

# **Rufford Conference Report**

## **UFFORD SMALL GRANTS**

### **CONFERENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE**

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**"Connect for Nature Conservation"**



**From 4th –5th  
December, 2021  
At Gloria's Hotel,  
Maputo, Mozambique**

## 65 CONSERVATION LEADERS FROM 14 COUNTRIES CONNECTED



This conference made me meet and interact with important people in my career whom I couldn't meet otherwise. For instance; Alphonse Karenzi from Rwanda and I worked together during the conference preparations. We learnt a lot from each other and developed mutual trust. He is now one of my important professional Friends and Referees.

*Armindo Da Silva*

2 RSGs Recipient, Mozambique.

## INSPIRING SUCCESS STORIES SHARED

The Rufford was my first grant and since then I have received countless grants from various sources and global awards for saving the critically endangered species. I have found my true joy in working with my community and the global conservation community to secure the future of the hirola antelope. The Rufford has acted as my underlying bedrock throughout this journey.

*Abdullahi H. Ali*

**4 RSGs, Tanzania.**

The Rufford Funding helped me to empower and transform my local community from being the biodiversity destroyers to being the biodiversity conservationists through innovative agroforestry.

*Rodrigue Idohou*

**4 RSGs, Benin**

This is the first conference that has enabled me to hear and freely share career and project success stories. The success stories shared have energised me with new inspirations and zeal to achieve more with my conservation projects.

*Gershon Mukisa.*

**Masters Student and RSG Prospect Applicant, Mozambique.**

## MIND-BLOWING CHALLENGES AND PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS DISCUSSED

Our project costs became higher than our planned RSG budget. So we resorted to the use of the local materials and the local communities' indigenous knowledge and support. These local resources significantly lowered the costs and saved a lot.

*Wakshum Shiferaw*

**1 RSG Recipient Ethiopia.**

The biggest challenge in saving frogs has been Apathy among local people. So, I raised awareness on link between frogs and sustainable livelihoods

*Gilbert Adum.*

**4 RSGs, Ghana**

We faced resistance due to the lack of recognition of the importance of the fish conservation. So, we sensitized authorities through workshops and capitalized on the four consecutive World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) celebrations.

*Prof. Abebe Getahun*

**5 RSGs Recipient, Ethiopia**

I could relate some of the problems discussed to my current projects experience and most solutions are very useful and practical to my case. I have learnt a lot in such a short period and am so encouraged to innovate solutions too. I will always look forward to attending the Rufford conferences especially in-person.

*Durell Niwenisiga.*

**RSG Applicant, Uganda**

### **Practical knowledge shared by experts and RSG Alumni panel**

This conference was an amazing platform for practical learning and ideas sharing. I gained much practical insights from the Rufford 5-Grants Recipients Panel. All my questions about the Rufford Grants application and Project Management procedures were accurately answered. Again this was a great exposure. I didn't know much about the marine ecosystem. But Jenny Ann and other experts' presentations opened my mind

*Gerald Lubega.*

**RSG Applicant, Mozambique.**

### **Funding and career opportunities shared**

As usual, at the end of presentations, the presenters were encouraged and willingly shared other grants and sources of funding and scholarships which they received or consider to be useful to the audience. This helped the sharing of opportunities and triggered further one-on-one discussions.

## **Decision makers and conservationists linked and Promising partnerships proposed**

It was important for us to hear the field stories and discuss RSG project challenges. I suggest that there should be a formal cooperation and memorandum of understanding between the Rufford Foundation and the Mozambican Conservation Areas Authority (ANAC) to maintain and expand the Rufford Project impact and give support to the Rufford Grant Recipients.

*Mr. Mateus Mutemba*

**The General Director of Conservation Areas of Mozambique.**



**One-on-one discussions between Decision-makers and conservationists during conference coffee breaks**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

My special thanks go to **The Rufford Foundation** for fully funding this conference and specifically to **Mr. Josh Cole**, the director of the Rufford Small Grants, for guiding the preparations of this conference and participating in the conference sessions.

I thank the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambican Senior Officials who represented the government and participated in all the conference discussions. I appreciate the presence of **Mr. Mateus Mutemba, the General Director of Conservation Areas of Mozambique** and the other officials including:

- 1. Mr. Abel Nhabanga**, the Chief Park Warden,
- 2. Ms. Anifa Premugy**, the Finance Chief,
- 3. Mr. Holders Paulo**, the Anti-Poaching Chief,
- 4. Dra Alice Massingue**, the Director of Research at the Eduardo Mondlane University.

I also want to thank all the in-person and online participants, more especially those who made presentations and those who chaired sessions. My heartfelt appreciation goes to the individuals below for their resourcefulness, time and effort committed to organising and making this conference a success:

- 1. Mr. Armindo Da Silva**, a RSG Recipient from Mozambique, who served as the local host.
- 2. Byabasaija Syliver**, a RSG Recipient from Mozambique-Uganda, served as assistant Coordinator.
- 3. Lubega Gerald**, a Lecturer and PhD Student in Maputo, served as Master of Ceremony (MC).
- 4. Gershom Mukisa**, a Master's Student in Maputo, served as Transport and Logistics Manager.

*Thank You All Once Again!*  
**Alphonse Karenzi**  
**The Rufford Mozambique Conference Coordinator**

## THE GUEST OF HONOUR

### **Mr. Mateus Mutemba, The General Director of Conservation Areas of Mozambique**

The work that the Rufford Small Grants are doing in Mozambique is extremely important and impactful to an extent that I suggest that there should be a formal cooperation and memorandum of understanding between the Rufford Foundation and the Mozambican Conservation Areas Authority (ANAC) to maintain and expand this impact.

Through this cooperation, I, on behalf of Mozambicans and ANAC, ensure that ANAC will: 1) continually give support and guidance to the RSG Recipients who conduct research in Protected Areas; 2) monitor the quality of the RSG Work; 3) Enable the RSG research results and knowledge sharing among the stakeholders, 4) acknowledge and use the RSG Project Results and Recommendations to plan and manage the protected area; and 5) create a library to keep the RSG conservation data and with consent publish them on the ANAC Website.

I therefore warmly welcome, thank and commend you the Rufford Foundation and your regional grants recipients for such a great work you have accomplished in our country Mozambique and in Africa in general.

I declare the Rufford Conference in Mozambique officially opened.



The Guest of Honour Mr. Mateus Mutemba taking the opening speech

# THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZING TEAM

- 1. Mr. Alphonse Karenzi**, a 5th Stage RSG Recipient from Rwanda, served as the Conference Coordinator;
- 2. Mr. Armindo Da Silva**, a RSG Recipient from Mozambique, served as the local host;
3. Byabasaija Syliver, a RSG Recipient from Mozambique-Uganda, served as assistant Coordinator;
- 4. Lubega Gerald**, a Lecturer and PhD Student in Maputo, served as Master of Ceremony (MC);
- 5. Gershom Mukisa**, a Master's Student in Maputo, served as Transport and Logistics Manager.

## I. BACKGROUND

Covid 19 pandemic magnified the usual disconnection and isolation among the conservationists in Africa. So, the Rufford Mozambique Conference was a two day meeting that gathered 65 RSG Recipients, Applicant Researchers and Decision-Makers, from 14 countries, to connect, share knowledge, discuss issues and create lasting partnerships. It had a theme of "connect for nature conservation" and took place on November 4-5th, 2021 at the Gloria's Hotel in Maputo, Mozambique.

Though more than sixty (60) regional RSG Recipients applied for and eagerly wanted to attend this conference in person, only twenty (20) people from within Mozambique were enabled to attend in person, due to the Covid 19 spread and social distancing measures. However, by using zoom live streaming technology, more 45 grant recipients from 14 countries could participate. All the 65 online and in-person participants were enabled to know each other, exchange contacts, share experience and knowledge, discuss issues and forge partnerships.

The Government Officials were also engaged in discussions and networking in order to link the gap between decision makers and field workers. Majority being their first time to attend the Rufford conference, they felt very much honoured. They appreciated and took advantage of every opportunity of learning and networking with like-minded conservationists from different countries and decision-makers. They left Maputo with an evident prestige of being part of the Rufford Recipient Network and much zeal to achieve much more with new knowledge, learnt lessons, and connections.

## II. THE CONFERENCE THEME AND OBJECTIVES

### THE THEME

This conference had a theme of “Connect for Nature Conservation”.

### THE OBJECTIVES

The Rufford Mozambique Conference had two main objectives below:

1. To enhance the direct communication and partnership between the regional RSG recipients themselves and with other partners including Government by providing a forum for them to know each other in person, discuss ideas and issues; share the lessons learnt and strengthen the regional RSG network;
2. To discuss issues facing the nature conservation and RSG projects in this time of covid 19 pandemic and to guide and motivate the Conservationists and Project Leaders to keep up with their good work of conserving nature during and after the pandemic.

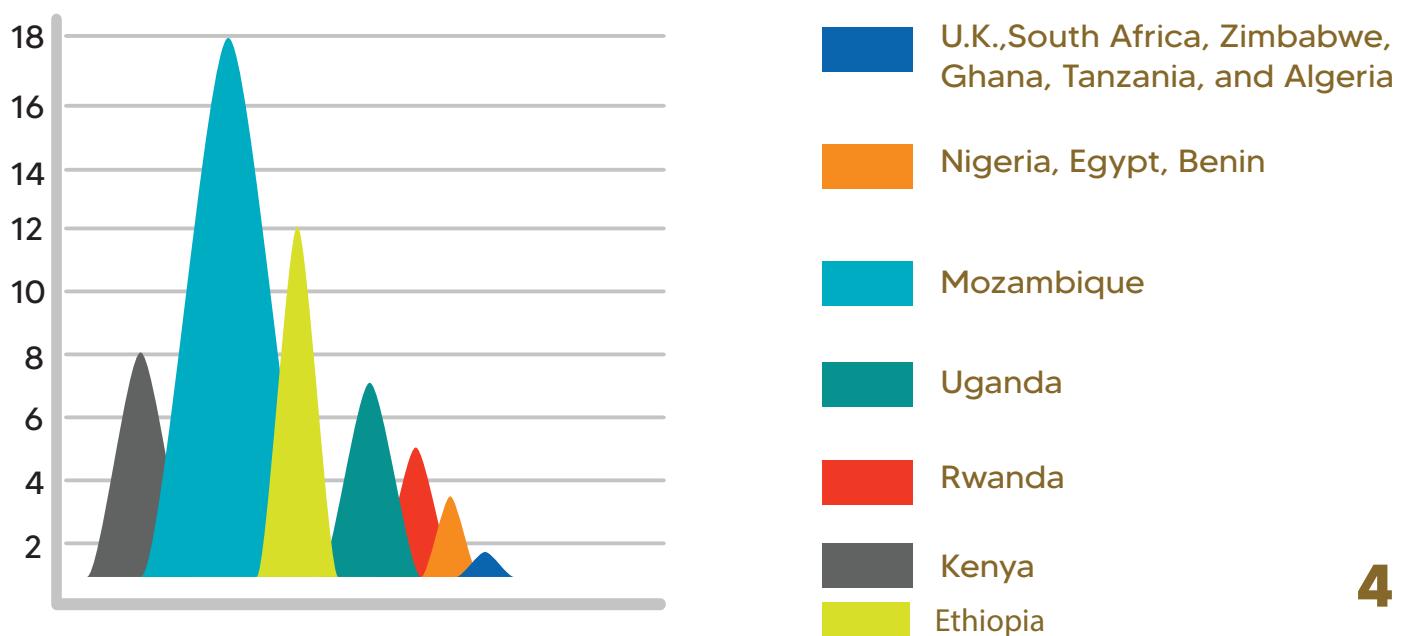
## III. THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

This conference was very successful in inclusive knowledge and practical lessons sharing due to a diversified participation. The participants came from a) different countries therefore different cultural and geographical background, b) different Rufford Conservation Areas/ Focuses and C) different levels of Experience/ Number of Grants Received.

Here below are the graphs and brief illustrations that give a picture of the conference participation and the diversification of the participants. The names and contact details of the participants are in the Annex Section of this report.

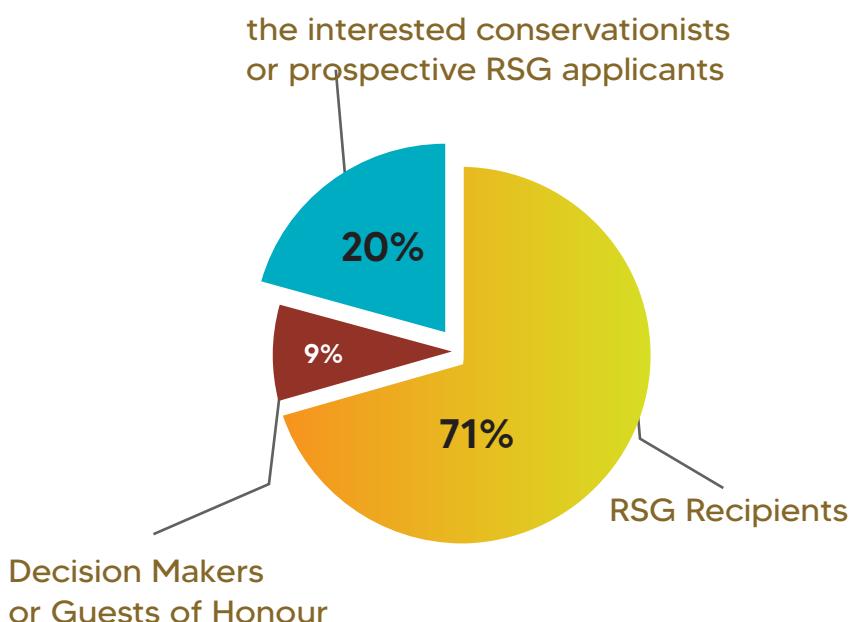
### a. The Participants by Countries

The participants presented fourteen (14) countries: Mozambique (18 people), Ethiopia (12), Kenya (8), Uganda (7), Rwanda (5), Nigeria (3), Egypt (3), Benin (3), U.K. (1), South Africa (1), Zimbabwe (1), Ghana (1), Tanzania (1), and Algeria (1).



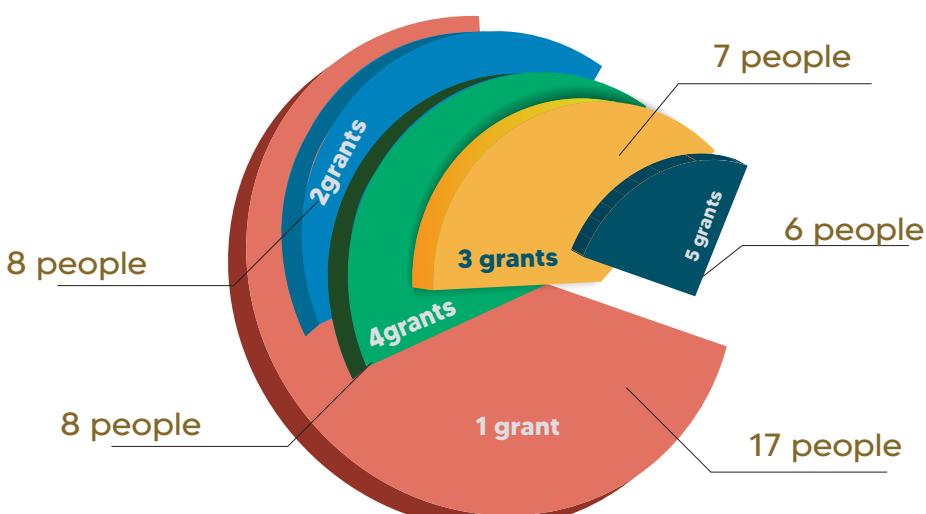
## b. The Participants by Categories

There were two groups of the participants: group 1 were 20 in-person participants and group 2 were 45 online participants and they were categorised into three categories: a) the RSG Recipients who were the majority (46 people equal to 71%), b) Decision Makers or Guests of Honour (6 people equal to 9%), and c) the interested conservationists or prospective RSG applicants (13 people equal to 20 %).



## c. The RSG Recipient Participants by the number of grants received

There were 6 people who have attained the 5th Rufford grant stage, 8 at 4th grant stage, 7 at the 3rd grant stage, 8 people attained the 2nd grant stages, and 17 people attained 1st grant stage to date.

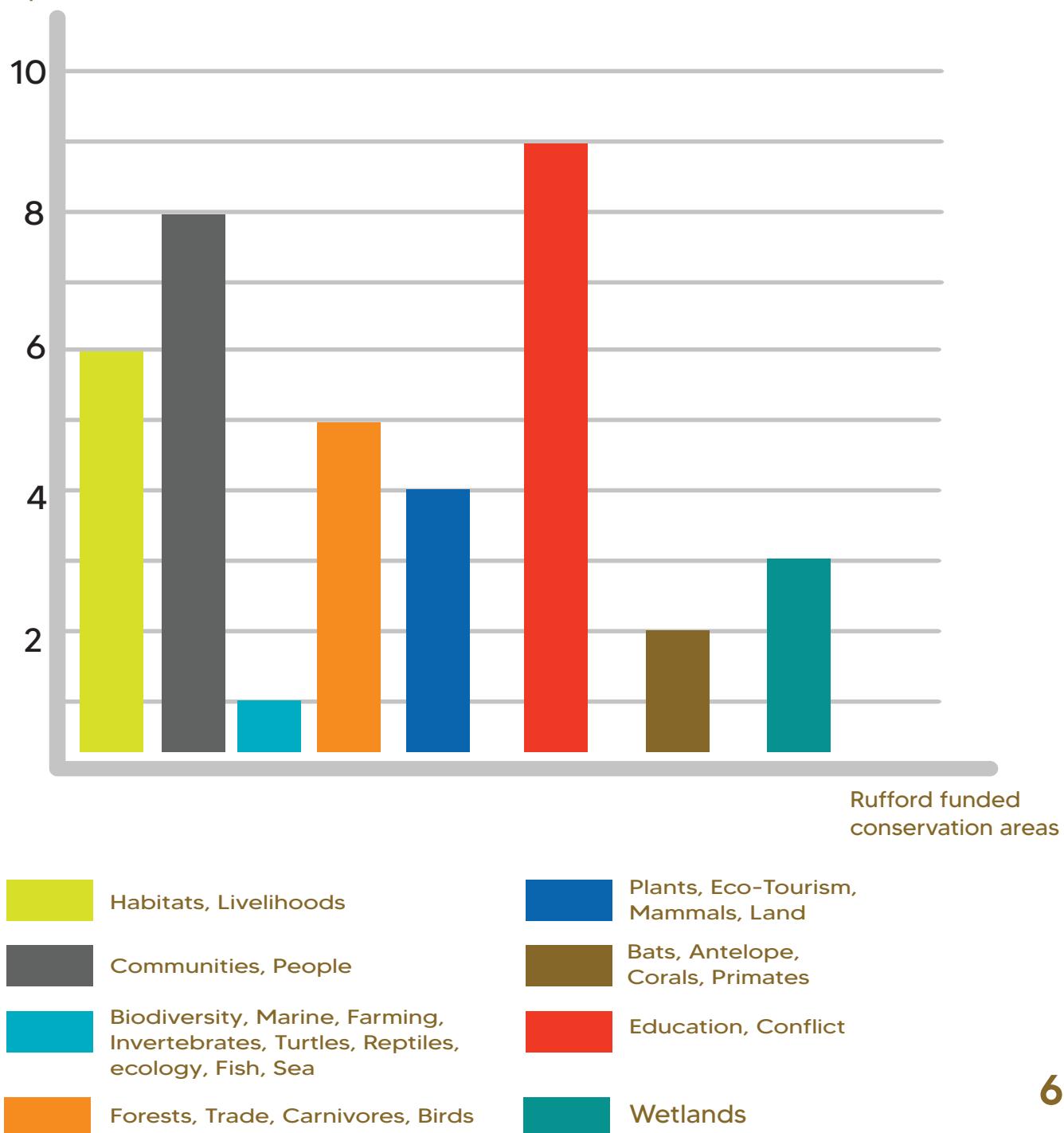


## The RSG Recipient Participants by the conservation focuses

The 65 Participants and their projects represented all 28 Rufford funded conservation areas (focus). One participant or his project(s) could refer to more than one rufford conservation areas. The following are the twenty represented areas and the number of participants interested in or concerned with those areas:

Habitats (6 Interested Participants) , Communities (8 Participants), Biodiversity (1 Participants), People (8 Participant), Forests (5 Participants), Marine (1 Participant), Wetlands (3 Participants), Plants (4 Participants), Farming (1 Participant), Trade (5 Participants), Eco-Tourism (4 Participant), Education (9 Participants), Conflict (9 Participant), Mammals (4 Participants), Carnivores (5 Participant), Invertebrates (1 Participant), Birds (5 Participant), Bats (2 Participants), Turtles (1 Participant), Land (4 Participant), Reptiles (1 Participant), Antelope (2 Participant), Livelihoods (6 Participant), ecology (1 Participant),, Corals (2 Participants),, Fish (1 Participant),, Sea (1 Participant),, and Primates (2 Participants).

Participants



## **IV. THE CONFERENCE SUCCESS AND IMPACT**

# **THE CONFERENCE SUCCESS**

The following are some of the aspects that made this conference extremely successful, engaging and impactful:

### **1. A safe place to freely share experience in the midst of a pandemic**

Covid 19 caused disconnection and isolation among many conservationists. So, the conservationists especially Rufford Early Career Conservationists yearn for peer reconnecting and meetings but it is very hard to create a safe place for such meetings in the midst of a pandemic. So, one of the success factors of this conference, was the ability to provide a safe environment - the Gloria Hotel, a hotel authorised by the Mozambican Government to host meetings during the pandemic. This high quality serene hotel represented well the Rufford Foundation before the Recipients (beneficiaries) and the Mozambican Government (important partner for ground project implementation and monitoring). It made it possible for high profile officials to attend the conference and enabled a safe and free networking and knowledge sharing through different creative activities such as social distanced group discussions, panel discussion and one-on-one interactions in the outdoor settings.

### **2. A great match of both online and in-person participation**

It is still not easy to conduct online meetings for the African Conservationists as majority of them live or spend most of their time in the remote fields with internet inaccessibility. But due to the appealing agenda of the conference, exciting quiz, and great proposed speakers, 45 RSG Recipients could purposely attend the conference and shared their experience with the 20 in-person attendees. The intensive exchange of ideas, questions and answers, and contacts proved a great match between the online and in-person participation.

### **3. Diversified and Inclusive Participation**

The diversity of the participants was the greatest asset of this conference which made the knowledge sharing and networking very vast and interesting. For instance:

#### **a. 65 Participants and their projects represented the 28 out of 28 Rufford funded conservation areas:**

This diversity shows how rich and vast was the knowledge and experience shared. The difference in the area of focus sometime could be a negative thing for some conferences as for instance; a presentation on birds protection may be boring to someone whose concern is fishes. But for the Mozambique Conference, being a project leaders' experience sharing and common challenges discussion which go beyond single focus, this diversity actually was an advantage as every project leader wanted to learn how the counterparts deal with the common problems in different areas.

### **b. The participants came from 14 different countries:**

The project experience was different and network was vast. Every participant was eager to learn and network with the fellow country mates but more passionately with the foreign counterparts to expand their views and networks.

### **c. A mixture of young conservationists and the senior Rufford Recipients:**

There was much learning from the senior Rufford Recipients who are well known professors and researchers. The young conservationists found it very interesting and inspiring to share with these seniors at personal experience level. And the seniors alike enjoyed learning the creative works by younger ones and found it a prestige to mentor and share wisdom with the fellow young conservationists.

### **d. The Decision-Makers(government officials)were also engaged:**

It is extremely important and inevitable to engage the government concerned entities in the Rufford Conference as they have an influential role to play in solving the discussed conservation challenges and in the Rufford field project planning, authorization, implementation, and monitoring.

On the other hand, the RSG Recipients often spend much time and effort seeking the government officials' connections because, they need them for information, services and official documents, and to share with them the field project and research findings in order to engage them. So one of the best things the Rufford conferences can and have done is to connect its recipients with these government officials. They get to know each other, create connections, and discuss issues concerning the RSG projects and conservation in general.

### **e. Creative and Participant-based Conference Format**

With the flexible and energising conference format and the creative activities like online quiz, 10 minutes power point presentations with 5 minutes Question & Answers; Group Discussions; Panel Discussions; Educative Ice-Breakers and One-On-One Interactions, this conference gave an opportunity and enough courage to every (even the most timid) recipient to share and learn from others freely and passionately.



# THE CONFERENCE IMPACT

Below are some of the benefits and impact that the Mozambique conference has left

## 1. A network of 65 Conservationists from 14 countries created

Covid 19 magnified the disconnection and isolation among the conservationists. This conference has been able to bring together and connect Twenty (20) conservationists from different fields and parties of Mozambique in person and forty five (45) conservationists from 14 countries online. The participants felt reconnected with like-minded people. They left the conference much inspired for new opportunities through new connections and therefore better expanded impact. Their direct communications will result into invaluable solutions and continuous process of helping each other.

"This conference made me meet and interact with important people in my career whom I couldn't meet otherwise. For instance; Alphonse Karenzi from Rwanda and I worked together during the conference preparations. We learnt a lot from each other and developed mutual trust. He is now one of my important professional Friends and Referees."



2 RSG Recipient, from Mozambique.

## 2. New Practical Knowledge Gained

This conference was very successful in sharing knowledge and the value of the knowledge shared is immeasurable. For instance, every presenter had to answer a question of "what are the main challenges did you face and how did you resolve them?". Such questions and thoughtful answers gave practical insights to the audience. It is evident that there are many successful proposals and project solutions that are going to come out from this knowledge. Many mistakes are going to be corrected and many resources going to be saved or wisely used. In fact, the 90% of the after- conference-interview Respondents admitted that they learnt something new and useful and/or got an answer for their disturbing questions or challenges.

Being an experience sharing meeting between the fellow project leaders and like-minded conservationists with an excellent venue, diversified participants and participant-based conference format, this conference gave an opportunity and enough courage to every recipient (even the most timid ones) to share and learn from others passionately. The Rufford Alumni Panel Discussion greatly impacted the participants as the advanced career recipients shared and taught useful skills from how to write a good proposal to successful implementation and reporting of the results.

This conference was an amazing platform for practical learning and ideas sharing. I gained much practical insights from the Rufford 5-Grants Recipients Panel. All my questions about the Rufford Grants application and Project Management procedures were accurately answered. Again this was a great exposure. I didn't know much about the marine ecosystem. But Jenny Ann and other experts' presentations opened my mind.



RSG Applicant, Mozambique.

I could relate some of the problems discussed to my current projects experience and most solutions are very useful and practical to my case. I have learnt a lot in such a short period and am so encouraged to innovate solutions too. I will always look forward to attending the Rufford conferences especially in-person.



RSG Applicant, Uganda.

### **3. Many funding and partnership opportunities shared**

The participants and presenters were encouraged to share opportunities including funding, scholarship and other opportunity sources during their presentations and discussions and the tried and trusted funding opportunities shared alone worthy hundreds of thousands of British pounds. For instance, the 5th Level RSG Recipient including Mr. Raymond Katebaka from Uganda shared a dozens of their sources of funding other than the Rufford Foundation.

### **4. Gap between Decision Makers and Field Conservationists was linked, New contacts gained and long term partnerships proposed.**

The Government Contacts and good will were gained during this conference. On the other side, the young conservationists found it very interesting and inspiring to discuss and connect with the senior Rufford recipients at personal experience level. The seniors alike enjoyed learning and connecting with younger ones for their creativity and found it a prestige to mentor and share lessons with the fellow young conservationists. Partnerships and Mentorship Commitments were honestly made between many participants.

it was important for us to hear the field stories and discuss RSG project challenges. I suggest that there should be a formal cooperation and memorandum of understanding between the Rufford Foundation and the Mozambican Conservation Areas Authority (ANAC) to maintain and expand the Rufford Project impact and give support to the Rufford Grant Recipients.

*Gerald Lubega.*

**Mr. Mateus Mutemba, the General Director  
of Conservation Areas of Mozambique.**

### **5. New Inspirations and Motivation for Better Work**

Especially young conservationists were discouraged and felt disconnected due to covid 19. But through meeting with others, sharing experiences and success stories, getting encouragement from the senior conservationists, sharing contacts and proposing partnerships and networks, they all felt more inspired. Many Participants expressed sincere appreciation for the Rufford Foundation to consider them, provide a safe place for them and bring them together in such a time of isolation. They promised to do better in their work during and after covid19 pandemic. Below are examples of the stories shared:

"The Rufford was my first grant and since then I have received countless grants from various sources and global awards for saving the critically endangered species. I have found my true joy in working with my community and the global conservation community to secure the future of the hirola antelope. The Rufford has acted as my underlying bedrock throughout this journey.

*Abdullahi H. Ali*

**4 RSGs from Tanzania.**

The Rufford Funding helped me to empower and transform my local community from being the biodiversity destroyers to being the biodiversity conservationists through innovative agroforestry.

*Rodrigue Idohou.*  
**4 RSGs Recipient Benin.**

This is the first conference that has enabled me to hear and freely share career and project success stories. The success stories shared have energised me with new inspirations and zeal to achieve more with my conservation projects. ,

*Gershon Mukisa*  
**Masters Student and RSG Prospect Applicant, Mozambique.**

## **6. RSG Proceedings and Recommendations Documented**

The IV Section of this conference contains the proceedings of this conference. It features the success stories and impacts that the RSGs have made, the common challenges and solutions by the Recipients and the recommendations made. All this was the outcome of the enabled good discussions.

## **7. Improved relationship and perspective towards The Rufford Foundation**

Indeed, this conference improved the relationship. The Recipients left the conference with a pleasure and pride to be part of the Rufford Family with feelings of being appreciated, recognised and cared for by the Rufford Foundation and therefore inspired to do better work. Especially those who attended the Rufford Conference for the first time, they were pleased to know that Rufford cares for their growth and direct communications. And many have been stronger connected to and proud of the Rufford for the respect from the government, the rich knowledge, and the large network of like-minded conservationists that it holds.

I'm very proud of being part of the Rufford Family. I have learnt a lot in such a short period and am so encouraged to innovate solutions too. I will always look forward to attending any Rufford conferences especially in-person.

*Durell Niwenisiga*  
**RSG Applicant Uganda.**

## V. THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

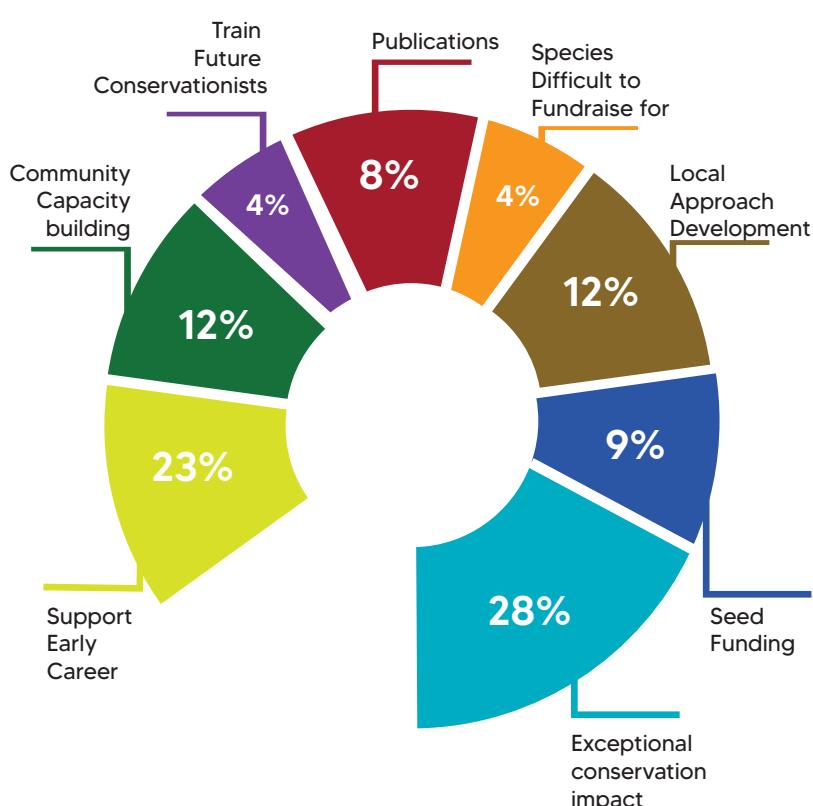
Through discussions and experience sharing in the conference hall and online zoom participation, the participants shared their success stories and how the Rufford Funding has impacted their personal and career development, the education and research, the local and regional nature conservation, and the local community capacity building. They discussed also the challenges they face and the solutions they adopted and they made some recommendations to both the fellow conservationists and the Rufford Foundation. Below are some of the highlights from the discussions:

### THE SUCCESS STORIES AND THE IMPACT OF THE RSGs

"The work that the Rufford Small Grants are doing in Mozambique is extremely important and impactful to an extent that I suggest that there should be a formal cooperation and memorandum of understanding between the Rufford Foundation and the Mozambican Conservation Areas Authority (ANAC) to maintain and expand this impact and give support to the Rufford Grant Recipients.

*Mr. Mateus Mutemba  
the guest of honour said.*

**The graph below illustrates in percentages the impact of the Rufford Funding on the presented projects. Eg: 28% of presenters commended the Rufford Funding for having helped them achieve exceptional large and tangible conservation impact, while 4% of the Presenters recommended the Rufford Funding for helping train future conservationists.**



## **1. Rufford funding has enabled exceptionally large and tangible conservation impacts to be delivered**

The Rufford Funded Projects have made extraordinary tangible conservation impacts according to the Recipients from all the four represented countries. The Government of Mozambique also recommended the Rufford for the excellent work and exceptionally large impact the RSG projects have delivered. Many examples were given by the recipients showing how the small projects funded by the Rufford have made a large impact. For instance:

### **WakshumShiferaw, 1 RSG Recipient from Ethiopia:**

- Rufford Funding enabled to develop human resources in education and development sector. The local communities participated in the project and their livelihood improved. My project was reported by Jimma University as an amazing and problem solving project.

### **Gilbert Adum, 4 RSGs Recipient from Ghana:**

- Rufford Funding enabled me to found the Save Ghana Frogs ([www.saveghana-frogs.org](http://www.saveghana-frogs.org)), through which we saved frogs and improved livelihoods.

### **Jennifer Ann Keeping, 1 RSG Recipient, Mozambique**

With the Rufford Funding, we've had great success with sightings. Our preliminary results are promising and taking this approach to uncover the importance of cleaning stations to our most endangered and incredible marine wildlife has lead us so far in to multiple exciting research paths. These will not only benefit the wildlife of our Mozambican waters, but, given our amazing access to some of the world rarest marine species, the field of marine biology worldwide.

### **Micol Montagna, 2 RSGs Recipient from Egypt:**

RSG was fundamental in helping us engage local communities and monitor injured marine turtles. Although a "small" grant, it made the difference: thanks to the first grant, the project became quite famous in the Red Sea, engaged a lot of dive centres that involved their guests in taking part in the data collection. We managed to reach also local communities (schools, families, hotel staff), with the help of local NGOs and educators: without the support of the RSG, we would have not reached that goal! Furthermore, receiving funds helped us also get known by some NGOs and foundations, who decided to support us too afterward!

### **Alfred Houngnon, 4 RSGs Recipient from Benin:**

With RSG, we achieved a vibrant botanical village co-design with locals to sustainably preserve an emblematic Forest Relic.

## **2. The RSG Projects locally developed approaches to biodiversity management**

The RSG Projects presented were unique and have uniquely developed different local approaches to biodiversity management including:

### **Prof. Abebe Getahun, 5 RSGs Recipient from Ethiopia**

The Rufford Funding enabled a better understanding of migratory behaviour of the unique Labeobarbus spp. flock of Lake Tana, Ethiopia. This understanding in return made many local solutions possible.

### **Mercy Nyambura, 3 RSGs Recipient from Kenya**

Rufford Funding enabled me develop approaches that Improved sheep management for >20 sheep farmers holding approx..400 ha of grasslands critical for conservation.

### **Amusa Tajudeen, 5 RSGs Recipient from Nigeria**

Rufford provided impetus for protecting elephants and their habitats in our project areas in Nigeria.

## **3. Community Capacity building**

The majority of the presented projects had at least a community capacity building component. They provide the local community with the environment friendly alternative sources of revenue including beekeeping, tree planting, and poultry. The RSG Project also trained local community members, established and strengthened local groups and associations, and empowered their environment conservation programmes. All this was because of the Rufford Funding.

### **Rodrigue Idohou, 4 RSGs Recipient from Benin**

- The Rufford Funding helped me to empower and transform locals from biodiversity destroyers to biodiversity conservationists

### **Jenny Wanyingi, 2 RSGs Recipient from Kenya**

- Rufford funding made it possible to give Beehives to community and this changed their attitude and enabled me to engage them in elephant conservation.

### **Wanyoike Wamiti, 3 RSGs Recipient from Kenya**

- Recruitment and training of community members who are championing conservation of an endangered species.

## **4. Support Early Career**

The Rufford support has enabled early career conservationists achieve their goals and expand their projects/ impact. In fact most of the RSG Recipients in the region have acquired or are studying Masters and Doctorate Degrees and they admit the role that the Rufford first grants/ research played in helping them get admissions and scholarships. For instance:

### **Ahmed Shawky, 3 RSGs Recipient Egypt:**

- RSG enabled me to become regional dugong specialist (Ph.D.), IUCN Sirenian Group member, and PADI Dugong Conservation Instructor.

### **Gebremicael Fisaha, 2 RSGs Recipient from Ethiopia:**

I'm a PHD holder now. It is the Rufford funding that helped me secure my field research equipment, field and lab financial expenses.

## **Dr. Paul Webala, 3 RSGs from Kenya**

Rufford funding enabled me to give invaluable support to dozens of my students who are now advancing in their careers and PhD.

## **Debella Jabessa, 1st RGS Recipient from Ethiopia:**

The Rufford Fund helped me secure 2 PhD opportunities for students and 10 publications were published in this area.

## **Fanuel Kawaka, 4 RSGs Recipient from Kenya**

Through funding, networking and collaboration, Rufford has developed my research capacity as a scientist.

## **5. The Rufford grant has helped species that are difficult to fundraise for**

Rufford Grants has uniquely funded the conservation of the species and ecosystem which are less commonly funded. Most of the available research grants focus on large famous animals and species listed within the IUCN (status). But the RSGs have enabled research on small and neglected species including bats, baobab and insects and fragile ecosystems including less known wetlands.

## **Prof. Abebe Getahun, 5 RSGs Recipient from Ethiopia**

The Rufford funded the work on the Labeobarbus spp. flock of Lake Tana, Ethiopia. This species is unique and very hard to fundraise for.

## **6. Rufford Grant as a seed funding:**

The Rufford Foundation often starts as a seed granter opening doors to other granters supporting similar projects. The RSGs have grown the Recipients' profiles for other grants and partnerships and built the capacity of students, communities and conservationists in general. Several presenters shared how they used the Rufford Grants as their first grant for researching about a problem, training their teams and connecting with the community and thereafter accessed bigger grants from other sources.

## **Abdullahi H. Ali, 4 RSGs from Tanzania**

The Rufford was my first grant and since then I got countless grants from variety of sources and even global awards for saving the critically endangered specie. The biggest impact is therefore securing the future of the hirola antelope in partnership with my community and the global conservation community. Rufford acted as my underlying bedrock throughout this journey.

## **Debella Jabessa, 1st RGS Recipient from Ethiopia:**

Though the fund was small, it was used as precursor. The Ruford fund was used much to increase public and government authorities in the Dabena-Didessa Valley. Now, the area is more secure than I first found it.

## **7. Rufford funding helped train future conservationists:**

Apart from the fact that the majority of the Presented RSG Projects had youth and student training components, the majority of the RSG Grantees are examples themselves of how the Rufford has helped train the future conservationists. The Rufford started funding them at their early career stage and now they have become experienced conservationists.

## **Dr. Paul Webala, 3 RSGs from Kenya**

Rufford funding enabled me to give invaluable support to dozens of my students who are now advancing in their careers and PhD.

### **8. Publications:**

The Rufford grantees have published important biodiversity information including field and academic research and professional knowledge products. In fact the RSG Research projects have made many recipients well-known researchers in Africa. Their publications and reports have been published in refereed journals including African journal of ecology, Global ecology conservation science, journal of biodiversity and environmental science. The RSG publications are also published widely on different institutions websites and shared with stakeholders. The Rufford Funding has also promoted capacity development through essay writing, booklet and brochure, songs, drama, and habitat restoration among others (seed collection, propagation, seedling management and planting). This has promoted conservation and outreach that can be replicated.

## **Debella Jabessa, 1 RGS Recipient from Ethiopia:**

The Rufford Fund helped me publish 10 publications in this area of the Dabena-Didessa Valley Conservation.

## **Mehari Girmay (PhD), 3 RSGs Recipient from Ethiopia**

RSG helped Generate useful articles, accomplish my PhD, and rehabilitate the degraded project area.

## **Twmidayo Esther A., 1 RSG Recipient from Nigeria**

We made and published a Detailed bat checklist with a new record of bat to Nigeria

## **CHALLENGES FACED AND SOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

Apart from the impact of the Rufford Funding, the participants discussed also the challenges they face during the course of their projects and some of the solutions applied. Below are some of the common challenges and solutions that the RSG Recipients mentioned:

### **Dr. Paul Webala, 3 RSGs from Kenya**

The biggest challenge I ever faced was the intention of my institution to take 15% out of my RSG funds as administration fees. But I convinced them otherwise via dialogues.

### **Ahmed Shawky, 3 RSGs Recipient Egypt:**

My biggest challenge has been that Dugong has secret habitats. As a solution, the Egyptian Dugong Team has been trained for fieldwork assistance.

**Gebremicael Fisaha, 2 RSGs Recipient from Ethiopia:**

I was lacking experience and skill in writing project proposal but by reading and sharing experience I improved.

**Wakshum Shiferaw, 1 RSG Recipient from Ethiopia**

We faced high project costs: we used local materials to reduce cost and utilised local communities' indigenous knowledge and support

**Gilbert Adum, 4 RSGs Recipient from Ghana:**

The biggest challenge has been Apathy among local people. So, I raised awareness on link between frogs and sustainable livelihoods.

**Mehari Girmay (PhD), 3 RSGs Recipient from Ethiopia**

Currently there is insecurity in Ethiopia and my 3rd grant is suspending for the time being due to the insecurity. However whilst the 2nd grant, the bridge that connects to the local town was built and we were able to cross the river for 3 days. Subsequently we imposed to feed some wild edible plants and cabbages by harvesting from the study forest.

**Alfred Hougnon, 4 RSGs Recipient from Benin:**

Lack of frame to obtain information from locals known to cautiously guard their secrets. I recommend building and networking the laboratories to help at low cost, data analysis of certain community-based projects.

**Amusa Tajudeen, 5 RSGs Recipient from Nigeria**

Our biggest challenge is insecurity in Nigeria, which was circumvented by avoiding high prone areas.

**Abdullahi H. Ali, 4 RSGs from Tanzania**

Off course I work in a volatile environment along the Kenya-Somalia border; security uncertainties slowed down my work in some instances. However, given that hirola antelope and I shared home, this was so personal for me that no obstacle or challenge could stop our battle against extinction.

**Prof. Abebe Getahun, 5 RSGs Recipient from Ethiopia**

Our Challenge: Recognition of the importance of the fishes. So, we sensitized authorities through workshops and four consecutive WFMD celebrations. WFMD: World Fish Migration Day.

**Rodrigue Idohou, 4 RSGs Recipient from Benin**

The greatest challenge was to convince farmers to increase lands for restoration based on agroforestry species. But the Rufford Funding helped me to sensitise and engage them and therefore transform them from biodiversity destroyers to biodiversity conservationists.

**Janvier KWIZERA, 1 RSG Recipient from Rwanda:**

Lacking funds to implement my study's recommendations; adaptive management applied, including fundraising through partners.

**Mercy Nyambura, 3 RSGs Recipient from Kenya**

Prolonged dry season that delayed planned activities. Affected activities were postponed to a later date.

**Fanuel Kawaka, 4 RSGs Recipient from Kenya**

Finding an international referee who knew me personally. I contacted my whole research networks outside Kenya.

### **Jenny Wanyingi, 2 RSGs Recipient from Kenya**

Community donor dependency attitude. To overcome this we promoted training and cost sharing for the project activities.

### **BARIYANGA Jean D., 1 RSG Recipient Rwanda**

We faced a problem of less understanding about nature conservation and camera traps in unprotected areas. As a solution we sensitized both local community and leaders.

### **Wanyoike Wamiti, 3 RSGS Recipient from Kenya**

High expectations from the community. We trained them on grant writing to raise own conservation funds.

### **Twmidayo Esther A., 1 RSG Recipient from Nigeria**

Challenge: Community and cultural acceptance linked with bat and nighty habits. Spent more time within the communities to educate them.

## **THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **The Participants recommended:**

1. Every speaker praised the importance of the RSGs and Recommended the Rufford Foundation to maintain and continue this funding program.
2. Every speaker also commend the Rufford Foundation for organising the conferences as they are the best way to connect the recipients and share and use the knowledge gained individually.
3. The Rufford Foundation should continue intensifying the knowledge sharing and capacity building of the both recipients and applicants through the conferences. At least one conference per year per country or region should be organised, if possible.
4. The Rufford Foundation to fund PhD projects that are in line with the RF projects.
5. The Rufford foundation to introduce an annual multisectoral (forest, water, land, environment, wildlife) grants to achieve integral conservation gain
6. To organise more RSG Recipient conferences with tailor-made trainings e.g., on monitoring and evaluation.
7. Both the Rufford Foundation and the RSG Recipients to ensure the implementation of previous projects/ studies' recommendations (tracking way forward).
8. The Rufford Foundation to increase the number of grants and give higher priority to the applicants in at-risk areas.
9. The Rufford Foundation should tighten the monitoring of the Recipients and Management of Funds.
10. Five most successful projects should be recognised each year with a special RSG Environmental Award.

## VI. ANNEX

# THE PARTICIPANTS LIST

## 1. In-person Participants

The below are the names of participants who personally attended in-person or were represented in-person.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No	Name	Email	Country	Field	Grants
1	Jennifer A. Keeping	jenniferkeeping@hotmail.co.uk	Mozambique	Corals	one
2	Byabasaija Syliver	sbyabasaija@umu.ac.ug	Mozambique	Plants, People	Two
3	Erwan Ciret Sola	erwan.sola@gmail.com	Mozambique	Corals	one
4	Armindo Da Silva	ndo.silva@yahoo.com	Mozambique	Mammals	Two
5	Michelle Carpenter	crpmic001@myuct.ac.za	Mozambique	Fish, Habitats	one
6	Lameck Kachena	kachenalameck@gmail.com	Mozambique	Conflict	one
7	Cristina Madureira	s218217218@mandela.ac.za	Mozambique	Sea, Turtles	one
8	Don Houede Janine	+22966352633	Benin	Birds,plants	Applicant
9	Gershon Mukisa	+258843761030	Uganda	Livelihood	Applicant
10	Aliu Massini		Mozambique	Ocean, forest	Applicant
11	Sergion Bicumba		Mozambique	Forest, Birds	Applicant
12	Marribia Armenio		Mozambique	Livelihood	Applicant
13	Paulo Chainbisse		Mozambique	Livelihood	Applicant
14	Leta Gobolne		Ethiopia	Plants, trade	Applicant
15	Lubega Geald	glubega@umu.ac.ug	Uganda	Education	Applicant

## Table 2: In-person Officials

The below are the official guests who in-person represented the Government of Mozambique and different concerned institutions.

<b>NO</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ROLE IN THE CONFERENCE</b>	<b>POSITION / ORGANIZATION</b>
<b>1</b>	Mateus Mutemba	Guest of Honour and Government Official	The General Director of Conservation Areas of Mozambique
<b>2</b>	Mr. Abel Nhabanga	Government Official	The Chief Park Warden
<b>3</b>	Ms. Anifa Premugy,	Expert Speaker	The Finance Chief at the National Park
<b>4</b>	Mr. Helder Paulo	Expert Speaker	The Anti-Poaching Chief
<b>5</b>	Mr. Helder Paulo	University/ Researchers Representative	The Director of Research at the Eduardo Mondlane University



Some of in-person participants and Online participants on the screen

**Table 3: Online Participants**

The below are the names of participants who attended online though zoom.

No	NAME	Country	Field/ Conservation Focus	RSG
1	Josh Cole	U.K.	-	RSG Director
2	Gebremicael Fisaha	Ethiopia	Plants	Two RSGs
3	Dr. Paul Webala	Kenya	Bats	Three
4	<i>Wakshum Shiferaw</i>	<i>Ethiopia</i>	People, education	One
5	Gilbert Adum	Ghana	Habitat, frogs	Four
6	Mehari Girmay	Ethiopia	Forest, ecology, people	Three
7	Micol Montagna	Egypt	Turtle, education	Two
8	Alfred Hougnon	Benin	Habitat, Plant, conflict	Four
9	Debella Jabessa	Ethiopia	Education	One
10	Amusa Tajudeen	Nigeria	Mammals, forest, education	Five
11	Dessalegn Obsi	Ethiopia	Birds, education	Four
12	Abdullahi H. Ali	Tanzania	Antelope, Conflict, People	Four
13	Prof. Abebe G.	Ethiopia	Plants, trade, conflict, people	Five
14	Shambel Alemu,	Ethiopia	Community, education	one
15	Rodrigue Idohou	Benin	Community, forest, people	Four
16	Janvier KWIZERA	Rwanda	People, livelihood	One
17	Mercy Nyambura	Kenya	Livelihood, birds	Three
18	Famuel Kawaka	Kenya	People, education, plants	Four
19	Jenny Wanyingi	Kenya	Livelihood, conflict, forest	Two
20	BARIY ANGA J.D	Rwanda	Community, conflict	One
21	Wanyoike Wamiti,	Kenya	Birds, education	three
22	Twmidayo Esther	Nigeria	Birds, wetlands, habitat	one
23	Raymond Katebaka	Uganda	Community, forest, education	Five
24	Williams	-	-	-
25	Anagaw Atickem	Ethiopia	Mammal, carnivore, habitat	Five
26	Seta Talemos	Ethiopia	Forest, plants	Two
27	Aymen Nefla	Algeria	Birds	One
28	Everastus Obura	Kenya	Livelihood, education, wetland	Five
29	Lotanna Nneji	Nigeria	Reptiles, Biodiversity	Two
30	Nevil Agesa	Kenya	Turtles	one
31	Joshua Wambugu	Kenya	Community, education	One
32	Karim A. Omar	Egypt	Plants, community	Four
33	J.Claude Tumushime	Rwanda	Bats, habitat, education	Three
34	Ademola Adenle	Nigeria	Land, conflict	One
35	Samson Da'an A.	Nigeria	Birds, Communities	One
36	Ahmed Shawky,	Egypt	Mammals, marine	Three
37	Lameck Kachena	Zimbabwe	Biodiversity, plants, communities	One
38	Kaitlyn Gaynor	South Africa	Conflict, People	Two
39	Alphonse Karenzi	Rwanda	Forest, livelihood	Five
40	Daniel Niyonsaba	Rwanda	Forests, Mammal, conflict	Three
41	Lubega Bryan	Uganda	Livelihoods	Applicant
42	Umulisa Gloria	Uganda	Eco-tourism	Applicant
43	Modern Rogers	Uganda	Trade	Applicant
44	Durell Niwenisiga	Uganda	Conflict	Applicant
45	Discimas Nkashaba	Uganda	Eco-tourism	Applicant

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Table 4: First Day Schedule**

Here below is the first day conference schedule of November 4th 2021.

Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:00-8:30	Participants' Registration at the conference	
8:30-9:00	Participants' Self-Introduction	Lubega Gerald, Ceica Chioze
9:00-09:30	- Rufford Brief Introduction by Alphonse Karenzi - Keynote address by Mr Abel Nhabanga, The National Park, Chief Manager	Armindo Dasilva
09:30-10:20	The Experience Sharing Presentations by: 1. Jennifer Ann Keeping, Mozambique 2. Lameck Kachena, Zimbabwe 3. Byabasaija Sylver, Uganda	Lubega Gerald, Ceica Chioze
9:00-09:30	- Rufford Brief Introduction by Alphonse Karenzi - Keynote address by Dr. Mammo Boru Mammo, the Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudhod director General of NEMA.	Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudhod
10:20-10:50	Coffee Break / Networking/ group photo	
10:50-10:55	Ice Breaker	Any Volunteer
10:55-11:40	The Experience Sharing Presentations by: 1. Erwan Ciret Sola, Mozambique 2. Longtong Turshak, Nigeria 3. Samson Andrew Da'an, Nigeria	Lubega Gerald Ceica Chioze
11:40-11:45	Ice-breaker	Any Volunteer
11:50-12:35	The Experience Sharing Presentations by: 1. Grace Uwingeneye, Rwanda 2. Michelle Marie Carpenter, Mozambique 3. Raymond Katebaka, Uganda	Lubega Gerald, Ceica Chioze
12:35-13:40	Lunch Break & Networking	
13:40-14:30	Discussions and experience sharing within three small groups.	Lubega Gerald, Alphonse Karenzi
14:30-15:50	Proposal Writing, Fundraising and Conservation Success Stories by RSG Alumni & Expert Panellists 1. Abel Nhabanga, Park Chief Manager, Mozambique 2. Seta Talemos, 2nd RSG Recipient, R&D Director at Gulele Botanic Garden, Ethiopia 3. Anagaw Atickem, 5th RSG Senior Researcher, Ethiopia 4. Karenzi Alphonse, 5th RSG, NGO Director, Rwanda 5. Everastus Obura, 5th RSG Recipient, NGO Director, Kenya 6. Longtong Turshak, 3rd RSG, Senior Researcher, Nigeria 7. Micol Montagna, 2nd RSG, Senior Researcher, Egypt	Lubega Gerald, Ceica Chioze
15:50-16:10	Ice-breaker	Any Volunteer
16:10-16:30	Way Forward, closing remarks and vote of thanks	Lubega Gerald, Ceica Chioze
16:30-18:30	Maputo Self Organised Tour and Networking	Self-organised
18:30-20:30	Dinner	Armindo Dasilva

**Table 5: Second Day Schedule**

Here below is the second day conference schedule of November 5th 2021.

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
8:00-8:30	Participants' Registration at the conference	
9:00-10:50	Group Discussion and Presentations	Armindo Dasilva
10:20-10:50	Coffee Break / Networking/ group photo	
10:50-11:00	Networking Ice Breaker	Any Volunteer
11:00-11:40	One-on-one interaction and Partnership Discussion	Lubega Gerald
11:40-11:45	Partnership Creation Ice-breaker	Any Volunteer
11:50-12:35	Way Forward And Votes of Thanks	Lubega Gerald
12:35-13:40	Debriefing and Farewell Lunch	
From 13:40	Departure and Self-Organised Networking Activities	Lubega Gerald
18:30-20:30	Dinner and networking	Armindo Dasilva

## THE RSG PUBLICATIONS AND REFERENCES

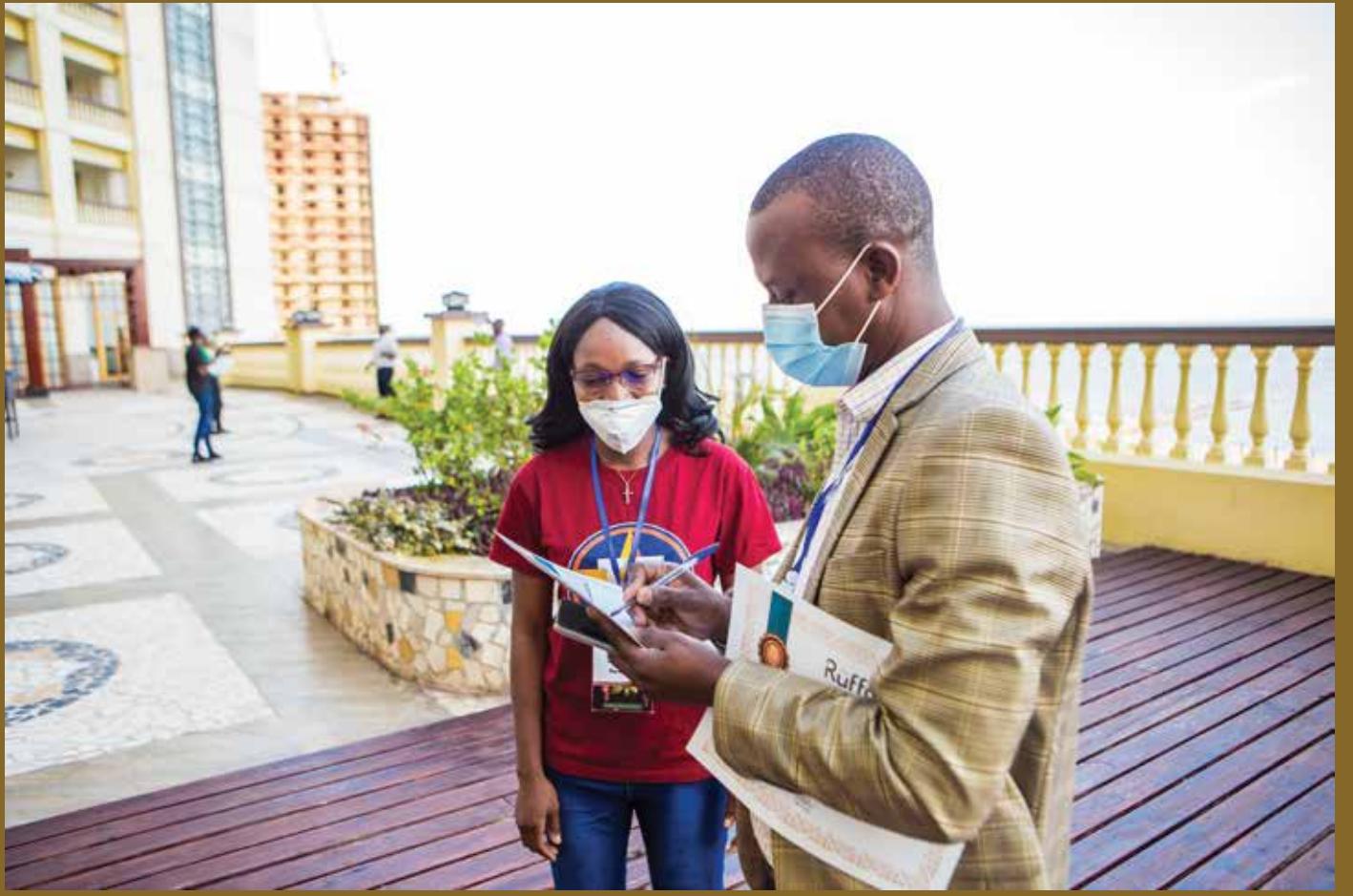
Below are but a few examples of the publications by the RSG Recipients who participated in the Mozambique conference. These Researchers confirm that without the Rufford Funding these important publications wouldn't be possible.

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2. Ngatia, D.K., P.W. Webala, M.J. Mware, T.M. Butynski, Y.A. de Jong, A.W. Ferguson (Paper Accepted – in press). Biogeography of the Egyptian mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* (Linnaeus, 2 1758) in Africa, with first records for Laikipia County, central Kenya. *African Journal of Ecology*
3. Kareinen, L., Ogola, J., Kivistö, I., Smura, T., Aaltonen, K., Jääskeläinen, A. J...., Webala, P. W., Forbes, K. M., Sironen, T. (2020). Range Expansion of Bombali Virus in *Mops condylurus* Bats, Kenya. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 26(12), 3007-3010. <https://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid2612.202925>.
3. Jocelyn P. Colella, Bernard Risky Agwanda, Faisal Ali Anwarali Khan, John Bates, Carlos A. Carrión Bonilla, Noé U. de la Sancha, Jonathan L. Dunnum, Adam W. Ferguson, Stephen E. Greiman, Prince Kaleme Kiswele, Enrique P. Lessa, Pamela Soltis, Cody W. Thompson, Maarten P. M. Vanhove, Paul W. Webala, Marcelo Weksler and Joseph A. Cook (2020). Build international biorepository capacity. *Science* 370 (6518), 773-774. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abe4813>

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5. Katunzi, Thomas, Soisook, Pipat, Webala Paul, W., Armstrong Kyle, N., and Bumrungsri, Sara (2020). Bat activity and species richness in different land-use types in and around Chome Nature Forest Reserve, Tanzania. *African Journal of Ecology* 00: 1 - 15. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12783>
6. Monadjem A, Terrence C. Demos TC, Dalton DL, Webala PW, Musila S, Kerbis Peterhans, JC, Patterson BD. (2020). A revision of pipistrelle-like bats (Mammalia: Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae) in East Africa with the description of new genera and species. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, 2020, XX, 1-33. <https://doi.org/10.1093/zoolinnean/zlaa087/5903787>
7. R. Rocha, S. A. Aziz, C. E. Brook, W. D. Carvalho, R. Cooper-Bohannon, W. F. Frick, J. C.C. Huang, T. Kingston, A. Lopez- Baucells, B. Maas, F. Mathews, R. A. Medellin, K. J. Olival, A. J. Peel, R. K. Plowright, O. Razgour, H. Rebelo, L. Rodrigues, S. J. Rossiter, D. Russo, T. M. Straka, E. C. Teeling, T. Treuer, C. C. Voigt & P. W. Webala (2020). Bat conservation and zoonotic disease risk: a research agenda to prevent misguided persecution in the aftermath of COVID-19. *Animal Conservation* (2020). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/acv.12636>
8. J. A. Cook, S. Arai, B. Armién, J. Bates, C. A Carrion Bonilla, M. B. de Souza Cortez, J. L. Dunnum, A. W. Ferguson, K. M Johnson, F. A. A. Khan, D. L. Paul, D. M. Reeder, M. A. Revelez, N. B. Simmons, B. M. Thiers, C. W. Thompson, N. S. Upham, M. P. M. 3 Vanhove, P.W. Webala, M. Weksler, R. Yanagihara, P. S. Soltis. (2020). Integrating biodiversity infrastructure into pathogen discovery and mitigation of epidemic infectious diseases. *Bioscience* 70: 531-534. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biaa064>
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11. Rydell J, Fenton MB, Seemark E, Webala PW, Michaelsen TC (2020). White and clear wings in bats (Chiroptera). *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 98(2): 149-156. <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjz-2019-0182>
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18. Patterson BD, Webala PW, Kerbis Peterhans JC, Goodman SM, Bartonjo M, Demos TC (2019) Genetic variation and relationships among Afrotropical species of *Myotis* (Chiroptera: Vespertilionidae). *Journal of Mammalogy* 100: 1130–1143. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmammal/gyz087>.
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Participants exchanging contacts



Awarded Participants