

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Zewdu Kifle Aweke
Project title	Conservation and Comparative Behavioural Ecology of the Southern Gelada (<i>Theropithecus gelada obscurus</i>) in and around Borena Sayint National Park, Ethiopia
RSG reference	11511-1
Reporting period	September 2015 to September 2016
Amount of grant	£4998
Your email address	zewdu96@yahoo.com
Date of this report	10 th October 2016

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

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To compare the diet and feeding ecology of the southern geladas in intact ecosystem and fragmented area			√	
To compare the activity and ranging patterns and habitat use of the southern geladas in two different study sites			√	
To assess the monthly phenology of grass and herb plant species within the home range of two study bands of southern geladas			√	
To examine the magnitude of human-gelada conflict in and around BSNP			√	
To inculcate awareness among the local communities on the conservation and value of southern geladas and other primates			√	

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

The project has been carried out as I planned and there were no any visible difficulties during this project except the harsh cold rainy season encountered for me of the afroalpine ecosystem.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project include:

- 1) Data on the behavioural ecology from both study bands of the southern geladas in and around BSNP was collected to devising conservation management plans.
- 2) Questionnaire surveys on the human-gelada conflict were fully collected.
- 3) Awareness creation were undertaken in the study area.

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

Local communities were involved in a variety of ways like working as local guides, field assistants, camp attendants, and hiring mules. They benefited economically from the project during the data collection period. They also benefited in sharing data collection skills and then to be employed as research assistants for future research activities that will be undertaken in the study area. The local people also involved in sharing traditional believe and other related issues on southern geladas to me. In addition, the local political leaders and wildlife conservation park office have been supporting this project by giving permission and work side by side that encourage the project to conserve southern geladas and their preferred habitats.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. So far I collected 15 months data on the behavioural ecology of two bands of the southern geladas that live in two different habitat types. My supervisor commented me to add 3 months additional data on the behavioural ecology from both study bands. Thus, I need to extend the data collection at least for the coming 3 months by continuing 1 month after the other to have 18 months intensive follow up data that covering 2 years. I also plan to conduct the population survey of the southern geladas in and around BSNP and examine the polyspecific association of southern geladas with anubis and hamadryas baboons and grivet monkey in and around the park.

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

Once I finish the data analysis and write up of the manuscripts, I have a plan to produce scientific articles. I plan to share the results of the project by publishing in reputable peer-reviewed scientific journals. I plan to give a copy of the project results to the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the relevant regional government, park offices, donors and NGOs to implement conservation and management actions in the study area. I will also post the the results of the project on websites to reach the public. In addition, I intend to give presentations at national workshops and conferences. Hence, this plays crucial role to improve the knowledge of the scientific communities about the conservation and management of the endemic southern geladas in and around BSNP and elsewhere in Ethiopia.

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

The time duration of the RSGF was from October 2015 to September 2016. Therefore, the project is accomplished in the time frame of the fund as I planned.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Garmin® Monterra™ GPS with Android™ OS Pre-Loaded with TOPO U.S. 100K Maps	£179	£179		
Stationery materials (field note books, pens, papers, markers), photo copying and print service) (Lump sum)	£208	£208		
Investigator per diem for food at the field	£1331	£1331		
Field assistant per diem	£600	£600		
Local guide field per diem	£590	£590		
Local travel cost/ fuel oil for vessels	£540	£540		
Conservation education for local students, teachers, scouts and farmers	£1400	£1400		
Conservation educational material preparation (brochures, leaflets, fliers, posters)	£150	£150		
Total	£4998	£4998		

During obtaining the grant, one £ sterling was exchanged with 32.10 Ethiopian Birr.

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

This goal of the project is accomplished in very well manner. The next important steps are to organise and analyse the data of the research project and achieve its final goal by publishing its findings, and submitting the reports to the decision makers to initiate for the implementation of recommendations from this project to conserve the southern geladas and their preferred habitats. In addition, I will start further

research works on the conservation of Ethiopian primates and other mammals including their preferred habitats.

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

So far I didn't use the Rufford Foundation logo. Because I didn't produced any materials related to this project. Now, I will start to use the RSGF logo for any publication materials and reports that are going to be produced in relation to this project and for the final dissertation document.

11. Any other comments?

The project will not be carried out without the RSGF funding. Thus, I would like to thank you very much for your grant support and contribution to conserve this little known and endemic southern geladas. Many thanks for your contribution for the conservation Ethiopian biodiversity.