

The Rufford 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	Abebayehu Aticho
Project title	Improving the Population Status of Wattled Crane (<i>Bugeranus carunculatus</i>) through Community Based Conservation in Boye Wetland Complex, Jimma, Southwest Ethiopia
RSG reference	18027-1
Reporting period	19 September 2015 – 19 August 2016
Amount of grant	£4997
Your email address	abebayehu.aticho@ju.edu.et
Date of this report	19 August 2016

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieve	Partially achieve	Fully achieve	Comments
Community awareness creation training			X	Total of 92 community representatives and 650 students were participated in the training, which is beyond the plan. Based on relevance and conservation concern, district leaders participated on the training were suggested similar training for peoples living around wetland areas. Because of time and financial limitation these extra demand was not addressed.
Strengthening environment and nature conservation club in schools			X	Environment and nature conservation club of two schools participated in training and received materials support (computer and stationary). But, in both schools the clubs share office with others (no separate office for clubs). In the next step of capacity building programme, separate office arrangement to club is very important to strengthen their conservation efforts.
Incite voluntarily participate in WC and wetland conservation			X	Some of the trained community members member voluntarily participated in conservation activities in different way e.g., conservation club members of schools prepared and presented awareness creation drama, protecting breeding sites protection; farmers participation in identification of breeding site and protection of breeding sites from livestock disturbance in breeding season.
Improve WC population		X		As population is influenced with various natural and anthropogenic factors, thus it is impossible to achieve population improvement in a year. This project has put its effort to minimise the anthropogenic factors affecting breeding

			<p>sites and success through community awareness creation, engaging community in conservation efforts, and protecting breeding sites from disturbance. The community members actively involved in breeding sites identification process and protecting breeding place from livestock and children disturbance during breeding seasons (July to September). Accordingly, two nests were identified and under follow. In Buyo Kachama WC lay eggs and hatched, and the area has been protected from livestock and children disturbance. Data on WC egg (size, weight, shape, and colour) was not collected because WC is very sensitive to disturbances, if we come to the eggs for these data the parents may desert the nest and move to the place which will contribute for breeding failure and population decline. Also, breeding site fencing was not done because of local community perception changed and their commitment to educate their children and to keep their livestock away from breeding area during breeding months. At each breeding site one person was assigned during the breeding season to check, and follow-up the area. Thus, disturbance in breeding sites were managed through the efforts of the whole community and assisted by assigned person.</p>
<p>Experience sharing and meeting</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Over 1500 community members were reached through distributing flyer and guidelines, paper presentation on conferences, using posters and t-shirts, community meeting, and drama at schools.</p> <p>Beyond the local community experiences were shared to the wider community</p>

				<p>through newsletter (https://www.ewt.org.za /ewtalk.html may be available online of September or October 2016 issue), and social media /YouTube (drama refer to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhI8IjUyo0 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfqSsA0Wag&feature=youtu.be).</p> <p>In addition, experiences were shared to African Crane Conservation Programme and International Crane Foundation through submitting monthly reports.</p>
Recognise and motivating conservation efforts of conservation clubs in two schools			X	<p>In the proposal TV was planned as an award material to a school for its best efforts in conservation activity. But, the TV doesn't work without accessories like satellite dish and decoder, which is not considered in the budget. Instead, other award materials were arranged for best preformed school (English - Amharic - Afaan Oromo), and conservation club students (seven biology and environmental science reference books).</p>

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

Budget was underestimated for some activities and for some activities like video (recording and editing) and mobile airtime were overlooked. This were solved by transferring budget from other activities (without affecting the activity) and activities covered with community in-kind contribution.

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

- ❖ Improved local community attitude and perception: awareness creation training provided different levels (district leader, community and school) was positively influenced community understanding, attitude and decisions. Some of these indicators are; (a) local administrative leaders recognised the negative impacts of wetland conversion to other land use and currently advocating wetland conversion, (b) conservation club at schools participated in this project are involved in WC and wetland conservation advocacy through preparing and presenting awareness

creation drama, awaking the community, involving in WC breeding site identification and keeping nesting area from disturbance in breeding season, and (c) local community participation in breeding area identification, awaking their family and commitment to keep livestock away from breeding area during breeding season.

- ❖ Improved WC breeding site: to improve WC population ensuring breeding success is very vital. Currently, two breeding areas were identified and protected from disturbances through active community participation. In one of the sites "Buyo Kachama" the breeding pair effectively built its nest, lay two eggs and eggs were hatched. The site has been under close supervision and person is assigned for follow up. The breeding success will be known up to end of September.
- ❖ Disseminated conservation knowledge and experience: experiences learned from the project and its results were shared to over 1500 people through meeting with local stakeholder, conferences and distributing documents like flyer, guideline. Also, to experiences to the wider community conservation advocacy message prepared by conservation clubs were uploaded on YouTube (Refer to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qhll8ljUyo0> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfq_SsA0Wag&feature=youtu.be) and document was submitted to newsletter (Refer to : (<https://www.ewt.org.za/ewtalk.html> may be available online on September or October 2016 issue).

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

The local community participated in the awareness creation and meeting gained scientific knowledge and experiences of WC and its habitat conservation. Conservation materials (such as flyers, conservation guidelines) were distributed to the community, which will be used as scientific guideline for WC and wetland conservation, conservation values and community role in conservation. Besides, the participants were benefited from DSA, material support (schools) and award (award-specially club member students and schools). In long run, local community will be benefited from ecosystem and socioeconomic values obtained from sustainable WC and wetland conservation practices if they applied the training in practices; however it needs further assistant.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, continuing activity has been planned to ensure sustainable WC and wetland conservation in the project sites through securing grant support from The Rufford Foundation and others. I have been preparing to apply for the 2nd round Rufford Small Grants based on the current project achievements, lessons learned, suggestion and need of community.

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

The results of this project was communicated to local community during the last meeting with community, presented on conferences, shared to African crane conservation programme and International Crane Foundation, summarized document was submitted to newsletter, and conservation awareness creation videos uploaded on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qhll8ljUyo0> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfq_SsA0Wag&feature=youtu.be).

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

The Rufford Foundation grant was used for 12 months. The activities planned in this project was successfully completed according to the schedule (September 2015 - August 2016).

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
Per diem for experts	1320	1506	-186	Field days were underestimated in the proposal and additional days spent in field.
Local transportation cost	360	398	-38	Transportation cost used for the additional field days
Breeding site protection	334	360	-26	Two breeding sites were identified by local community involvement. Based on discussion with the community, fencing was replaced by assigning people to follow nest areas, and local community commitment to keep their livestock away from breeding area. Which reduced cost of fencing, risk of fencing material removal for fuel wood & decay in wetlands
Conservation guideline preparation	98	98	0	

Stationary and computer for clubs	770	600	170	
Conservation advocacy materials	361	361	0	
Per diem for training & meeting participant	945	959	-14	Additional cost for extra participant joined the training
Stationery for training & meeting	127	129	-2	Additional stationary cost for extra participants
Hall rent for training & meeting	129	0	129	Hall obtained free of charge from local government body and schools. The budget was transferred to other activity.
Recognition and awards for best performance in conservation efforts	354	108	246	The project has provided biology and environmental science reference books for students. Also, dictionary was provided to Jitu school for its outstanding conservation effort. Remaining budget was transferred to other activities.
Buttes for field work	110	110	0	
Refreshment	89	91	-2	Refreshment cost additional due to extra participates
Mobile air time cost for communication	0	117	-117	Not planed but managed from total grant balance
Video recorder and editor	0	160	-160	Not planed but managed from total grant balance
	4997	4997	0	

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

In the next step, it is important to work on factors that limit school nature conservation club from using their potential for conservation, training farmer who have land adjacent to wetlands/crane habitats, and scale up the current promising conservation results to other villages or areas that are used by WC for breeding, feeding and roosting.

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

Yes. In paper presentations on conferences, training, banners, flyers and conservation guide the Rufford Foundation log was used. In all events of the project The Rufford foundation was publicised and duly acknowledged. Further, we will continue

publicising the foundation while the project results and experiences presented on any conferences.

11. Any other comments?

I am very grateful for the financial support of the Rufford Foundation, it is impossible to realize the current achievements without the foundation's support. I would like to thank the foundation in advance for its future supports.