

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
Full Name	Tesfay Gidey Bezabeh
Project Title	Local women-based livelihood interventions for sustainable conservation of the endangered <i>Boswellia papyrifera</i> in Ethiopia
Application ID	40760-D
Date of this Report	10 May, 2024

**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
Provide capacity building training for the local women (whose subsistence income highly dependent on frankincense of the species) on the chosen alternative livelihood sources (poultry, beekeeping and home-gardens)				We provided capacity building training for the selected 50 local women on the alternative livelihood sources.
Improve and diversify livelihoods of the local women through the chosen alternative livelihoods by providing start-up inputs (chicken, beehive and seeds), and continuous technical support				Livelihoods of the 50 local women were improved and diversified through our provided start-up inputs (chicken, beehive and seeds), and technical support
Develop a comprehensive manual of the project, and handover it to the local stakeholders				We developed a comprehensive manual for the species by combining this project data with our previous data. The manual was also handover to the local stakeholders as to use it for conservation of the species, and other endangered trees in the area.
Share results of the project with relevant stakeholders (local community, local experts, researchers, frankincense unions and students) through workshops				We shared the project results with relevant stakeholders through workshops as to improve their awareness on the species conservation.
Link the supported local women with our well-established partners for their sustainable support				We linked the supported local women with partners for their sustainable support.
Disseminate results of the project through different printed and e-sources media outlets				We disseminated the project results through printed (e.g., publication) and e-sources

				(e.g., ResearchGate).
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## 2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

### a). Improved awareness of the selected local women on the alternative livelihood sources

- Before starting of the project, we discussed with the local stakeholders of the project area (local community, rangers, experts and NGOs) on importance of the project and to receive their feedback on the project. After consensus, the local stakeholders selected their four representatives to join us in the project. Jointly with the representatives, we selected 50 local women whose subsistence income was dependent on frankincense of the target tree. We then practically trained the women on the chosen alternative livelihoods (poultry, beekeeping and home-garden farming) as to improve their awareness and skills on the alternative livelihoods.

### b). Improved livelihoods of the selected local women

- After the selected 50 local women well trained on the alternative livelihoods, we provided for each woman five chickens, three beehives and 1 kg of vegetable seeds as to start the alternative farming activities. We also technically supported them on establishment and management of the alternative farming. After 6 months of receiving the start-up inputs, the chickens started to lay eggs, and one beneficiary woman told us, she got 80 eggs per month, which were valued at about £15. She also told us she collected about 10 kg of honey from the given bee colonies, which priced around £130. Besides, she said when combined these revenues, the income she now gets from the alternative livelihoods is higher than the income she may get from collection of frankincense from the tree. Moreover, she said that the alternative livelihoods have not only been a source of income for her and her friends but also reduced the risks associated with the harvesting of frankincense such as biting by the wild animals. She also said that she with her friends currently not frequently harvest frankincense as their income have been a bit substituted by the project.

### c). Raised awareness locally, nationally and globally on conservation of the species and its degraded habitats through different activities:-

- We shared the project results with the stakeholders (e.g., local community, rangers, experts, researchers and students) through two workshops. In these

workshops, about 60 stakeholders participated and shared their skills and experiences on conservation of the species and its degraded habitats.

- We presented the project results at two national conferences, prepared by the Adigrat University and Mekelle University, Ethiopia. In these conferences, we shared our results with more than 70 participants.
- We disseminated the project results through different media outlets

a) Websites

My personal website at the Conservation Connect

<https://conservationconnect.earth/member/3041>

MEDFOR, my study alumni website:-

<https://www.medfor.eu/news/tesfay-gideys-new-project-funded-rufford-foundation>

ResearchGate

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tesfay-Gidey>

My organization website, Adigrat University

<http://www.adu.edu.et/>

Facebook:-

<https://www.facebook.com/tesfay.gideybezabeh>

b) Publications

We so far published two articles on the target tree using our RSG data in peer-reviewed journals:

Journal of Tropical Ecology - <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266467424000075>

Heliyon - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e05139>

In addition, this project fund combined with our other funds to collect data on another endangered tree species found in the same habitat with the target tree, and published the results in peer-reviewed journals (we here duly acknowledged the Rufford Foundation in the articles):

Global Ecology and Conservation - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2024.e02809>

Journal for Nature Conservation - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2023.126506>

Journal for Nature Conservation - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2023.126404>

Scientifica - <https://doi.org/10.1155/2024/2552695>

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

There were not any difficulties during the implementation of the project. As the conflict in Tigray region, northern Ethiopia stopped in late 2022, and this helped us to accomplish our project in 12 months instead of its initially anticipated 13 months.

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

The local communities fully participated in the project. For example, the project provided capacity building training for the selected local women on the alternative livelihoods (poultry, beekeeping and home-garden farming). The local women were further provided start-up inputs (chicken, beehive and vegetable seeds), and continuous technical support to start their farming activities properly. Some local community members, like the jobless youth, were also participated in the paid data collection activities of the project. Besides, the project invited some local community members during its workshops. The project also freely provided some materials to the local stakeholders, for instance, the species conservation manual to the local governmental offices.

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

Yes, our livelihood improvement interventions to the local women helped to reduce over-exploitation of the tree for frankincense production. Then, based on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Booster RSG results and discussions with the locals, we have learnt that the expansion of our livelihood interventions to the local women whose livelihood reliant on the species, and were not supported by our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Booster projects will be an important next work of the project. Planting seedlings of indigenous tree species including the target tree in their natural habitats will also be the next work of the project. Specifically, the next plans of the project encompass training of selected local women on alternative livelihoods (e.g., poultry and beekeeping), improving income of selected local women through the alternative livelihoods and planting indigenous tree species in their natural habitats. We will also share and disseminate the project results via workshops and different media outlets and link the supported women and planted seedlings with our partners for their sustainable support and management.

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

The project results were successfully shared with relevant stakeholders through different awareness raising materials (e.g., t-shirts, posters, photos). The results were successfully shared with stakeholders through workshops and presented at national conferences. The results were also disseminated through different printed (e.g., publication) and e-sources media (e.g., websites, Facebook and ResearchGate). In addition, in the future, we plan to share the results through presenting at nation and international conferences, publication and e-sources media (e.g., websites).

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

Based on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Booster RSG results, and discussions with the local stakeholders, we will expand our livelihood interventions (e.g., poultry and beekeeping activities) to the local women whose income reliant on the species, and were not supported by our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Booster projects. Planting seedlings of indigenous tree species including the target tree in their natural habitats will also be the next step of the project. Besides, we will share and disseminate the project results via workshops and different media outlets as to raise awareness on conservation of the species locally, nationally and globally. These activities will then help to reduce overexploitation of the species for frankincense production and improving its natural habitats.

**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, we used the foundation logo during our capacity building training, workshops and presentations at national conferences. We also used it on different published materials such as manual, t-shirts and posters. Furthermore, we used the logo during disseminating our project results through websites. We also duly acknowledged the foundation in our published articles in the peer-reviewed journals (e.g., <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e05139>, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266467424000075>, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2024.e02809>, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2023.126506>, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2023.126404>). All these will then help to increase publicity of the Rufford foundation at local, national and global levels.

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

1. Tesfay Gidey – led and coordinated the project, participated in all of the project activities, prepare reports, disseminate the results, and others.

2. Aster Gebre – helped us to train the local women on the alternative livelihoods, data collection, prepare manual, sustaining the project interventions, and others.
3. Alemseged Gebremedhin - helped us to organize the local women for the project, train the local women, technically support the women on the alternative livelihoods, data collection, sustaining the project interventions, and others.
4. The four representatives from the local stakeholders – helped us to organize the local stakeholders and the women for the project, data collection, and others.

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

We kindly acknowledge The Rufford Foundation for its funding to our consecutive four RSG projects, and presented the results at the Rufford in country conference in 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We also kindly request the foundation for the Completion Grant Award to continue our efforts on conservation of the endangered *B. papyrifera* and its degraded habitats in Ethiopia.



**Project photos**



**Photo 1. Provided capacity building training for the selected local women on the alternative livelihood sources (poultry, beekeeping and home-gardens)**



**Photo 2. Provided start-up inputs to the trained local women as to start their alternative livelihood farming activities**





**Photo 3. Shared the project results with the relevant stakeholders (e.g., students, researchers, experts and others)**