

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Israel Adedeji Bolade
Project Title	Reviving Vulture Populations within and around Jos Metropolis
Application ID	32401-1
Date of this Report	27-04-2023

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
Identifying and surveying breeding populations of Hooded vultures within Jos metropolis.				Successfully identified breeding pairs and groups in two locations as well as feeding individuals at other locations within the metropolis. One pair successfully fledged their young.
Vegetation survey of breeding and roosting sites.				Certain tree species were found around vulture locations. Grass and shrub cover were not identified as predictors of vulture presence.
Social surveys on perception of humans towards vultures.				Using questionnaires, the perception of human residents around established vulture locations were studied and the results were used to inform conservation education.
Conservation education/Community engagement				Conservation education outreach programmes were carried out at secondary schools around the communities with vulture populations and locations in-between.
Tree planting and Afforestation				Tree planting activities were carried out in all schools where conservation education took place.
Post project Radio and TV presentations				Radio and TV interviews and broadcasts were carried out to enlighten the wider public about the importance of protecting the environment and the impact of vultures to the environment.
Social media engagement				Social media platforms for discussions and engagement with regards to vulture sightings and news have been established with interactions from citizen scientists from different parts of the country taking place.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). The most recent vulture records occurred around protected areas with neighbouring community residents being able to identify them.

b). Most respondents of the social surveys initially had negative beliefs about and opinions about vultures. Due to attitudinal changes, locals currently engage in reporting to us vulture sightings with photos sometimes.

c). Tree species identified around vulture breeding sites are mostly economic trees which are harvested for valuable wood resources.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

A management change at the institution (NVRI) managing one of the locations of our vulture populations led to a temporary hold on our avian surveys within the premises subject to review of our applications (due to some changes in leadership within the research institute). During this period, we proceeded with other aspects of the survey and resumed the observational surveys as soon as our access was reinstated.

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

Members of the local communities were very enthusiastic and supportive of the project both as subjects of the social surveys and participants in the conservation education programmes. The portrayed knowledge of the subject species and their environment and appeared convinced to protect vultures and their environment instead of engaging in detrimental activities.

The tree planting exercises were widely appreciated by the local schools and religious institutions involved and the plants were well received and cared for. People within local communities have continued to report vulture sightings to us. We have learnt a lot from the locals on the problems faced by vultures.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We intend to collaborate with individuals and groups resident in other areas within the central region and, eventually, other regions within the country to establish a group dedicated to improving vulture populations within the country. During our studies, we understand that these vultures, breed and then move. We will love to understand the movement patterns of these vultures by possibly tagging them. Yes, there are plans to continue the work.

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

Results of from this project are already being developed into manuscripts for publication and have been submitted to be presented at the Students Conference on Conservation Science in Cambridge. Other such means will be used to share the results with the scientific community while radio and TV media will be used to share the results with the wider audience.

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

Since vultures occupy large home ranges and are therefore exposed to persecution and poisoning all over these home ranges, the important steps going forward will include a wider outreach program to enlighten residents of communities close to protected areas located in the central region of Nigeria about the ecosystem services of vultures, their spreading of soil nutrients and control waste and the spread of diseases in those ranges.

8. 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?

The Rufford logo was used on all printed materials: shirts, caps, banners and notebooks used for the project. The Rufford Foundation was acknowledged on all radio and TV programmes and broadcasts relating to this project, all publication manuscripts and conference presentation drafts also contain acknowledgements of The Rufford Foundation.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Israel Adedeji Bolade - Team Lead, Ecologist, Data Analyst

Longji Aaron Bako - Co-lead, Ecologist, Institutional liaison

Josiah Ibrahim - Ecologist, Social survey support

Christopher Yohanna - Ecologist, Vegetation survey support

Vera Davou - Student, Social survey data collector

10. Any other comments?

The outreach activities that begun from this project have continued since its conclusion, with the A.P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute providing financial support for visits to schools and funding media interviews and broadcasts on world recognised days of environmental importance.