

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	Mercy Nyambura Kariuki
Project title	Sheep for Sharpe's Longclaw
RSG reference	13185-1
Reporting period	June 2013-May 2014
Amount of grant	£ 5680
Your email address	Nyams68@yahoo.com
Date of this report	20 th June 2014

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
Establish a sheep breed improvement loan scheme that will be pegged on retaining grasslands that are suitable for grassland birds and especially the Endangered Sharpe's longclaw.			X	The scheme was established with 10 farmers. An agreement with rules and regulations on how to handle the ram was agreed among farmers and the Njabini Wool Crafters Cooperative Society.
Document lessons learnt regarding the impacts for grassland biodiversity conservation and disseminate them widely in Kinangop, especially through existing farmer savings and credit societies.			X	The process of disseminating lesson learnt and results to farmers will still continue even after the project has ended.
Create awareness to farmers and the youth on the importance of the grasslands for biodiversity, provision of ecosystem services and livelihoods.			X	Over 500 people were reached both students and local farmers through various forums i.e. farmers seminars/ field day and school talks.

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

- During budgeting, the exchange rate was 1 Sterling Pound = Kshs 140 but when I received the funds, the exchange rate was 1 Sterling Pound = Kshs 127. To solve the difference, we had to work with received amount by lowering the number of rams from 15 to 10 and other expenses as shown below in the financial section.
- The price for the ram increased significantly and affected the number which was initially planned i.e. 15 rams to 10 rams.
- The Njabini Wool Crafters Cooperative Society was used during making agreements with the farmers since Friends of Kinangop Plateau would not be used under the current legal provisions as a binding entity.
- One of the rams given to the farmers died. We had not clearly included this situation in the agreement. As the project has ended, we plan to issue the farmer who was affected with one of the off springs as a replacement.

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

- Data was collected in 20 farms through a survey. A total of 110 individual Sharpe's longclaw were counted with a density of 1.02 individuals per hectare. This is represented in approximately 400 hectares of grassland with an average holding 12 ha of grassland per farmer

- A total of 10 farmers who control ownership of 750 acres of grasslands provided with improved high quality breeding rams
- At least 500 people reached through the education campaign and during Kinangop Farmers' field day.

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

Field assistants who provided assistance during this project were from the local community in Kinangop. Household members were involved during the Sharpe's longclaw survey and thus their level of awareness was improved. Three consultative workshops were organised with participation from farmers and the government officers. This helped lay down rules and develop agreement between the farmers and the Njabini Wool Crafters Cooperative Society while building the capacity of the participants in sheep management. This also was a good opportunity for the government officials to show support to farmers in sheep rearing and management.

From the survey and consultative meeting, we were able to identify 10 farmers who were later issued with high quality breeding rams.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

We will continue to identify potential farmers whose grasslands are known to be habitat for Sharpe's longclaw or are adjustment to an already known habitat site. These farmers will be included in the scheme for them to be issued with off springs of the high breed. This will ensure sustainability of the project for a long term and contribute to retention of optimal grasslands.

We also plan to strengthen and improve the management capacity of farmers who are already identified in this project. We would like to make a follow-up application to RSGF to enable us implement this.

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

We plan to share the results with various institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock, Njabini Agricultural Training Centre and Friend of Kinangop Plateau (the local conservation group). Articles on the achievement of this project will be submitted to Nature Kenya (the BirdLife Partner in Kenya) and BirdLife International websites. The project can be used as a case study in the other parts of Kinangop Plateau and other highland grasslands. We will also look out for opportunities where relevant seminars/conferences are organized to present our results especially at local level.

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 grant was used for 12 months i.e. June 2013 to May 2014 which was the planned project period.

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
Field travel - Car mileage and fuel	1350	1678	328	During rainy seasons, most of the roads were not easily assessable which lead to using longer routes thus consuming a lot of fuel which significantly hiked within the project period.
Local field assistant	600	585	-15	
Field subsistence and accommodation	700	750	50	During field visit, we engaged two government officers from Agriculture and Livestock ministries. Thus increasing this budget.
10 high quality Male Sheep	2700	2320	-380	Cost was higher than previously estimated. This led to buying of 10 breeding rams instead of 15.
3 seminars: venue and refreshments	360	384	24	
Printing of awareness materials	150	147	-3	
Equipment - field guide books, telescope, binoculars, GPS and laptop	0	0	0	
Total	5860 @sh.140 when budgeting	5864 @sh.127 when we received the grant	4	

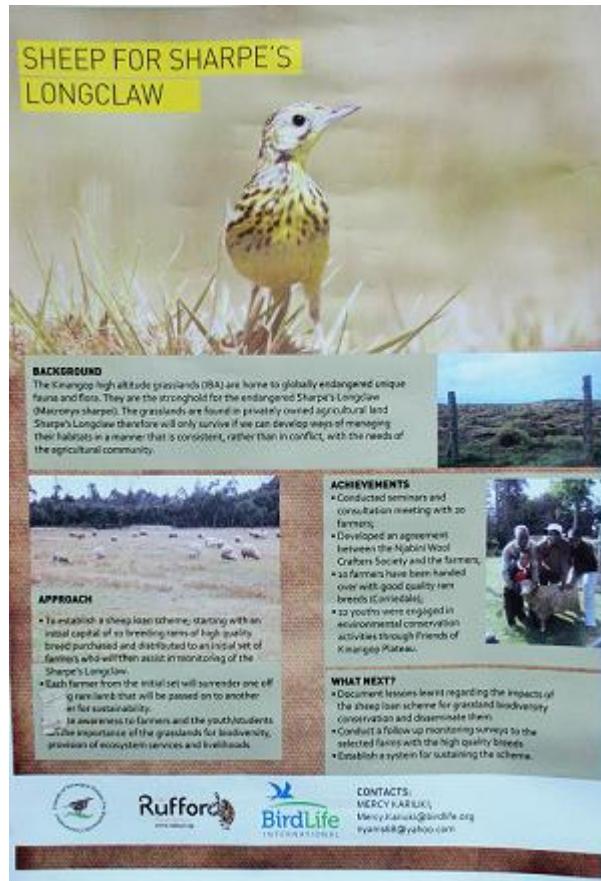
9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

- Do a follow-up by visiting farmers and getting their feedback i.e. lessons learnt and challenges they face
- Publish story articles on the achievements of this project to Nature Kenya and BirdLife International websites
- Strengthen the sheep for longclaw loan scheme by improving the capacity of farmers in practicing proper sheep management through setting up two demonstration farms.
- Using the demonstration farms identified above as a case study, to train farmers and document lessons learnt regarding economic and ecological benefits of retaining grasslands for biodiversity conservation.

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

Yes it did.

- A poster (a picture of it is attached; the original soft copy was lost) presented during the East Africa RSG Recipients Conference in Mombasa, Kenya and Kigali, Rwanda; which was also presented during the Kinangop Farmers' field day in May 2014.
- PowerPoint presentations made during the three farmers seminars held during the project phase and;
- Through sharing of the project results during a workshop organised by Nature Kenya in collaboration with National Museums of Kenya early 2014. The workshop was attended by researchers who have or are doing projects on the endangered Sharpe's Longclaw.



SHEEP FOR SHARPE'S LONGCLAW

BACKGROUND
The Kinangop high altitude grasslands (HAG) are home to globally endangered unique faunas and floras. They are the stronghold for the endangered Sharpe's Longclaw (Macronyx sharpei). The grasslands are found in privately owned agricultural land. Sharpe's Longclaw therefore will only survive if we can develop ways of managing their habitats in a manner that is consistent, rather than in conflict, with the needs of the agricultural community.

APPROACH
• To establish a sheep loan scheme; starting with an initial capital of 10 breeding rams of high quality breed purchased and distributed to an initial set of farmers who will then assist in monitoring of the Sharpe's Longclaw.
• Each farmer from the initial set will surrender one offspring ram which will then be passed on to another for sustainability.
• To awareness to farmers and the youth students.
• The importance of the grasslands for biodiversity, provision of ecosystem services and livelihoods.

ACHIEVEMENTS
• Conducted seminars and consultation meeting with 20 farmers;
• Developed an agreement between the Njambini Wool Growers Society and the farmers;
• 10 farmers have been handed over with good quality ram breeds;
• 20 farmers engaged in environmental conservation activities through Friends of Kinangop Plateau.

WHAT NEXT?
• Document lessons learnt regarding the impacts of the sheep loan scheme for grassland biodiversity conservation and disseminate them;
• Conduct a follow up monitoring surveys to the selected farms with the high quality breeds;
• Establish a system for sustaining the scheme.

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11. Any other comments?

I am very grateful to the RSGF for the support you provided. It highly uplifted my capacity to manage and build networks.