

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

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

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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	Addisu Mekonnen
Project title	Current status of montane bamboo (<i>Arundinaria alpina</i>) in the southern Ethiopian Highlands: Significance of bamboo for Bale monkeys and human livelihoods
RSG reference	15394-2
Reporting period	August 2015
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	addisumekonnen@gmail.com
Date of this report	11 August, 2015

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
Distribution of bamboo			X	The distribution of bamboo forest across the southern Ethiopian highlands is accurately mapped from the ground survey of bamboo distribution.
Habitat use of Bale monkeys			X	The habitat use of Bale monkeys were assessed in the intact forest habitats of the Bale monkey range.
Bamboo status and availability of bamboo leaves			X	The status of bamboo was fully assessed from the established transects in the Bale Mountains. The availability of bamboo leaves was also accurately assessed from different habitats.
Bamboo threats, consumption and utilisation			X	The threats of bamboo forest were also assessed and the main threats of bamboo are identified. The utilisation and consumption level of bamboo were also assessed using questionnaire survey from the nearest villages.

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

This was carried out as planned and no major difficulties were encountered when conducting this project.

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

- a) The current distribution of bamboo was mapped and habitat use of Bale monkeys was assessed in the southern Ethiopian Highlands which are very critical to conserve both Bale monkeys and bamboo forest associated with the sustainable co-existence of local livelihood depended on bamboo.
- b) Data on the density of bamboo, its population structure and leaves availability are very crucial to designing management plan for the co-existence of bamboo specialist and endangered Bale monkeys and the currently dwindling bamboo forest habitat.
- c) Assessing the current utilisation and threat level of bamboo by human livelihood are very essential to designing conservation management plan without negatively affecting the

bamboo forest and Bale monkeys that are highly dependent on bamboo for their survival. Therefore, the current study is the first in its kind that will help to conserve and protect the bamboo forest and Bale monkeys through sustainable and scientific utilisation of selected bamboo culms for the local livelihood without affecting the regeneration potential of bamboo and its food availability for the Bale monkeys.

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

Local people were involved during this research as a local research assistant, local guide, camp attendant, and renting horses/ donkeys for the team benefiting them economically. The Bale Mountains National Park and District Agriculture office staff were also involved during this research project which is significant to build strong link and help implement the result of the project. Local people were also participated as a respondent of the questionnaire survey that would help to create awareness about the link between bamboo, Bale monkeys and local community.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have already planned for further research projects on the conservation of Bale monkeys and bamboo forest habitat through strengthening and implementing the results of the current and previous studies on the ground. The next step is also to promote and endorse rules through local participation and implement the rules and regulation at the local community level and stakeholders for the sustainable harvest of bamboo in intact bamboo forests through community education capacity building.

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

The result of the study will be published in reputable scientific journals. I have been developing a management plan and guidelines to convince decision makers at national and local level for sustainable use of bamboo and protection of Bale monkeys in the southern Ethiopian Highlands and to include in the bamboo use policy. The final report will be given to the decision makers such as the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), the Oromia and Southern Nations Nationalities People's Regions, and Zone and District Agriculture, Forestry and Wildlife conservation offices. In addition, the result will be given to NGOs working to conserve wildlife and forests.

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

The project was conducted in the timeframe as planned.

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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
I) Personnel: Field per diem and individuals involved				
Principal Investigator per diem (1 ind)	1300	960	+340	
Research assistants/ management staff per diem (3 ind)	1560	2240	-680	
Local guides per diem (3 ind)	1040	1300	-260	
Camp attendants per diem (2 ind)	1040	700	+340	
Sub-Total	4940	5200	-260	
II) Transportation: public transport, horse/donkey rent and vehicle hire for the team	700	850	-150	
III) Consumables: GPS battery, torch, stationary items, printing and binding	360	430	-70	
TOTAL	6000	6480	-480	

Additional money has been used in connection with this project from my own funds due to the current inflation that the field cost becomes expensive.

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

The current project was very successful in achieving the goals as planned. It is also crucial to implement the results of the study as recommended. So, the next plan will be to build local capacity for the protection and conservation of Bale monkeys and bamboo through scientific based sustainable use policy by harvesting old and some mature bamboo culms that are not preferred by Bale monkeys. In turn, the bamboo forest in the southern Ethiopian Highlands will be protected and bamboo culms will be harvested sustainably without affecting the Bale monkeys' resource need. Furthermore, continuous bamboo forests will be protected from uncontrolled harvesting bamboo culms through involvement of local community and management.

In addition, I will also carry out further research that strengthen the already underway Bale monkey research and conservation project on the effect of habitat loss and fragmentation (the loss of highland bamboo) in the southern Ethiopian Highlands on the behavioural ecology and conservation biology of Bale monkeys where this endangered monkey is highly dependent on bamboo for its survival in the human dominated landscape of the southern Ethiopian Highlands.

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 used and will use the RSGF logo for any materials and reports produced in relation to this project and for the final document.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to thank Rufford Small Grants Foundation for the financial support for my well-established Bale monkey conservation and research project which is critical to save and protect the endemic, bamboo specialist and endangered Bale monkey and its key resource, the highland bamboo. Many thanks for the 2nd RSG grant support.