this study raises many questions than the anticipated answers. A follow up conservation work that involves local communities will be developed and implemented to ensure long-term conservation of this species. Also there is a need to conduct further survey in other sites to have a comprehensive countrywide data on otter population.

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

The results have been shared through social media (YouTube and blog). We are writing a manuscript that will be sending to a journal for publication to share results with the scientific communities. Also through presentation and policy brief will be sent to Tanzania Electric Supply Company for the threats associated with otters and the dam.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?
8.

The project was conducted for 6 months instead of the planned 3 months. This was due to shifting of fishermen following illegal fishing operation and rainfall. Also availability of boat to survey the small island inside the dam was contradicting with fishing activities of the boat owners.

9. 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
Miscellaneous	56		-56	
Assistance researchers allowance	350	350		Paid to personnel during fieldwork
Researchers allowance	650	650		Paid to personnel during fieldwork
Permit fee	110		-110	
Driver allowance	420	420		Paid to personnel during fieldwork
Fuel	900	900		Purchased during field work
Car hire and maintenance	750	750		Paid during field work and after.
Stationeries	200	201	+1	
Camera traps hiring	150	150		
GPS	395	207	-188	
Digital camera	150	150		
15 SD cards	60	60		
1 Printer	115		-115	
Boat hiring		396	+396	Some of the area required boat to cross the dam and
TOTAL	**4306**	**423**	**-72**	

NOTE
Having seen the importance of hiring boat for doing transect inside the dam the research took the advantage of free permit granted by the district game officer and fisheries officer but also instead of buying printer and also we use the emergency amount we set before the project plus the amount deducted when we bought the handled GPS.

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

The main important steps is to assess the impact of fishing and agriculture activities in the nearby wetland harbouring otters, so as to have a national policy brief on the best way to harmonise the coexistence between fishing and agriculture activities in the area with otter population.

11. 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 in every presentations made, fliers distribution and meeting conducted Rufford logo was used to increase publicity of the organisation but also to acknowledge the grant. Also in the manuscript that has been prepared Rufford conservation grant has been acknowledged.

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

Dr. Mbije N. from Sokoine university of Agriculture is a research and senior lecturer at the Department of wildlife management. In this project his task was to provide support and supervision on experimental part example to preparing grids for setting cameras and publications of the results.

Dr. Sayuni B. Mariki a senior lecturer at the Department of wildlife management. In this project she supervised the integration between fishermen and conservation during community meetings and lastly in the designing of social part of the study.

Mr. Joel Ignatus a graduate of B.Sc. Wildlife Management at Sokoine University of Agriculture. In this project he was an assistant field personnel where by his work was to supervise the local youth trained during data collection and participate in the transect survey and conservation education too.

Mr. Bayo Martin J studying M.Sc. Wildlife Management and Conservation at Sokoine University of Agriculture. He was the project leader who conducts all the data collection, report writing and dissemination of the conservation education and project output.

12. Any other comments?

This project could not have been implemented without the support of The Rufford Foundation. We are gratefully for the intense work done by the reviewers and not to forget our dearest Jane Raymond you're the best thanks you abundantly.

Full details of the methods and result are on the upcoming published article which will be in open access journal.


Left: Scats found during ground transect. Right: African clawless otter skin found in one of the fisherman household. It is used to lay babies soon after birth and part of the ski will be tied to their arm (bracelet like) to avid some inherited diseases.


Left: Participatory rural appraisal with the fishermen. Right: Conservation education at Mtera secondary school.

A meeting with fishermen in Mtera DAM, (CHIBWEGERE VILLAGE) conservation awareness.