

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Bayo Martin J
Project Title	Conservation Of Otters in the Kilombero Ramsars Site; Ecology, Threats and Monitoring Program.
Application ID	36509-2
Date of this Report	11/5/2023

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
Otters in the Kilombero Ramsar site, specifically to assess the current population status, distribution pattern and habitat requirement availability (quality and quantity)				Financial constraints to hire boat for survey the large sections of the Ramsar site, especially on the side inhabited by fisherman where they are not friendly to boat patrol in the area and also steal our cameras. Our plan is to conduct next survey on habitat requirement, particularly food composition, by doing lab work on faecal samples due to financial constraint on the current project, we have succeeded on social assessment from fishermen perception but also fishing and being able to determine fish species.
Perception of fishermen and threats facing otter conservation in the Ramsar site				Using ODK and participatory rural appraisal the project was able to obtain perception from all the stakeholders such as rangers, fisherman, pastoralist and farmers
Conservation awareness and education by engaging key stakeholders				Despite the challenge in fuel price, we were able to do otter awareness campaign to students from secondary and Primary schools groups visits Nyerere and Udzungwa National Park

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

a). Participated in the upgrading status of KGC to KGR which improve the protection of the Ramsar site.

b). Students engage in otter awareness raising it was an amazing activity and we received more than what we anticipated on the participation but the demand for the whole district to participate raised much attention and demand the idea to extend to the whole district.

c). Fisimaji (otter bonaza). The project managed to reach more than 1000 people in the targeted villages and gain a lot of experience on how the perceive otters as well as perception towards conservations.

d). Despite the hypothesis but the project finds out that pastoralist are the most threats to otters and other important wildlife such as Puku to the Ramsar site.

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

- I. COVID -19 and Russian-Turkey war.
- II. Upgrading status of Kilombero Game Controlled area to Kilombero game reserve (eviction of people, permit changes).
- III. Loss of cameras due to encroachment.

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

In this project local communities were involved in three ways:

- During data collection the project involved respective village chairman and two youth to show us area around and introduce project to the fishermen, farmers and pastoralists. They were paid an allowance for participation and trained in camera traps skills and spoor and scat survey.
- During otter festival (bonanza) youths from the four team participated and winners received prizes while others were given water and glucose. Also, females were involved in the running. The whole village got a chance to comment and ask questions during the otter talk and video cinema. Lastly, the dance music while five members from village government gender considered were given otter t-shirts with Rufford logo.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

N/A

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

- The project is coming up publication on modelling threats and coexistence with human in a competitive habitat.
- Presentations one in Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute conference 2023.
- One online journal magazine written in Swahili.

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

The project realised that this Ramsar site is one of the remaining potential areas for otters in Tanzania as much of its water will be inside the protected area such as Kilombero Game reserve and Nyerere National Park. However, as it will be seen in the main report to be submitted soon, the main otter threats are livestock, farming

and fishing. Therefore, the project is planning to create an otter sensitisation campaign (conservation caucus meeting) to all the government officers dealing with farming, livestock, fishing and conservation. Also, to quantify the role or extent of each threat (fishing, grazing and farming) towards otter survival as in the current project its end on identification only. This will be done in great collaboration with Nyerere National Park and Kilombero Game Reserve so that in the end the patrol planned based on the threats rate.

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 project uses Rufford logo in the following as seen in the picture during monthly reporting:

- Big banner anchored in every meeting, gathering where the project had activities.
- Front of the project t-shirts that were distributed.
- In every power point presentation, there will be Rufford logo.

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

Heri Bushiri – work as project assistant in areas of social science survey, field work camera traps setting and retrieving as well as other assist during conservation awareness campaign and competition to students. Heri also was with us during field trip to Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

Joel Pesha - work as project assistant in areas of social science survey, field work camera traps exercises.

Gastor Mushi – he is a very good conservation education frontliner. Gasto's section was on conservation education. Arranging the schools to compete for essay, team during football matches and other exercise like music and projector for the cinema. Gasto roles was to replace Prof. Rija as He was being promoted to Professor and being head of Wildlife department at the university hence his timetable was a bit tightened. Gastos experience with WWF make the projects run smooth and we didn't get any difficulties.

10. Any other comments?

Thankfully for Rufford support and we are now seeing changes in otter awareness, not only in the study area but amongst conservation researchers is becoming high and that's good because the attention increases priorities for conservation. We are grateful for this wonderful support however we are seeking a Booster Grant so that we use the project findings to equip government officers who are in the field to protect these splendid creatures.