

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Yohannes Kidane Ogubamichael
Project title	The Bale Mountains: intensified human activities, changing climate and vanishing biodiversity
RSG reference	8812-1
Reporting period	12/2010 to 12/2011
Amount of grant	£ 5,920
Your email address	Yohannes-kidane@hotmail.com
Date of this report	02/01/2012

1. Please 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 collect Global Positioning System (GPS) ground controlling points			✓	More than 500 GPS ground controlling points of all plots and different important spots were collected.
To collect plant species information along elevation gradient.			✓	Plant species diversity information was collected from 62 different plots consequently alpha- and beta-diversity along altitude will be assessed. Total number of plants as well as coverage of individual functional group; species richness and abundance; land uses and land cover class; and other topographic characteristics were identified.
To assess the effect of land use land cover change on plant diversity at the landscape level			✓	Data on the different anthropogenic disturbances (e.g. size, selectivity, form, distribution, seasonality, frequency, and duration) was collected. Its effect on plant diversity at the landscape level was be accessed.
To come out with plausible biodiversity conservation and management recommendations			✓	A manuscript on the status of the different land use land cover types and on the threats to their conservation is in press. I believe this will make a substantial and long-lasting contribution to nature conservation.
To collect relevant literature, climatic and socioeconomic data from the different authorities.			✓	The necessary information was collected.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There were no difficulties that were not manageable encountered during the implementation of the project. Of course, some expenses were a little bit under estimated while some were over estimated. But I have managed to balance my expenses by reallocation of the budgets.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. The necessary remote sensing information such as photos of the different land use and land cover types, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate system readings, and ground controlling points (GPS) were collected. A very important data base is established.
2. Information on plant species distribution along elevation gradient and soil types was collected. A plant species diversity data base was established.
3. The following three papers are/will be produced from the above information. Accordingly, the support of the Rufford Small grants will be acknowledged.
 - I. Kidane Y, Stahlmann R and Beierkuhlein C. 2012. Vegetation dynamics and land use land cover change in the Bale Mountains, Ethiopia. Journal of Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. Accepted, in press. DOI: 10.1007/s10661-011-2514-8 is assigned. (Rufford grant is well acknowledged and copy of the paper is attached.)
 - II. Kidane Y and et al. (planned for 2012). Factors affecting plant species diversity and distribution along altitudinal gradient in the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia. (Under preparation)
 - III. Kidane Y and et al. (planned for 2012). Climate change will facilitate endemic species extinction along Tropical Mountains. (Under preparation)

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The results and recommendations of the research will help in the local biodiversity conservation management, and policy decision. The outcomes are of use and contribution to understanding of status of biodiversity conservation in the area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the work is continuous. The results so far are promising and are leading to scientific questions which need further investigation and cross disciplinary collaboration. Recently, I have established a contact with and I am planning together with the chair of Ecological Services (PES) of the University of Bayreuth. We are planning to investigate and include the ecosystem services aspect of land use land cover change and climate change thereby biodiversity loss in the area.

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

- I. Through the publication of peer reviewed articles and different reports.
- II. If I manage to get a funding in the future, I have a plan to work as guest lecturer at the University of Addis Ababa after I have finished my PhD.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The fund was used within the time frame 12/2010 to 12/2011. It was accomplished based on the planned timeframe.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Nº	Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
1	Hand-held GPS (Garmin GPSMAP 60CSx)	300	294.76	-5.24	-The GPS were bought from Amazon at fair price
2	Cannon EOS 550D Digital Camera with Accessories	600	624	24	- a Camera, a bag and two 8G each discs
3	Kestrol 3000 Pocket Weather Station	100	71.05	-29.95	- was bought from Amazon at a very fair price
4	Stationeries	40	75	35	---
5	Photocopies	80	85	5	---
6	Purchase of References	150	175	25	---
7	Purchase of different maps	100	85	- 15	---
8	Preparation of herbaria for species identification	150	175	25	- Preparation of plant press & identification of 30 species.
9	Transportation Addis Ababa to and fro the Bale Mountains	650	525	- 125	---
10	Intra transportation within and around research site	200	300	100	- A have rented a Minibus for two week to and fro the filed
11	Other transport cost to institute and research organization regarding species identification	50	50	0	- taxi expenses in Addis Ababa
12	Graduate Field Assistants – 2 persons	900	975	75	---
13	Local Field Facilitator /Guide - 1 person	400	350	- 50	---
14	Publication of reports and preparation of technical papers	400	400	0	---
15	Project results communication	500	500	0	
16	Accommodation, Food and Medicine	1080	1050	-30	---
17	Miscellaneous	220	200	- 20	---
	Total	5920	5934.81	14.81	

NB: The currency convention rate Pound sterling to Ethiopian birr as of January 2011 was 1 to 26.61.

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

- I. Data analysis and evaluation
- II. Writing the manuscripts

III. Writing a proposal on the planned collaboration.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, I did use the RSGF logo in my presentations and reports. Due acknowledgement is also given to RSGF in my accepted manuscript.

11. Any other comments?

Thank you very much for the grant. It was very helpful and has assisted me a lot in accomplishing my longtime dream. Had it not been for your support, I would have not been able to accomplish and push in my study this far. Your so-called small grant was a considerable amount. The support you called small has helped me make a giant step. I am grateful as always.