

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Rochelle Katlego Mphetlhe
Project Title	Repeat Road Surveys of Endangered Raptors in Southern Botswana
Application ID	29389
Grant Amount	£6000
Email Address	rochellemphetlhe@gmail.com
Date of this Report	21/05/2021

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
Repeat raptor road counts(surveys) covering a total of 25000 km of transects				A total of 15000 km of survey transects have been completed. The remaining 10000 km yet to will be completed by October 2021
Educate communities and increase awareness about issues concerning endangered raptor species and the conflict between them and people, their roles and importance in the ecosystem.				I have done "raptor presentations" to both the Adult Conservation Groups in Ngwatle and Zutshwa and taken community members to the bush. With the knowledge that communities have gained from my engagements with them, more people are eager to learn more about raptors, more people now appreciate these species and acknowledge their importance in the ecosystem
To quantify changes in the abundance of the main raptor species in Southern Botswana, and to combine these with the northern transects, to derive a country wide estimate of the abundance change for all species of regularly occurring raptors in the country, especially vultures and undertake an explanatory analysis to explore what the potential drivers of declines may be.				Basic analysis of the existing road surveys data has been done, the species and numbers of raptors recorded. More in-depth analysis will be done once all the road surveys have been completed.
Fun presentation about raptors and their conservation with activities to the children aged between 8,9 and 10 years at the primary schools in Zutshwa and				Since the uprise of the global pandemic, it has been quite difficult to get access to give presentations at schools (especially primary) to protect children from any sort of exposure. Therefore, this objective was delayed until things have

Ngwatle.				calmed down. I will fulfil it at a near future date with the support of the Raptors Botswana team.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Movement restrictions, lockdowns and other covid19 related complications have added logistical and other challenges and continue to do so. However, although I now have some catching up to do, I am confident all my planned raptor road surveys will be complete by October this year. Hopefully I will be able to then spend time in Cape Town at the University there as planned to complete my master's Thesis. I could not carry out a planned activity with one of the communities I engage with as initially planned. Instead of a bush trip with the Zutshwa community, I could only give a verbal presentation which lasted for only a few hours, in honour of following protocol.

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

1. Growing interest and passion for raptors among communities living in wildlife management areas. When I started having meetings with communities to discuss and share knowledge about raptors, there has been growing interest and eagerness to learn more about these species, and especially how to protect them. The local people want to be educated about these species and how they can co-exist safely with them, they want more opportunities where they learn about their wildlife, so that they're able to expand their knowledge and be able to protect their wildlife using it.

2. Conducting this project has also been immensely helpful for my professional growth. With my knowledge of raptors and their importance in the ecosystem, I am awarded opportunities to impart my knowledge to various people, including students at different levels, primary to tertiary levels. As well as to government officials and other various stakeholders. I have had opportunities to present to students and other stakeholders about the role of raptors and vultures in the environment, the increasing need to protect them from the various threats they face including poisoning.

3. Although not a large part of my project, I had the incredible opportunity to be part of the Raptors Botswana team which introduced vulture safe zones in the country. With more practice and time allowance, we hope I can be able to take weight of this initiative independently that is, without a whole team to do the job, I can be able to do so on my own.

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

The Zutshwa and Ngwatle communities that are involved in this project have welcomed it with open arms and are very much eager to keep learning and being

involved in the protection of raptor species in their areas. As much as these communities reside in wildlife management areas (WMAs), they have extraordinarily little experience of the bush/wild and most of the people here have never encountered wild animals. This project has helped them change this, we had an instance were post covid-19, we had a bush trip with the Ngwatle community. In this trip the local people were exposed to the wild for the first time ever, this trip was also important to put visuals to these "raptor species" that need protecting as we always teach them. This way, locals could really appreciate nature and be one with it, from their own personal experiences instead of through someone else's words, as is usually the case. Unfortunately, we could not do the same with Zutshwa community due to covid-19 restrictions, but instead had regular verbal presentations with them.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project is not yet complete, so yes, I would like to complete it, to also complete my studies.

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

Once the project is complete, I will publish my findings, and share them with various stakeholders and government departments/officials.

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 spent over a period of 16 months. I plan to have completed my overall project by October 2022.

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 £ 0.066= P 1	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
FOOD	227	759	+532	Includes bush surveys, community engagement trips and other meetings with different parties interested in the project. The extra funds were sourced from different unused portions of the budget
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	600	317	-282	Since not all planned activities were implemented, remaining funds were used on fuel and

				accommodation
FLIGHT FARES	1587		-1587	Movement restrictions ceased travelling
TRANSPORT	134	130	-4	Public transport was used to access different services and facilities, in and outside the city.
FUEL	1250	3745	+2495	Along with the original budget for fuel, more funds were diverted from unused portions of the budget to cover for fuel used for surveys
ACCOMMODATION	400	466	+66	Cost of accommodation varied from one location to the other
CONFERENCES /COMMUNICATION	400	160.41	239.59	Some of this portion was used to credit cell phone bills during trip and for other logistical communications
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	495	99	-396	Most of the vehicle service were covered by Raptors Botswana
EQUIPMENT	600	616	+16	Most of this was spent on internet services which needed to be upgraded to a slightly higher cost. This was due to poor network connection in my residence
CAMPING EQUIPMENT	381	36	-345	Most camping equipment was provided by Raptors Botswana
	6000	6330	+330	<p>The total amount in the "difference column" was diverted across different areas of the budget where there was more need for funds.</p> <p>From 2853.1, 531.89 was allocated to food, and the remaining 2321.21 diverted to fuel. Thus, utilizing the grant amount.</p>

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

To complete the raptor road counts, this way I can then focus on the write up and analysis of data and then the raptors conservation implications. Most importantly, use funds as appropriately as possible in order to avoid shortages or shortfalls.

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?

Rufford logo was used in some project presentation materials used during community engagements, it is also presented in the KRC website.

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

Arjun Amar - Academic supervisor, assists and lead in the academic part of the project for example, with analysis and write up.

Rich Reading – Academic Co-supervisor

Glyn Maude - Co-supervisor and Raptors Botswana support network

Refilwe Baatweng - Community engagement officer, she helped ensure that community members are present at our scheduled meetings and presentations.

Tebogo Kgakgamatso - Field assistant, helps with driving during road counts and helps identify birds if needed.

12. Any other comments?

The Rufford foundation played a major role in my project's progress from the minute my grant was funded until this very moment. All that I have learned and experienced throughout the past year has brought me closer and more passionate about this project and the conservation field in general. Therefore, I take this time to appreciate the foundation and all those who made this grant award possible.