

Rufford Conference Report

RUFFORD SMALL GRANTS CONFERENCE IN ZAMBIA

"Connect for Nature Conservation"



The Rufford Foundation
Small Grant Conference 2019
Livingstone, Zambia

25 conservationists from 8 countries in one place

*From 7th – 8th December, 2019
At Avani Victoria Falls Resort
Livingstone, Zambia*

Organized by

The Rufford
Foundation
www.rufford.org





Conference Venue: Avani Resort in Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park and Victoria Falls View



Conference Organiser Alphonse welcoming Mr. Eugen Mapuwo, the Mayor of Livingstone



The Rufford Foundation
Small Grant Conference 2019
Livingstone, Zambia

A full day of attentive learning and experience sharing in Avani Conference Hall



Deeper Learning, Experience Sharing and Discussions in Small Groups



Participants interacting with fellows, national park nature and Zambian tradition



Excursion of Victoria Falls, National Park, Zambezi Liver, Big 5 Animals and Big Tree



Networking at River Zambezi



Networking at Avani Cocktail Party



certificates awarding



Celebrations of RSG projects worldwide

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My special thanks go to:

The Rufford Foundation for fully funding this conference;

Mr. Josh Cole, the director of the Rufford Small Grants, for guiding the organization of this conference and actively participating in the conference sessions;

His worship the Mayor of Livingstone City, Mr. Eugen Mapuwo, for attending and officially opening the conference.

I also want to thank all the participants for their contributions throughout the conference. In a special way I acknowledge the inputs from the participants below:

Judith Natsayi Kushata

Lucy Kemp

Julia Pierini

Gugulethu Tarakini

Benard Kangwa

Iregi Mwenja

Simon Mwewa

Frank Kunda

Betty Shonkola

Lina Mushabati

Kudzanai Dhliwayo

The individuals above have been very helpful in the workshop preparations, session chairing and notes taking.

Thank You All Once Again!

Alphonse Karenzi

The RSG Conference Organizer

I. BACKGROUND

Very often Conservationists and Researchers work in isolation. Thus, the Rufford Foundation organises conferences to create direct communication between the Grant Recipients and enable them to share knowledge and create partnerships.

It is in that respect that the Rufford Foundation organised this regional conference that brought together 25 conservationists and decision makers from 8 countries. The Zambia Conference was held on 7th and 8th December 2019, at Avani Victoria Falls Resort, in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, in Livingstone, the tourism capital of Zambia.

II. THE CONFERENCE THEME AND MAIN OBJECTIVES

This conference had “Connect for Nature Conservation” as its theme and three main objectives below:

1. To enhance the direct communication and partnership between the regional RSG recipients by providing a forum for them to know each other, discuss ideas and issues; share the best practices and strengthen the regional RSG network;
2. To create the link between field and decision-makers by inviting and involving the government officials and other policy-makers in the conference discussions.
3. To recognize and promote the role that the Rufford Foundation plays in supporting conservation at local, national and international level.

This conference was held in a very conducive environment the Avani Resort in National Park and achieved its objectives through creative activities such as; engaging presentations and group discussions, educative games and challenging ice-breakers, one-on-one intentional networking events like; dinners and cocktail, and excursion of the Victoria Water Falls; National Park; and Mukoni the home of Big 5 Animals.

III. THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

This conference brought together 25 people from 8 countries namely: Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe. More details of the participants are in the Annex Section of this report.

IV. THE CONFERENCE BRIEF NARRATIVE

DAY ONE

The day one started with the registration of the participants guided by the conference organisers. Though most of the participants had had a dinner together, they still seemed very curious and nervous, because this was their first Rufford conference attendance.

Introduction of Participants and Official Opening, a session chaired by Gugulethu Tarakini

Gugulethu was very creative. She had every participant introduced by a fellow participant on his/her left. So the two neighbour participants first shared important information about themselves including; names, where they come from, organization or project they work on, etc. This session helped the participants to know each other at least by names and countries.

After the introduction, Alphonse Karenzi as the organiser welcomed the participants, briefly explained the objectives of the conference more especially the creation of direct communication and networking between participants. He also extended his appreciation to the Rufford Foundation for not only funding

individual conservation projects but also for enabling the conservationists and researchers to share knowledge through the conferences.

Officially opening the conference

His worship the Mayor of Livingstone City, Mr. Eugen Mapuwo, officially opened the conference.



Mr. Eugen Mapuwo giving an opening speech

*“On behalf of the people of Livingstone City, and indeed on my own behalf, I am honoured to warmly welcome you all. In a special way, I would like to welcome the **Rufford Foundation and the Grants Director, Mr. Josh Cole** to Livingstone, the Tourism Capital of Zambia”* He said.

*“I want to thank the Rufford Foundation for having been able to **fund 4990 projects in 152** developing countries worldwide and **13 projects in Zambia** specifically. It pleased me to note that some of the Rufford funded projects were implemented in Livingstone. This is an incredible contribution from the Rufford Foundation. Therefore, on behalf of the people and leadership of Livingstone City, I want to grantee you, the Rufford Project Implementers, our full support and cooperation to ensure the success and maximisation of your rufford projects impact.”*He added.

*“**Ladies and gentlemen, with all power invested in me, I declare this conference officially opened!**”*
The Mayor concluded with loud handclaps from the participants. The full speech of the Mayor is recorded and attached on this report.

Coffee Break / Networking

The participants used the time of networking very effectively. With passion they shared experience, got to know each other and shared business cards and project materials.



networking during coffee breaks

Experience Sharing Presentations, a session chaired by Julia Pierini

Julia was such an experienced facilitator who very well entertained and engaged the presenters and audience. She was successful in enabling a participatory environment for this experience sharing.



Juliana reading the names of the Presenters

The session involved two rounds of presentations from six selected RSG grantees (3 for each round). Each of the three presenters was given fifteen minutes for presentation. After presentations were fifteen minutes for Questions and Answers for all the three presenters. Their discussions and questions and answers are briefly recorded below.

Round One Presenters:

- a. Benard Kangwa on behalf of Helen Taylor-Boyd
- b. Leeroy Moyo
- c. Lina Mushabati

Round One Presentations brief:

a. Bernard Kangwa- Bats

Bernard Kangwa representing Bats in Zambia and the initiative Bats without borders, indicated that 'bats in Zambia' were still being expanded all over Zambia. Their focus was on research especially crops and diversity, education and training. He gave biological descriptions, types of bats, how they are mammals and how like humans, they had five (5) fingers.

- ✓ There were 75 species of bats in Zambia belonging to 9 families
- ✓ Bats are important for the ecosystem

b. Leeroy Moyo- Vulture Safe Zones

- ✓ Gave a background to VSZ (how they were first implemented in India and Nepal) where vulture declines were attribute to the use of the drug 'Diclophenac' and how eliminating the drug also aided in sustaining vulture populations
- ✓ Zimbabwe the only country in Africa to come up with an action plan on Vulture conservation thus far.

c. Lina Mushabati (Bats)

- ✓ Gave her talk on how RSG aided her in her masters work on bats. She looked at the changes in seasonal activity in bats.
- ✓ She identified bats at species level (14 species) using bat detectors and echolocation,
- ✓ Environmental factors influencing bat activity included notes such as for example, how warmer months had more bat activity, moon phases didn't have any influence
- ✓ Challenges faced include damaged equipment as baboons chewed on cables and sometimes even lions interfered with the traps.
- ✓ To curb such challenges, they put the cables in pvc pipes and detectors were put in more hidden areas
- ✓ Educational sessions and conservation seminars were held that included the attendance of community-based people as a means of awareness building.

Round One Questions and Answers:

Q1. To Lina- What are the local perceptions about bats?

A1. People are generally scared of bats as they lack knowledge

Q2. (To both Lina and Bernard)- Why are bats disease resistant?

A2. Research currently underway at Unza. However, it should be noted that the vaccine for Ebola was tested through using bats, not sure why specifically bats)

Q3. To Bernard- How do you increase awareness and reduce threats to bats?

A3. Through education tours removal of bats wherever they are a colony in peoples' houses or sheds or wherever they are not wanted, introduction of bat boxes, treating injured bats and rehabilitating them

Q4. To Bernard- Should we encourage people to stay away from bats as they can easily transmit diseases

A4. If they do not understand the ecology of bats then it is safe to stay away as surely, they can transmit diseases as their droppings may contain diseases and they roost in groups so the risk of transmission may be high

Q5. To Leeroy- How self-sustaining are Vulture Safe Zones?

A5. The success stories of VSZ were mainly so as they were in a privately owned ranch (India) but in Africa, a plethora of issues arise and affect the implementation of VSZ. It is a complex process which needs help of all conservation organisations e.g. with Parks creating buffer zones

Q6. To Leeroy- Why do vultures prefer Baobab trees?

A6. They are the tallest and most common in the area of study so maybe its more of a safety and convenience issue

Q7. To Lina and Bernard- What type of fruits and trees are bats attracted to? Can we then plant those particular trees in certain areas to deter them from coming close to people and make them roost in those areas?

A7. Remember bats are part of the ecosystem and for an ecosystem to function, the processes should be fluid, thus if we seclude bats from free flowing then what happens to the trees and flowers that they help to pollinate? The seed dispersal they help with through their stool droppings and the like? In as much as we want to be risk averse through mitigating diseases that may be caused by bats, we also have to put the holistic ecosystem functioning into consideration.

Depending on the species of bats, they prefer different trees to roost and fruits to feed on (only the fruit eating bats) as some are insect eating

Q8. To Bernard- What is the essence of bat boxes?

A8. A way of domesticating bats and also aid in pest control

Inbetween the last session and the new upcoming sessions, an ice-breaker task was done. The conference participants were asked to get into groups of 5 and given a task to move an idea (represented by an orange) around themselves without touching each other until it got back to the initial person who had it at first. The winning group would be the one who could do it in the shortest time. The moral of the story spoke on how as conservationists we should never give up, we should collaborate with each other, learn and look on what others are doing and constantly benchmark yourself and your work.

Ice-breaker by Alphonse Karenzi and Lucy Kemp

Alphonse and Lucy introduced a very interesting and very educative game. The participants were split into three teams (Team A, B and C). Each team was given a ball. This ball was to pass through every team member's hand in as short time as possible. The teams used different funny strategies to perform the task in less time and **the winner was Team B** who managed to use the least time (sixteen seconds). Many lessons were learnt and shared after this game. For instance; the participants learnt that a conservation project needs more than one player in a value chain manner. So the project success is determined by how those different players are willing and able to communicate and work together to device and implement strategies. Again, the closer you work with each other as partners the easier and faster your work becomes. Though all the teams tried to do quick movements and throw balls quickly and accurately, the only difference the winning team made, was that Team B. members eventually put their hands together tightly and let the ball easily rolling itself on their hands in less time.

Round Two Presenters:

- a. Gugulethu Tarakini
- b. Lucy Kemp
- c. Kudzanai Dhliwayo

Round Two Presentations:

a. Gugulethu Tarakini- Bees

- ✓ Questionnaire on awareness of bees revealed 92% considered bees as important, 80% were afraid
- ✓ Most people think of only 1 species as far as bees are concerned, the honey bee.
- ✓ Study encourages bee keeping, involvement of people in inter cropping so that bees consistently have forage

b. Lucy Kemp- Ground hornbills

- ✓ Associated with bringing curses (Uganda and Rwanda)
- ✓ Used for witchcraft (Zambia, Nigeria)
- ✓ Bring rains and are so sacred that they are buried like humans in (Zimbabwe)
- ✓ Animation done on GHB to be converted to several languages
- ✓ GHB live up to 70 years of age
- ✓ Social system doesn't allow them to be reproductive even though their biological system will be ready
- ✓ Organisation invested in the artificial making of nests for the GHB given how the environment is devoid of their natural sheltering places for nests due to deforestation and climate change
- ✓ Nest making takes between 4-5 days to make 10 nests
- ✓ Training/ Eco-centre in process of being built that replicates their natural environment and has as limited as can be, human interference

c. Kudzanayi- Lappet faced vultures

- ✓ Vultures are ecosystem cleaners
- ✓ Gave the projects' objectives which were to understand the habitat type preferred, nesting trees, nesting success, fledging using various methods including the drone technology

Round Two Questions and Answers:

Q1. To Kudazanayi- What is the Parks' reaction to making use of a drone?

A1. They are encouraging it but sceptical for the lappet faced vulture which is the most sensitive

Q2. To Gugulethu- Are there variations in the responses given to identifying bees?

A2. It was basically the years in farming i.e. experience and not necessarily by age

Q3. To Gugu- How long does it take for bees to produce honey?

A4. This is still pioneer work so have not yet researched on those aspects

Q4. To Kudzanayi- Is there a cultural link with the poisoning of vultures

A4. Yes, as noted initially, vultures are linked with many omens and beliefs which include being used for rituals and witchcraft. Some specific areas may be targeted solely for that

Q5. To Lucy- How do you attract back GHB when they have left an area?

A5. Make little to no use of rat poison which may also kill them when they eat the poisoned rat carcasses, make use/ available dead old big logs which in the natural environment they tend to use for nesting, just ensure that the area is safe

Q6. To Kudazanayi- Have you heard anything regarding how drones have been questioned in the monitoring of birds nest sites due to their high speeds (moving too fast)

A6. The Pilot I intend to use ensured me that the speed at which the drone travels in will enable them to capture all the required data with no problem

Lunch & Networking

Lunch and coffee breaks were also important times for participants to share and relax after intensive presentations and discussions. The meals and venues were intentionally organised in a way that leaves great memories about the Rufford foundation and the conference in the minds of Recipients.



Lunch moments

Group Discussions

In three smaller group discussions, every participant was given an opportunity to share and discuss her/his own project experience. Given his experience in organizing and facilitating conferences, Alphonse facilitated and enabled the group members to share their experiences, success stories, challenges they face and devised some recommendations.



The outcomes of the group discussions are recorded in the proceedings section of this report.

RSG Proposal Writing and Networking Success Stories, a Panel Discussion and Presentations session chaired by Simon Mwewa

A panel of three RSG 4-5-time recipients of the grants shared their experiences and gave hints and tips on what and what-not to do as a first time applicant and one who wishes to continue getting all the grants as they had.

Panellists:

1. Iregi Mwenja - Networking Success Story
2. Alphonse Karenzi – 5 RSGs Winning story
3. Lucy Kemp - 5 RSGs Winning story

Presentations brief:

1. IregiMwenja

- ✓ Has attended 6 Conferences and learnt a lot from them, reiterated on how E. Africa has received more grants than Southern Africa

- ✓ Formed a network of all grantees initially called the Rufford Conservation Initiative Network but due to the name 'Rufford' they began receiving calls and emails from people asking for grants, so with RSG's blessing and go-ahead, they changed the name to what is currently is, 'The Conservation initiatives Network'.
- ✓ Commends how great it is to see so many women in science and conservation in Southern Africa

2. Alphonse Karenzi

A five (5) time RSG Recipient gave hints and tips on what makes a RSG project proposal successful.

- ✓ Conservation focus- take note if the species of interest is an IUCN Red listed species, Habitat and the community
- ✓ Pragmatic long-lasting outcomes- innovation and sustainability of what you aim to achieve
- ✓ Project Leader- Career lead and had a trend or reputation or growing interest in conservation
- ✓ Community Involvement and empowerment-
- ✓ Project size and continuity- provide clear picture, co-funding opportunities and next steps

3. Lucy Kemp

- ✓ Gave advise on the importance of transparency and accountability in our projects, notify RSG if there are changes and shifts within your project
- ✓ Personal integrity should be taken very seriously

Questions and Answers:

Q1. Why does RSG sometimes ask for International referees?

A1. Trying to gauge if you maintain relationships and are networked beyond your area of influence

Q2. Is the registration of a company or organisation a pre-requisite?

A2. Not necessarily if its involving the smaller or education affiliated projects but it is a measure recently put in place to ensure transparency and accountability

Tea break and networking

These coffee breaks were one of the most intimate sessions and the participants seemed to have enjoyed one-on-one discussions and contacts exchange.

Vote of thanks and closing remark, chaired by Judith Natsayi Kushata

The first day workshop was ended by vote of thanks from different RSG Recipients. The Chair Lady, Judith started with an interesting presentation of her first RSG project. On behalf of the fellow participants, she thanked the Rufford Foundation for the funding and conferences.



Judith reading the votes of thanks notes

- ✓ Judith Natsai T. Kushata explained how RSG has helped her become the scientist and conservationist she is today
- ✓ She gave her story on how as an undergraduate student in her final year was able to be given the opportunity by RSG, entrusted to manage a grant and be a team leader
- ✓ She identified RSG as that first-grade teacher who one never forgets and always recalls as they climb the ladder
- ✓ She now a geneticist and onlooking to send through a proposal to RSG, which if successful, will help her in the pioneer work which will feed into her PhD.

On behalf of all the Conference participants, she thanked His Worship, the Mayor of Livingstone for opening the ceremony with such encouraging words and the recommendations he gave, the people in business who graced us with their presence and inputs, the participants who share their work and experiences, Alphonse Karenzi for the great work in organising and coordinating the event, the RSG Grant Director for his presence and belief in us all and the journey we take as conservationists and the rest of the RSG team for providing us with the opportunity to make a difference in the world through doing what we love, research and network building.

Networking and Zambezi view at Royal Hotel

After this long time of presentations and discussions, the participants were given time one-on-one interaction as they also interact with national park animals and view river Zambezi.



Cocktail Party at Avani Swimming Pool, an event chaired by Benard Kangwa and Judith Natsayi Kushata

The participants enjoyed different foods and drinks and activities including; networking, live music, traditional dances, cutting RSG celebration cake, and receiving of gifts and certificates from **the RSG Director Mr. Josh Cole and the Mayor of Livingstone.**



Eats, drinks and talks after a long day of presentations



TakeAfrica Media

Cutting cake



Certificates and gifts

DAY TWO

The second day, 8th December, was a beautiful morning of excursion in Victoria Falls, Big Tree and Mukoni Big5.



participants on top of big tree viewing the whole city of living stone

The Recipients enjoyed the excursion of such beautiful sceneries and learnt from different conservation activities taking place in Livingstone and shared meals and farewell.



Participant excusing the Victoria Water Falls

V. THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Through presentations and discussions, the participants communicated their gratitude for the Rufford Foundation due to the impact the Rufford Small Grants have made towards: their personal development as conservationists, education and research, local and regional nature conservation, and the local community capacity building. They discussed also the challenges they face and made recommendations to especially the Rufford Foundation. The majority of the participants appreciated how the conference was organized and requested that more such conferences can be organised every year in the region and thanked the Rufford Foundation to bring them together. Below are some of the key points discussed:

THE IMPACT OF THE RSGs

1. Rufford funding helped many conservationist develop approaches to solve local conservation problems and build the capacity of local community, especially the vulnerable people groups, for instance:

- ✓ During her Project : ``The little-known Pollinator``, **Gugulethu Tarakini** and her team helped two communities to develop gardens specifically to provide forage for bees in Zwimba District, Mashonaland West in **Zimbabwe**. These gardens were developed to provide food for the bees in areas that have been degraded.
- ✓ **Alphonse from Rwanda** shared how his RSG projects worked with and empowered indigenous young people in Rwanda to use local clay and come up with an improved cook stove that saves more than 60% of daily household fuelwood.
- ✓ During her project: ``Status, Breeding Ecology and Threats of Vultures in Gonarezhou National Park, **Kudzanai Dhlwayo from Zimbabwe** has persuaded Gonarezhou Conservation Trust to go back to maintaining old (abandoned) roads in order to access Lappet-faced Vulture nest sites. This has also served to provide fire breaks which will increase the protection status of the vulture nests (i.e. the trees).
- ✓ During her project, ``Rewilding of Southern Ground Hornbills (SGH)`, **Lucy Kemp** was able to develop a successful protocol for the re-introduction of a socially complex co-operative breeding species through the development of “bush schools”. These “bush schools” allow naïve hand-reared juvenile SGH to, under the mentorship of older wild-experienced SGH to attain survival and social skills required for them to go on and become successful breeders thus growing the population in areas where the species has already become locally extinct. This system can be replicated for other co-operative breeding species.

2. The Rufford grants have provided seed funding to build capacity, identify conservation needs and develop replicable models for future projects?

- ✓ With her ``Rewilding of Southern Ground Hornbills (SGH) Project``, Lucy Kemp has created a model for conservation and monitoring of SGH that can be replicated throughout the range states of the SGH and is even applicable to the extremely under-studied but equally threatened Northern Ground Hornbill.
- ✓ With Fadzai Matsvimbo`s Vulture Safe Zone project in Sango Ranch, the Rufford grant is helping replicate the Indian model within the African context in Zimbabwe.
- ✓ GugulethuTarakini`s bee project identified a strong need for pollinator awareness and one of the major tools for awareness that came out of her study is the dissemination of information through the media (radio, TV) as defined by the communities themselves.

3. Rufford funding helped train future conservationists:

- ✓ Judith Natsai T. Kushata introduced herself and how RSG has helped her become the scientist and conservationist she is today. She gave her story on how as an undergraduate student in her final year was able to be given the opportunity by RSG, entrusted to manage a grant and be a team leader. She identified RSG as that first-grade teacher who one never forgets and always recalls as they climb the ladder.
- ✓ Lucy Kemp (Mabula GHP) has supervised 2 MSc students and 1 Honour student. She also has taken on conservation interns from neighbouring range states to promote capacity building on SGH conservation beyond the borders of South Africa.

4. The Rufford funding has helped support work on species and ecosystems that are traditionally difficult to fundraise for:

- ✓ African bee species are generally listed on the IUCN Red List as data deficient or are not even listed yet the Red listing system is what most funding agencies use to prioritise their choice of projects. With Rufford support of GugulethuTarakini's `The little-known Pollinator`, she has been able to initiate species assessments, awareness and research on bees.

4. Rufford support has enabled early career conservationists achieve their goals and expand their projects/ impact:

- ✓ The support of the Rufford Grant allowed Lucy Kemp of MabulaGorund Hornbill Project to complete the building of a specialised conservation rearing facility for the production of high quality re-introduction stock for the SGH restoration programme in South Africa.
- ✓ Alphonse explained how the RSGs have helped him to establish and expand his dream environmental youth organization – Sustaining Africa Youth Organization (SAYO). “Now SAYO is making an impact in three countries. I credit all this to the Rufford Foundation as my first donor.” He said.

5. Rufford support has enabled conservationists publish their research findings and have different kinds of exposure and connections:

- ✓ Guglethu Tarakini has submitted a manuscript to the Journal of Tropical Conservation Science. The topic: “The Farmers perceptions and attitudes towards pollinators: implications for conservation”
- ✓ With the support of RSGs, Lucy Kemp has been able to publish several conservation. References are included in the group discussion report in the annex section.

CHALLENGES FACED AND ISSUES RAISED

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

- 1. Institutional Overhead cost and delay:** this challenge is related to the mechanism that the fund from RSG is released i.e. through institution bank accounts. One of the inconveniences that participants emphasised is the institutions require overhead charges which interfere with project intended objectives. The institutional bureaucracy and delay in releasing the fund for the project activities was also the common challenge mentioned by the group members.
- 2. One referee from abroad as requirement for application:** this was also a challenge declared by all groups. The early stage conservationists generally have no contacts outside who can professionally recommend them.
- 3. The insufficient budget:** the local community needs high incentive and the conservation projects usually have a wide scope.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Mayor of Livingstone on behalf of the Zambian Government recommended the Rufford Foundation to continue funding and implementing projects more especially those that include forestation and deforestation solutions and eco-tourism..
2. The RSG Recipients should put much effort in establishing and legalising their organizations in order to have their own organization bank accounts.
3. The Regional RSG Recipients should establish and legalise their RSG National and Regional Network with bank accounts to receive their RSG Funding.
4. The Regional RSG Recipients should improve their networking and cooperation.
5. The RSG Recipients acknowledged the great impact of RSGs in their personal career development and regional nature conservation. And they recommended that more funding should be given to more applicants from the Region.
6. The participants also recommended the Rufford Foundation, if possible, to increase the size of the grants.
7. **To RSG-** Increase more grant opportunities, consider more former applicants who have worked with RSG before, before new applicants, provide more insights on how applicants can improve their chances of receiving grants, send RSG representatives across the countries to see the projects being implemented or sometimes be part of the research itself, appoint a country leader and create Alumni groups that are functional by providing support for them to meet and discuss project related issues at certain intervals.
8. **To fellow RSG Recipients-** Publish or perish, share knowledge, do not exist in a Silo, go back to the communities and give feedback
9. **To partners and decision makers-** need to accept and recognise the work researchers do, to provide them with insights and knowledge so that they can make sound conservation decisions, help conservationists get the necessary paperwork that enables them to play a part in conservation of biodiversity.
10. The participants also recommended the Rufford Foundation, if possible, to increase the number of conferences in the region. At least one conference every year.
11. Finally the participants thanked the Rufford Foundation the funding and such a well-organised conference. they promised to accomplish their work effectively and magnify the impact of the RSGs.

VI. ANNEX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The table 1 below gives the details of the 25 Participants who attend the conference.

Table 1: RSG Conference Participants

No	Name	Email	country	RSGs
1	Andrew Chilombo	a.chilombo@sms.ed.ac.uk	Zambia	1
2	Helen Taylor-Boyd represented by Bernard	helenfromz@yahoo.com	Zambia	3
3	Malvern Karidozo	mazdzambo@yahoo.co.uk	Zambia	1
4	Moses .I. Nyoni Represented by Patterson Kajimalwendo	moses_nyoni@yahoo.com	Zambia	1
5	Rachel McRobb represented by Bernard	slcs@iwayafrica.com	Zambia	2
6	Fadzai Matsvimbo (BirdLife)	fadzai@blz.co.zw	Zimbabwe	1
7	Lucy Kemp	project@ground-hornbill.org.za	Mozambique/ Zimbabwe	5
8	Gugulethu Tarakini	gugulethu.ncube92@gmail.com	Zimbabwe	1
9	Judith Natsai Theodora Kushata	natsaikushata@gmail.com	Zimbabwe	1
10	Kudzana Sandra Dhliwayo	kudzanaid@gmail.com	Zimbabwe	1
11	Vuyisile Precious Moyo	vmoyo972@gmail.com	Zimbabwe	1
12	Lina Mushabati	mushabatilina@gmail.com	Namibia	1
13	Alphonse Karenzi	karenzilife@gmail.com	Rwanda	5
14	Mbabazi Joselyne on behalf of UNDF	Mmutoni02@gmail.com	Uganda	1
15	Iregi Mwenja	iregim@gmail.com	Kenya	4
RSG RECIPIENTS' REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICIALS				
16	Eugen Mapuwo	The Mayor of Livingstone City,	Zambia	
17	Josh Cole	The Director, Rufford Small Grants	UK	

18	Julia Pierini	The CEO, BirdLife	South Africa	
19	Sarah Mwale	Green Mwale	Zambia	
20	Simon Mwewa	Director, Trans-Zambezi	Zambia	
21	Frank Kunda	Director, TakeAfrica	Zambia	
22	Betty Shonkola	Co-Director, Take Africa	Zambia	
23	Mufumbi James	CEO Green Drivers	Zambia	
24	Leeroy Moyo	Researcher, BirdLife	Zimbabwe	
25	Peter Mufwima	GreenDrive	Zambia	

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

On the page below there is a two day conference schedule.

	Time	Activity	Facilitator
Saturday 7 th	7:00-8:00	Hotel Break-fast for accommodated participants at Okavango Lodge	Betty Shonkola
	8:00-8:30	Driving From Okavango Lodge to Avani Resort	Mufumbi James
	8:30-9:00	Registration of all participants at the Avani Resort	Betty Shonkola
	9:00-9:30	Peer-Introduction of every Participant and welcoming the Guests of honour	Gugulethu Tarakini
	9:30-10:10	Official Opening - Introduction by Alphonse Karenzi - Keynote address by The Zambian official	
	10:10-10:40	Coffee Break / Networking/ group photo	Frank Kunda
	10:40-11:40	Experience Sharing Presentations by four selected RSG Recipients (15 min for presentation + 5 min for Q&A each) 1. Benard Kangwa 2. Leeroy Moyo 3. Lina Mushabati	Julia Pierini
	11:40-11:50	Ice-breaker by Alphonse Karenzi	
	11:50-12:50	Experience Sharing Presentations second round 1. Gugulethu Tarakini 2. Lucy Kemp 3. Kudzanai Dhiwayo	Julia Pierini
	12:50-14:00	Lunch Break & Networking	Betty Shonkola
	14:00-15:20	Discussions and experience sharing within three smaller groups.	Alphonse Karenzi
	15:20-16:20	RSG Proposal Writing and Networking Panel 1. Iregi Mwenja - Networking Success Story 2. Alphonse Karenzi - 5 RSGs Winning story	Simon Mwewa

		3. Lucy Kemp - 5 RSGs Winning story	
	16:20-16:40	Coffee break/ networking	Betty Shonkola
	16:40-17:30	Closing remarks and Vote of thanks	Judith Natsayi Kushata
	17:30-18:00	Networking and Zambezi view at Royal Hotel	Frank Kunda
	18:00-20:00	Cocktail Party at Avani Swimming Pool	Benard Kangwa
SECOND DAY			
Sunday 8th	7:00-8:30	Break-fast and check-out at Okavango Lodge	Mufumbi James
	8:30-9:00	Registration of the participants at Okavango Lodge	Mufumbi James
	9:00-10:20	Bus driving to the Victoria Falls, EXCURSION around the falls and individual interactions	Frank Kunda & Victoria Falls Guide
	10:20-11:10	Bus driving to the Big Tree and Big Five Mukokoni and excursion of big five animals	Frank Kunda & Big Five Guides
	11:10-12:00	- Discuss the way forward; - Lunch Departure for some of participants	Simon Mwewa

GROUP DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

Group 1

I. What as the impact of the RSG?

5. Were there examples of where Rufford Funding has enabled exceptionally large and tangible conservation impacts to be delivered?

Work in progress.

6. Were there examples of locally developed approaches to biodiversity management?

- During her Project : ``The little-known Pollinator``, Gugulethu Tarakini and her team helped two communities to develop gardens specifically to provide forage for bees in Zwimba District, Mashonaland West in Zimbabwe. These gardens were developed to provide food for the bees in areas that have been degraded.
- During her project: ``Status, Breeding Ecology and Threats of Vultures in Gonarezhou National Park, Kudzanai Dhliwayo has persuaded Gonarezhou Conservation Trust to go back to maintaining old (abandoned) roads in order to access Lappet-faced Vulture nest sites. This has also served to provide fire breaks which will increase the protection status of the vulture nests (i.e. the trees)
- The issue of trees being cut down and burnt for charcoal is impacting huge areas of forest in Zambia. This has been happening for decades and is being driven by the demand from the urban areas who continue to use charcoal for cooking as it is cheap. Simon Mwewa is looking at providing an alternative source of income for the rural communities responsible for the deforestation for charcoal production by giving them an alternative form of income i.e. training

them in bee-keeping and linking producers to the market. Tree chopping and burning is labour intensive whereas bee-keeping is sustainable and requires that forests be maintained. In terms of the urban consumers, once there is limited supply of charcoal, they will need to switch to clean sources of energy eg. gas. Currently, the community suppliers are flooding the market with unsustainable cheap charcoal but once these sources are depleted, the price of charcoal will soar and gas will ultimately become the cheaper source of fuel.

- During her project, ``Rewilding of Southern Ground Hornbills (SGH)`, Lucy Kemp was able to develop a successful protocol for the re-introduction of a socially complex co-operative breeding species through the development of “bush schools”. These “bush schools” allow naïve hand-reared juvenile SGH to, under the mentorship of older wild-experienced SGH to attain survival and social skills required for them to go on and become successful breeders thus growing the population in areas where the species has already become locally extinct. This system can be replicated for other co-operative breeding species.

7. Were there examples of how Rufford support helped early career conservationists achieve their goals?

The support of the Rufford Grant allowed Lucy Kemp of MabulaGorund Hornbill Project to complete the building of a specialised conservation rearing facility for the production of high quality re-introduction stock for the SGH restoration programme in South Africa.

8. Were there examples of how Rufford funding has helped support work on species and ecosystems that are traditionally difficult to fund raise for?

African bee species are generally listed on the IUCN Red List as data deficient or are not even listed yet the Red listing system is what most funding agencies use to prioritise their choice of projects. With Rufford support of GugulethuTarakini`s ``The little-known Pollinator``, she has been able to initiate species assessments, awareness and research on bees.

9. Were there examples of how Rufford grants have provided seed funding to build capacity, identify conservation needs and develop replicable models for future projects?

- With her ``Rewilding of Southern Ground Hornbills (SGH) Project``, Lucy Kemp has created a model for conservation and monitoring of SGH that can be replicated throughout the range states of the SGH and is even applicable to the extremely under-studied but equally threatened Northern Ground Hornbill.
- With Fadzai Matsvimbo`s Vulture Safe Zone project in Sango Ranch, the Rufford grant is helping replicate the Indian model within the African context in Zimbabwe.
- GuglethuTarakini`s bee project identified a strong need for poliinator awareness and one of the major tools for awareness that came out of her study is the dissemination of information through the media (radio, TV) as defined by the communities themselves.

10. Were there examples of how Rufford funding has helped train a future generation of conservationists?

Lucy Kemp (Mabula GHP) has supervised 2 MSc students and 1 Honour student. She also has taken on conservation interns from neighbouring range states to promote capacity building on SGH conservation beyond the borders of South Africa.

11. Were there examples where Rufford grantees have published important biodiversity information?

Guglethu Tarakini has submitted a manuscript to the Journal of Tropical Conservation Science. The topic: “The Farmers perceptions and attitudes towards pollinators: implications for conservation”

1. Kemp, L. V., Mkhungo, N. & Monama, N. The power of the thunderbird: cultural protection for an endangered species. *African Birdlife* 12–13 (2018).
2. Kemp, L. V. & Ezzey, P. (In press) Report of kidnapping in cooperative breeding Southern Ground-Hornbill in South Africa with consequences for conservation reintroductions. *Ostrich*
3. Kemp, L. V. *et al.* (In press) Review of trial reintroductions of the long-lived, co-operative breeding Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*. *Bird Conserv. Int.*
4. Koepfel, K. N. & Kemp, L. (In press) Immuno-efficacy of a Newcastle Disease Virus vaccine for use in Endangered Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*. *J. Avian Med. Surgery*.
5. Kemp, L. V. & Bruford, M. W. *Southern Ground-Hornbill Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop Final Report*. (2018).
6. Kemp, L. V. Conservation biology and molecular ecology of the Southern Ground-Hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*). (University of the Free State, 2017).
7. Koepfel, K. N. & Kemp, L. V. Lead Toxicosis in a Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* in South Africa. *J. Avian Med. Surg.* **29**, (2015).
8. Kemp, A. C., Kemp, L. V., Nienaber, N. & Weprin, N. E. *Use of artificial nest cavities in southern ground-hornbill conservation: preparing a national strategy*. (2013).
11. Kemp, L. & Neller, S. *Proposal for the inclusion of Southern Ground-Hornbill (Bucorvus leadbeateri) in CITES Appendix II*. (2015).
12. Kemp, A. C. & Kemp, L. V. *An preliminary investigation into the decline of ground-hornbills in northern KwaZulu-Natal*. (2013).
13. Kemp, L. & Verdoorn, G. *Poisons and ground-hornbills: a report on the extent of the threat and conservation actions required*. (2013).
14. Kemp, L. V. Southern Ground Hornbill – Vanishing Icon. *African Birdlife* **2**, 54–57 (2013).
15. Taylor, M. R. & Kemp, L. V. Southern Ground-Hornbill. in *The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*. (ed. Taylor, M. R. (ed).) (BirdLife South Africa, 2015).

II. What are the challenges do you face?

1. As a RSG project leader?

Not having sufficient funding to hire skilled staff to fast track results as extensive training is required

As a conservationist or a conservation project leader in general

A lot of time is spent fundraising and the requisite report writing so as Project leader one is less able to be fully engaged in the project.

Group II

1. Impact of RSG

- a. Conservation Beyond Borders enabled collaboration efforts and sharing ideas
- b. Declining species in Africa are being protected (Vultures) for the critically endangered

2. Locally developed approaches

- a. Putting up of bat boxes was adopted by being made use locally. The bat droppings could be used as manure as well being used for laboratory testing for research
- b. Database on species identification for BirdLife did not include Vultures. Thus, RSG enabled for that database to include bats.
- c. Training, raising awareness of species and education (ignorance is bliss) e.g. to Game rangers, tourists, tour guides, locals and local village heads on the significance of endangered species such as Pangolins which traditionally, in Zimbabwe are considered sacred.

3. Examples of how Rufford support has helped early career conservationists

- a. Vulture project (Safe zones)- has helped Leeroy to get some remuneration which has helped him accentuate his livelihood
- b. Bats (without borders)- has brought travelling opportunities, expanding exposure, networking and collaboration for Bernard
- c. Pangolins- Being the first grant ever applied for as an undergraduate student, the support gave a lot of confidence, growth and direction. Accentuated the passion in conservation of vulnerable species for Judith
- d. Other influences include provided means to build campsites, new models of stove making as means to curb deforestation.

4. RSG has helped support the work on vultures and bats which are traditionally difficult to research on as they are considered to represent bad omens, curses, used for rituals, associated with witchcraft. Pangolins are also considered to be sacred in many African countries. In Zimbabwe in particular, pangolins are a rare sighting, but if one sees it, it is considered good luck. However, traditionally, one was required to capture the animal and go present it to the Chief who would kill and eat the pangolin. Only Chiefs were to eat that meat as it brought them a stealth of wisdom. It is also the world's most trafficked animal for every part of its body is either used for food, medicines (both Western and traditional), or associated with rituals and religion.

5. RSG provided seed funding in relation to the following:

- a. The Vulture safe zones project has enabled Leeroy to work and build towards starting his MSc
- b. The bat work has seen Bernard being employed as a research assistant who is now exposed to a lot of learning and skill and growing his interest in furthering his education.
- c. The funding towards the Pangolin project injected so much confidence in Judith such that she was able to apply for several scholarships for her MSc and even got as far as being shortlisted for Oxford. It thus set the ground for her wildlife conservation career focusing on conservation genetics.

6. **Training of future generations of conservationists** was done across all projects as they all have a training and awareness building component. GIS training, vulture conservation, a driver's license (pre-requisite); research assistant- Training, capacity building, education funding; development of keen interest in wildlife, gave me the confidence, ability in being a leader; conference and workshops have helped in training future generation, exposure, idea building, collaborations, trickles down.

7. Still work in progress although some blogs and tweets have been written

II. Challenges experienced

Project leaders like any other tend to pull most of the weight where teammates may lack or fall short. Thus, more resource personnel could go a long way in curbing the leaders burn-out in undertaking the research

Some species as mentioned have cultural and traditional connotations and associations thus undertaking research in some areas sometimes become problematic as the community may not necessarily support you; some may even deter you

Most of the work that RSG funding supports involve vulnerable species thus, that alone may have its own challenges. For example, sightings of pangolins are quite rare, some species may be nocturnal, some may pose dangerous and some may be sensitive to human interference, making the non-invasive research on them tricky.

III. Recommendations

a. **To RSG-** Increase more grant opportunities, consider more former applicants who have worked with RSG before, before new applicants, provide more insights on how applicants can improve their chances of receiving grants, send RSG representatives across the countries to see the projects being implemented or sometimes be part of the research itself, appoint a country leader and create Alumni groups that are functional by providing support for them to meet and discuss project related issues at certain intervals.

b. **To fellow RSG Recipients-** Publish or perish, share knowledge, do not exist in a Silo, go back to the communities and give feedback

c. **To partners and decision makers-** need to accept and recognise the work researchers do, to provide them with insights and knowledge so that they can make sound conservation decisions, help conservationists get the necessary paperwork that enables them to play a part in conservation of biodiversity .

Report Compiled by Judith Natsai Theodora Kushata

Representing group 2 at the RSG Conference in Livingstone, November to December 2019

THE MAYOR'S SPEECH



REMARKS BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF LIVINGSTONE CITY, MR EUGEN MAPUWO, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RUFFORD SMALL GRANTS CONFERENCE, ON SATURDAY 7TH, DECEMBER 2019, AT AVANI VICTORIA FALLS RESORT, LIVINGSTONE ZAMBIA.

**THE RUFFORD CONFERENCE ORGANIZER
DECEMBER 2019**

Mr. Josh Cole, the Director of Rufford Small Grants

The Rufford Grant Recipients from Zambia, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi;

Researchers and Conservationists from different parts of Zambia;

Eco-tourism investors and entrepreneurs from Livingstone City.

Good Morning

On behalf of the people of Livingstone City, and indeed on my own behalf, I am honoured to warmly welcome you all. In a special way, I would like to welcome the Rufford Foundation and the Grants Director, Mr. Josh Cole to Livingstone, the Tourism Capital of Zambia.

I am delighted that you have chosen Livingstone to host this important conference. Those of you, who are familiar with Livingstone, will agree with me that our city has a quiet environment that makes it conducive and convenient for serious deliberations like the ones you will be having in the next two days.

Distinguished Delegates,

I want to thank the Rufford Foundation for having been able to fund 4990 projects in 152 developing countries worldwide and 13 projects in Zambia specifically. It pleased me to note that some of the Rufford funded projects were implemented in Livingstone.

This is an incredible contribution from the Rufford Foundation and its grant Recipients to the environment and economy of our country and more especially Livingstone, as a tourism capital city of Zambia. I therefore encourage you to continue funding and implementing such projects more especially the projects that include deforestation solutions, eco-tourism and sustainable development. I want also to ensure the our support and coordination to the Rufford Grants

On behalf of the people and leadership of Livingstone City, I want to grantee you, the Rufford Project Implementers, our full support and cooperation to ensure the success and maximise the impact of your field projects.

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me wish you a fruitful conference and invite you to sample the numerous tourist attractions which our city has to offer, including the Victoria Falls, one of the seven wonders of the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, with all power invested in me, I declare this conference officially opened!

N.B: the financial report and scanned receipts are attached separately!

The End!