

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Rochelle Katlego Mphetlhe
<b>Project Title</b>	Raptor population survey of road transects in Southern Botswana and community awareness campaigns.
<b>Application ID</b>	36380-2
<b>Date of this Report</b>	3 July 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
To complete raptor road surveys				26 000km worth of raptor road transects completed.
To conduct data analysis and write up				30 species of raptors analysed to discover population trends in Botswana, write up completed and thesis successfully passed.
Game drives with community adult conservation groups				Games drives for bird watching with two community's adult conservation groups carried out, in Ngwatle, Phoswane pan.
To give talks at two primary schools about raptor conservation				Talks about raptor conservation to primary school children at Ngwatle primary school's standard 1-5 and at Zutshwa primary's standard 5-7 class.

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

- a). Successfully passed my Master's, and earned important skills in conservation, now awaiting graduation.
- b). Engaged with communities and increased awareness and passion for raptors among locals.
- c). Engaged with primary school children to teach them about raptors and their conservation.

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

The overall unforeseen difficulty faced during the project was the general increase in cost of products and services. There was budget shortage for purchase of community materials such as raptor books intended to be shared with communities, flight fares increased, fuel and accommodation in Cape Town was much costlier than expected. Luckily Raptors Botswana did incur some of the costs to meet the demand of the project and all activities were carried out as intended.

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

Through our bird watching trips, many locals had their first ever experience really engaging with different species of birds, watching them in their natural habitat and enjoying the spectacle. People learnt how to identify different species of raptors, their English names, species diets and what certain behaviours may indicate, many were in awe of how intelligent birds of prey are and even came to appreciate them as more poultry and livestock predators.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, part of the analysis was not completed in the duration of the Master's programme but shall be completed in the paper to be published.

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

The work will be published under the Biological Conservation journal and presented at several raptor conferences and workshops.

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

The next step is to publish the project under a respective journal, thereafter, to acquire hands-on-experience in the workforce under the conservation field, as this will assist me pour back the knowledge gained from my master's project. I am also looking to gain and strength my skillsets and expertise as a raptor field technician. To acquire experience in the field and other essential skills like data analysis in preparation for me to undertake a PhD in the future.

**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 Foundation was included in all presentation materials either at conferences (online and in-person) or workshops. Many people in the field are looking for funding opportunities, therefore through workshops and seminars, I always gave praise to The Rufford Foundation for funding my project and how any other project could also receive funding from the foundation.

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

**Dr. Arjun Amar** from FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town, who is the academic and lead supervisor. Dr. Amar is an Avian Conservation Biologist with a focus on raptor conservation. He carried out his PhD research examining the cause of the dramatic decline of a population of hen harriers on the Orkney Islands (Scotland), which was awarded in 2001 from Aberdeen University.

**Dr. Glyn Maude**, co-supervisor, and coordinator. Completed his MSc project at Pretoria university in 2004 and continued his brown hyaena work in the

**Makgadikgadi**, completing a PhD through Bristol University in 2010. Over the years Dr. Maude had tracked and followed brown hyaenas at night in remote areas, often off road for thousands of kilometres in the CKGR. He has since played a leading role in KRC and initiated several studies and conservation efforts on vultures, carnivores, and herbivore species.

**Dr. Moses Selebatso**, the managing director of Kalahari Research and Conservation-Raptors Botswana was the field coordinator and provided logistical support throughout. Dr. Selebatso has more than 22 years of experience in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation in Botswana and holds a Master of Science Degree in Tropical Ecology and Natural Resources Management from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

**Dr Rebecca Garbett**, attained a PhD on lappet-faced vultures and was my technical adviser and has been funded by Rufford Foundation. Dr. Garbett is a conservation biologist with broad experience in applied research, project and budget management, communications and fundraising, policy and advocacy, and community-based conservation. Beckie is highly experienced in biological sampling, capture and handling of raptors, statistics and spatial data analysis (using ArcGIS, R Stats).

#### **10. Any other comments?**

I just want to take a moment and say how grateful I am for The Rufford Foundation for their persistent support of this project. Without the funding granted by the foundation, this project would have never carried on to its completion stage where it is now. The experience gained and the knowledge acquired would not have happened without this funding, which made all possible. As a young conservationist, the opportunities that were made awarded to me would not have occurred without The Rufford Foundation grant. Therefore, I will be forever immensely thankful to The Rufford Foundation for granting me the opportunity, means and support to complete my Master's degree.

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 made me 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.