

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Yihenew Aynalem
Project Title	Diversity, Population Estimate, Distribution and Threats of Galliformes in Didessa River Valley, western Ethiopia
Application ID	28922-1
Grant Amount	£5,998
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Date of this Report	7 th December, 2020

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
Estimating the species diversity, relative abundance and distribution of Galliformes				Three Galliforme species, namely, Clapperton's francolin (<i>Pternistis clapperton</i>), helmeted guineafowl (<i>Numida meleagris</i>), and stone partridge (<i>Ptilopachus petrosus</i>) were confirmed to be inhabiting the study area. <i>N. meleagris</i> is supposed to be the most abundant, and <i>P. petrosus</i> is the rarest species of the area.
Determining the conservation threats of Galliformes and its habitats				Threats, including habitat destruction, agricultural intensification, hunting and egg collection and deliberate fire, are identified as the potential conservation threats of the species and its habitats.
Enhancing local communities' awareness and public understanding towards Galliformes conservation				Local community's attitude toward the status, threats, and conservation significances of these species were assessed. Galliformes hunting and egg collection activities for commercial, and even recreational activities is recognised as a common and persistent practice in the specified study area. It needs immediate action and further effort to enhance awareness and public understanding to maintain sustainable interaction.

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

- A. At the beginning of the study, there was a refusal from the local inhabitants to undertake a field survey as most of them were not aware of such activities. Later, we have reached at a consensus through detail discussion about the aims of the study as well.
- B. The global unexpected challenge of the year, Covid – 19 pandemic, mainly to undertake community education and awareness creation activities

besides travel bans, gathering restrictions and lockdowns to collect field data consistently. We relied very heavily on the possible prevention methods and safety guidelines while delivering group discussion and community education interventions.

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

1. The species diversity, relative abundance and distribution patterns of Galliformes in the study area were determined.
2. Potential conservation threats to the species and its habitats including habitats destruction and loss, agricultural expansion, fire, hunting and egg collections were well identified.
3. Local community's attitude and understanding towards the species and its conservation significances were assessed. These outputs would provide baseline information to stem the gap of knowledge about the species ecology, and also devise appropriate conservation strategies to safeguard the species.

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

Two local guides and one field assistant from the surrounding community were involved to assist the fieldwork activities and accomplish the study effectively. They have received financial support, and acquired significant experiences in field data collection, and even the basics of bird identification skills which might help them for further participation in conservation activities too. Selected individuals from the surrounding communities were also participated in the questionnaire data collection and group discussion session as well to get awareness about the threats and conservation significances of Galliforme birds.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Certainly! We are planning to continue the study on the threats and conservation of these birds, as well as about the human-galliformes interaction to maintain co-existence, strengthen and promote the conservation significance of the species and ecosystems in the region through research and education.

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

Manuscripts on the abundance, population status and distribution patterns of Galliformes are in underway to publish in a peer reviewed scientific journals and share research information with the wider conservation community.

The final technical report of the project will be submitted to local stakeholders, conservation organisation and governmental bodies as an input to strengthen the national conservation effort and develop a strategy in a way to improving the

conservation status and long-term survival of threatened species and habitats in the region.

We will also share the outputs through research workshops and presentations in conservation organisations as well.

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

The project grant was used as per the proposed timescale from December 2019 – November 2020.

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
Accommodation for principal researcher	£2160	£2160		
Allowance for field assistant and local guidance	£1680	£1680		
Local travel cost (vehicle rental, fuel)	£685	£785	+£100	Due to an increase in transportation cost
Payment for team members and participants	£398	£281	-£117	
Equipment cost (Digital camera recorder)	£285	£365	+£80	Estimated item cost difference
Consumables, miscellaneous and communication cost	£148	£85	-£63	
Administrative and management overheads	£642	£642		
Total cost	£5998	£5,998		The exchange rate was about 41.48 Ethiopian Birr for £1 GBP Sterling.

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

The most important step ahead would be to further investigate the ecological aspects of these groups of birds considering the sheer ecological and socio-economic role and advancing the conservation significances one step forward through community education, awareness creation and communication as the species are less studied, and under considerable anthropogenic pressure resulting population declining.

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?

I have used the Rufford Foundation logo in the community education and awareness creation sessions of the study. I'm also working on scientific journal publications, and presentation for my theses, by which the logo is used promptly, and the foundation is well acknowledged.

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

Yihenew Aynalem - principal researcher.

Professor Afework Bekele and **Dr. Bezawork Afework** are my PhD supervisors from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. They have been contributing to the study design, survey techniques and data analysis session of the study. They also well managed the logistics in a way to utilize the project fund properly.

Anbssaye Tekelu - Field assistant and facilitator.

12. Any other comments?

I am grateful to The Rufford's Foundation for supporting this project, without which this work would not have been successful. It is highly appreciated to maintain funding and collaboration to further our effort in birds and habitat conservation endeavour.