

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Mohamed Henriques
Project Title	Vulture conservation in Guinea-Bissau: awareness-raising and capacity building amongst key actors to reduce major threats
Application ID	32019-2
Grant Amount	£5989
Email Address	mhenriquesbalde@gmail.com
Date of this Report	25 th February 2022

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
Production of an "awareness kit" of informative materials to support conservation awareness actions and help promote the profile of vultures				
Vulture conservation awareness sessions in the four main cities of Guinea-Bissau (Bissau, Bafatá, Gabú, Canchungo)				
Talks in schools in the vicinity of key areas for vultures in the four main cities of Guinea-Bissau, and at the universities of Bissau focusing biology and health related degrees				
Radio Interviews and spots at national and community radios				
Radio and TV interviews at international high-profile media outlets				This was not an original objective, but we were able to additionally deliver this activity, which had high impact back in Guinea-Bissau.
Capacity building on conservation and monitoring techniques				This activity was redesigned to include a set of online and hybrid training sessions, as a response to Covid-19 restrictions and large-scale strikes in the country during the period reserved for its implementation. As such, the practical component was not delivered, and instead opened the opportunity to include an extra 1-day session dedicated to agents of the national guard, judiciary police and border authorities, reinforcing

				awareness in this important stakeholder group on their role in deterring and blocking illegal trade of vulture body parts.
Monitoring the variation in the number of Hooded vultures on selected sites				This activity was connected to the previous activity (i.e., capacity building on conservation and monitoring techniques) and would serve as practice for the monitoring techniques, but the practical component of that activity was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions and large-scale strikes in the country at the time planned for its implementation. The funds reserved for this activity were redirected to fund additional radio interviews and radio spots in high-impact national radios of the capital, Bissau) and additional talks at schools.

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

Challenging adaptations to the original plan were forced due to Covid-19 restrictions and, especially, due to political instability, which resulted in successive strikes at a national level, halting the functioning of key institutions for this project, like veterinary services, schools, and universities. Nevertheless, we were able to compensate these with extremely flexible scheduling of activities and budgeting, and thanks to the fierce determination of the national partner institutions, namely ODZH and IBAP. Given the importance and urgency of this project to halt vulture persecution, we pushed through and used wisely the periods when there were no restrictions of Covid-19 to successfully deliver the proposed activities.

The indirect management of the funds was another challenge. As this is a relatively limited funding, the inclusion of this source within the financial system of one of the partner institutions created logistical and practical difficulties, with the liberation of funds for each activity depending on the signing off of high-level positions within these institutions, which was not always practical and created some delays and missed opportunities. Additionally, after each expense, reminiscent funds had to be delivered back to the financial department, which created additional bureaucracy complications. Nevertheless, with perseverance it was possible to execute all the funds.

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

1. The number of individuals directly reached by the awareness activities of this project amounted to ca. 700 from the most important target stakeholders,

including students and teachers from schools and universities, livestock herders, national guard, border authorities and judiciary police agents, public and NGO conservation institutions, veterinary and health agents, meat sellers and employees from slaughterhouses. This was also done in the four largest cities of the country, and the most important for vulture populations, especially hooded vultures, a commensal with humans. Adding to these people and stakeholder, many more were reached through the radio spots, radio and TV interviews, and high-profile news outlets. After this project, a large part of the population in Guinea-Bissau from the target stakeholder groups have already heard about the conservation of vultures in some way, either through our awareness sessions or media outreach, or through their children, family members and friends. This already had significant impacts in the number of contacts received from people denouncing dead vultures or persecution to vultures, and as inclusively resulted in the arrest of several illegal traders or middlemen.

2. Integration of vulture conservation and research as a key interest in the programme of national and NGO conservation institutions: national partners with whom we delivered this project were deeply involved in these activities, and this had the additional effect of increasing their perception of the importance of integrating vulture conservation as a priority within their program of activities. For example, following the extensive involvement in this project, the NGO ODZH undertook another vulture conservation project with the support of Birdlife Africa, and benefitted from the training and communication materials from this Rufford Small Grant to extend the conservation activities, ultimately benefiting vulture conservation at a longer term. Likewise, the national organization IBAP will now support the organisation of a training workshop by the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group on the response to wildlife poisoning events and the creation of a national action plan to protect vultures.
3. Creation of a long-lasting multi-purpose “awareness kit”: The awareness kit produced during this project, adapted to the local culture and language, is a product that not only was crucial to the success of the awareness activities during this project, but will also continue to be relevant to future projects. For example, the new vulture conservation project that was undertaken by the partner NGO ODZH, benefitted from the products we created in this project.

4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?

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

Local communities were deeply involved in all the awareness activities in this project through their engagement in talks, animation sessions and informal talks. Additionally, during one of the interviews in the radios in the capital, a member of the local traditional healer association was invited and supported to travel to the capital and participate in a radio debate, sharing their views and openly discussion the conservation of vultures in the scope of their use for traditional healers.

6. Are there any plans to continue this work?

After the completion of this work, we felt that a solid basis was launched to allow further awareness activities to continue through our local partners. Partners received training through this project and were deeply involved in delivering the activities in the field. I will continue to work together with these local partners in seeking more funding opportunities to continue the awareness activities, which are only effective if conducted in a consistent and durable way with relevant local partners.

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

The results of this work were continuously shared among the conservation and research partners through online presentations and news outlets. An interview conducted in a high-profile radio in Portuguese-speaking countries, RDP, and in a high-profile TV programme, in the Radio and Television of Portugal (RTP) went a long way to share the successes of this work while it was on going. We also featured news pieces in the newsletters of our partner institutions in Guinea-Bissau. After the completion of the project, we aim to write a small article sharing the experiences and lessons learned during this project, to publish in the newsletter of conservation institutions like BirdLife Africa and the Vulture Conservation Foundation.

8. 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 over the period of 1 year and 2 months. This constituted an excess of 2 months regarding the length anticipated, due to scheduling flexibilities that were forced to respond to covid-19 restrictions and public strikes in Guinea-Bissau.

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
50 x Hats (printing)	480		-480	Production was not available
50 x T-shirts (printing)	540	550	+10	Actual price was much superior to estimated
300 x Flyers (printing)	180	135	-45	
50 x Posters (printing)	300	315	+15	65 units
Graphic production of	130	130		

communication materials				
National Ornithologist subsistence fee (32 days)	780	650	-130	
Car and Moto Driver Payment (24 days)	340	400	+60	
Mohamed Henriques (field subsistence fee)	170	200	+30	
5 x 32 Gb Micro SD Memory card	35		-35	Funds were redirected to radio spots
4 x Compact digital photo camera	172		-172	Funds were redirected to radio spots
Photo camera Superzoom (for vulture ID)	214		-214	Practical monitoring activities were cancelled, and thus these were no longer acquired
Portable Projector	342	410	+68	Target model was not available, a pricier model was acquired
Car diesel (20L/100Km consumption - 386L)	218	300	+82	
Car rental (24 days)	2060	2500	+440	
Sub-total	5961	5590	-371	
Radio spot recording and playing		200	+200	Was not budgeted before
High-impact radio interview/debate in Bissau		195	+195	Was not budgeted before
TOTAL	5961	5985	+24	

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

There is still a lack of a structured monitoring programme focused on vulture populations in the country, hampering the assessment of the impact of the growing threats in these endangered species. National institutions and technicians also need to be extensively trained in vulture monitoring to be able to carry on these activities independently. Moreover, there is still virtually no knowledge on the extension and quantification of the number of vultures killed for belief-based use, illegal trade, and human-wildlife conflict. These are all crucial steps that we are determined to follow in the aftermath of this project. Also, essential as next steps are building a baseline knowledge on the breeding ecology of vultures in this region, which will allow to better assess the productivity, thus better estimate the impacts of the high mortality rates observed recently in the potential survival of these species.

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, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in every communication material produced by the project, ensuring a positive publicity of the Rufford Small Grants Programme. Additionally, during radio and tv interviews, The Rufford Foundation was always mentioned as a key element ensuring the funding of the work.

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

Mohamed Henriques: Project leader; project conception; project coordination; delivery of activities in the field; preparation and production of communication materials; project administration; reporting.

Paulo Catry: Project conception; project coordination; delivery of activities in the field; preparation and production of communication materials; senior supervision.

Hamilton Monteiro: Delivery of activities in the field; project administration; logistical support; reporting.

Nélson Gomes: Delivery of activities in the field; project administration; logistical support; reporting.

Daniel Lopes: Project conception; preparation and production of communication materials.

Francisco Wambar: project coordination; project administration; logistical support; reporting.

Aissa Regalla: project coordination; project administration; logistical support.
Miguel Lecoq: Project conception; preparation and production of communication materials.

13. Any other comments?