

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Mikias Biazen Molla
Project Title	Improve Population Status of Black-tailed Godwit through Community Based Conservation in Cheleleka Wetland, Wondo Genet, Ethiopia
Application ID	35573-1
Date of this Report	August 19, 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
Assessing the existing status and identifying threats of Black-tailed Godwit				GIS & RS-based analyses coupled with physical observation and discussions with the local community were done. From this analysis, a scientific manuscript was produced and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. The findings may guide stakeholders, policymakers, etc.
Assessing the effect of human activities on the habitats of the Black-tailed Godwit and the wetland				
Providing awareness creation and capacity-building training to a different level				To take more responsibility for wetland conservation we have been providing capacity-building and awareness creation training for 65 participants composed of Woreda experts, Kebele Administration, and local community representatives at Intaye Town, Wondo district, West Arsi Zone Oromia-Ethiopia.
Environment and nature conservation club capacity building: sustainability conservation activity is based on local people understanding and commitment				To create future environmentalists and nature conservationists, we have established two environment and nature conservation clubs (one at the college level and one at the elementary school level) with this project.
Conducting soil and water conservation activities to improve the groundwater table of the wetland and protect the wetland from sedimentation and siltation				We have provided and distributed 20,000 indigenous tree and shrub seedlings in collaboration with Wondo district environmental protection office and freely distributed them to the local community to restore the degraded land hillside of the watershed. District-level for local community leaders gathered from administration, education, agriculture, youths, and health, gender, and water office heads participated in the plantation programs

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

a). The existing status and threats of the black-tailed godwit and the effect of human activities on the black-tailed godwit habitat were compiled in the form of a manuscript for publication (maybe two/three publications).

b). A manuscript on “the “impacts of human-induced land-use change on wetland resources”, has been prepared and ready to submit for a peer-reviewed journal. Upon publication, a copy will be shared with Rufford Foundation.

c). More than 20,000 indigenous tree seedlings composed of four tree species were distributed freely to the community for restoring degraded lands in the upper hillsides of the wetland catchment. It is clear in the last three and four years, that the government of Ethiopia has given great attention to “green legacy” and planting different purpose tree seedlings across the country through the campaign by mobilising the entire population. Thus, this project has strongly supported one of the national green legacy agendas of the countries.

d). To take more responsibility for wetland conservation we have been providing capacity-building and awareness creation training for 65 participants composed of Woreda experts, Kebele Administration, and local community representatives at Intaye Town, Wondo district, West Arsi Zone Oromia-Ethiopia. This mobilisation and awareness creation activity will be continuing in the next phases until the community plays their conservation parts/activities on the wetland.

e). To create future environmentalists and nature conservationists, we have established two environment and nature conservation clubs (one at the college level and one at the elementary school level) with this project. This activity will be continuing for other educational institutions in the next phase of the project to create future environmentalists and nature conservationists.

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

It is clear Covid-19 was a global pandemic, but it does not have an impact on the implementation of the project. However, the national currency (Ethiopian Birr) and fluctuation are one of the main challenges to implementing the project, which means the value of money to purchase items is very low and some of the costs related to fuel, lodging and food, vehicle rental, labour, data collector, and workshop facilitators were very high. Besides, the northern conflict in the country has affected the overall social and economic activities of the country; this is also one cause of the money fluctuation in the country. Hence had an impact to delay the analysis, report write-up, and proceeding in preparing for the publications.

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

The local community members were actively involved in the project implementation such as through a school environmental/nature club, tree planting seedling production, and management. The project has benefitted the local community through freely distributing more than 20,000 seedlings, besides, the project has been supporting smallholder farmer activities of growing fruit trees based on their interest in their farm plots through a selection of useful species. The participants gained knowledge and experience from the training and workshop. Not only the local communities local, district, and zonal level experts also participated in the project activities and benefited from the capacity-building and awareness creation training and workshops.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, due to lack of money we only address a very limited number of people and experts in the awareness creation and capacity building training. So, there is a plan to continue and create more awareness and capacity building activities.

There is a plan to create and expand environmental and nature clubs in the surrounding educational institutions, this will help us to create better awareness for youth and children at the early stage/level and help to create future environmentalists and nature conservationists.

There is a plan to assess the major social, economic, ecological, and any governance or administration issues that will be included in the wetland management and conservation plan.

There is a plan to identify the existing wetland problems and suggest sustainable alternative solutions to properly manage the wetland and the surrounding natural resources.

The wetland management plan is not prepared in this phase, due to some prior activities that will be done before the management plan. Therefore, the management plan will be done in the fourth phase of the project. There is a plan to produce a locally applicable wetland management plan, regional and national guide/manual to share with the extension workers and development practitioners and regional and national policymakers.

There is a plan to support and facilitate soil and water conservation activities to reduce the sedimentation effect of the wetland.

Providing/supply selected tree seedlings for local communities to plant in the degraded areas in the watershed.

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

Different methods are used to share the project result with others these include:

- Project results are shared with other organisations working on conservation (such as Ethiopia Biodiversity Institute (EBI), Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), and Hawassa University community through presenting the result at conferences and workshops.
- For the local communities, the project held a kebele/village meeting to give feedback to communities, and summary reports were left at the kebele offices.
- Besides, I am working to produce scientific articles in international peer-reviewed journals for the global research and development community.
- All of the progress reports were uploaded to the RSG website.
- In addition, plan to produce a national guide/manual to share with the extension workers and development practitioners, and regional and national policymakers.

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

During the project implementation period, we have conducted training, conferences, and consultation with the local community and conducted research and field observations. From these efforts, we have learned lessons and identified activities for the next steps. The activities suggested for the next steps are:

- Training on how to conserve and restore the wetland and the surrounding natural resources.
- Expanding the establishment of environmental and nature clubs in other educational institutions.
- Understand the local situations and Identification the major issues that help to develop locally applicable wetland management plans, regional and national guide/manual to share with the extension workers and development practitioners, and regional and national policymakers.
- Conducting soil and water conservation activities to reduce the sedimentation effect of the wetland.
- Providing/supplying selected tree seedlings for local communities to plant in the degraded areas in the watershed.

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?

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in awareness creation and capacity-building training material, PowerPoint presentations, and banners. In addition, the foundation is duly acknowledged and publicised in prepared scientific manuscripts for publication, and public meetings.

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

M. B. Molla has been involved in every activity of the project and led the team.

Z. H/Gebreal has been involved in fieldwork and providing awareness creation training.

W. Gorems has been involved in most field activities and facilitation.

T. Asfaw has been involved in most field activities and facilitation.

B. Emru has participated in environmental education training.

10. Any other comments?

I enthusiastically thank "Rufford Foundation" for providing me with the opportunity. RSG financial support has played a critical role in the achievement of our project objectives hence, I am very grateful for this support. All the research results will be published and accessed online and disseminated to the wider communities. Finally, we would like to thank you in advance for the foundation's future support.