

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Robert Modest Byamungu
<b>Project title</b>	Ecology and Community Involvement in Conservation of the Critically Endangered White-backed Vulture in Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem, Tanzania
<b>RSG reference</b>	22022-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2018
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4912
<b>Your email address</b>	robertbmodest@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	28-10-2018

**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
1. Determining the numbers, distribution and key habitat of the species in the area				Ecological survey to determine number, distribution and habitat of white-backed vulture was carried out. It was found out that the vultures' range has shifted as vultures were not recorded in areas dominated by agriculture. Vultures were predominantly found in acacia dominated woodlands especially at the Serengeti National Park/Loliondo Game Controlled Area border. A handful of vultures were also sighted soaring around Waso and Oloipiri villages.
2. Examining attitudes of local people and tourists on the conservation of the species in the area				Interview results indicated that the perception of the people both residents and visitors on the species is good as the people interviewed were in favour of its sustainable conservation.
3. Carrying out awareness-raising campaign to inform at least 45 % of local community members in Eastern Serengeti on the threats facing the species				During interviews under objective 2 it was noted that the vultures are sometimes killed by children in order to obtain quills for arrow making. For this reason during awareness raising campaign more emphasis was put on behaviour change among children to stop killing the birds for quills and any other purposes.

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

Some of the villages were reached with difficulties as access roads were in very bad conditions to drive. Thus, during interviews we reached the difficult places by foot which necessitated additional days in achieving this objective.

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

- The awareness raising campaign was especially very handy for the conservation of the species. This was due to the fact that some community members from places where the species is locally extinct were very much excited after hearing that the species is still surviving in other locations. Some of the community members made recommendations for re-introduction of the vultures in their areas as they considered them as efficient machinery in clearing the carcasses.
- A good number of youths that were contacted during awareness raising meetings proposed formation of vulture conservation groups. This is an important step for planning long term strategy for the conservation of the vultures in eastern Serengeti.
- There was a noticeable behaviour change in the perception of the vultures among community members as majority of the people were sympathetic after learning the threats facing the birds.

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

Local community members were involved in the project during awareness raising campaigns and during interviews — and they had their views and perception of the vultures provided. We recruited two youths and engaged them in data collection and awareness raising campaigns after giving them training.

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

For sustainable conservation of the species, it is imperative to fill in the knowledge gaps observed during implementation of the project, and actively involve community members who have direct stake in vultures' welfare especially youths and game rangers. Therefore, it is the aspiration of the project team to achieve the following objectives as the second phase of the project:

- i) Establishment of vulture conservation clubs.
- ii) Extending the study area to include the western and southern parts of the Serengeti ecosystem for additional household survey on knowledge and perception of the vultures among communities.
- iii) Training game rangers on vulture monitoring techniques.

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

One scientific article is being prepared for publication in a reputable journal as a way of sharing the results with a global community. On the other hand, a copy of this report will be handed to the local stakeholders that were involved in the project.

**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 project was implemented as planned. However, we had to extend the project monitoring for 4 months after the end of the project. This was so as some nomadic Maasai who were key stakeholders for awareness raising campaign moved in the course of project implementation for searching of pastures — thus, we had to wait a bit longer for them to come back into the project site.

**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
Organizing project inception and meetings	570	570		
Production of the White-backed Vulture pictures for distribution to audience	596	596		
Awareness-raising materials (brochures and leaflets)	355	355		
Fuel for field work	803	803		
Meals for project staff	919	919		
Accommodation during field work for project staff	1176	1176		
Stipend for local assistants	459	459		
Communications	34	34		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4912</b>	<b>4912</b>		
The exchange rate used: Tsh. 2720.02 for 1£.				

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

During awareness raising meetings the youths showed eagerness at forming vulture conservation groups. On the other hand, this project concentrated in the eastern Serengeti ecosystem alone; however, during project implementation it was learned that the western and southern part of the ecosystem are as well important. Therefore, for sustainable conservation of the species it is our aspiration to going into phase two of the project to meeting these objectives alongside training the game rangers on vulture monitoring techniques.

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

In all presentations and in the reports The Rufford Foundation logo was used and the

RF was sincerely acknowledged.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**Robert Modest Byamungu:** Project Director and Researcher

**Michael Muganda:** Project Socio-economist and Researcher

**William and Revocatus:** Local Assistants

**12. Any other comments?**

We thank Rufford Foundation for funding this project. The cooperation provided by the local community and authorities in implementing this project is highly appreciated.



A rotting carcasses such as this Zebra is an evidence of deficiency in scavengers such as White-backed vulture in eastern Serengeti ecosystem



Waso township in the Loliondo Game Controlled Area is important for the conservation of White-backed vulture as a number of individuals have been seen hovering about.