

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	Yared Desta
Project title	Studies on the Ecology and Conservation status of two critically endangered endemic frog species of Ethiopia
RSG reference	14571-1
Reporting period	Final
Amount of grant	£5990
Your email address	papioan@gmail.com
Date of this report	16/07/15

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 determine the population status of the two frog species		X		We were able to locate only one of the two targeted species, the bale mountain short head from in the Harrena forest. However, no single individual of the second species, the bale mountain frog, was located though several attempts were made. Only 14 individuals of the bale mountain short headed frog have been sampled in their historic range.
To assess the habitat conditions of the two frog species			X	Our findings on the habitat condition of the two species showed that the habitats are under series human induced threats which need due attention to minimise the loss of biodiversity.
To identify the main human induced threats		X		The main anthropogenic threats in the areas were livestock grazing, agricultural encroachment and fire wood collection
To determine the extent of chytrid fungus infection in the frog populations of the two species			X	Swab samples taken from the sampled frogs were analysed for the presence of chytrid infection and three out of 14 were found positive for the fungus. Other studies have also showed that most of the endemic frog species of Ethiopia are being affected by the fungal infection.
Community awareness programmes on environmental protection		X		Community education regarding the needs of protecting the environment and the frog species in the localities have been conducted using different means. The programmes were conducted through series of public discussions during public holidays,

				feasts, afforestation and campfire programmes
Provision of field-based amphibian monitoring techniques			X	Four university students were incorporated in the project team. They were given opportunities to work with us in sampling and identifying frogs and community engagement programs. We believe by now the students will be able to design and conduct their mini amphibian related projects with no difficulties.

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

Many unforeseen difficulties have been encountered during the employment of the project. We were unable to hire vehicles for our planned budget since the study area was hilly and the cost was inflated. As a result, we were forced to cut some of our expenses so as to cover for the vehicle hiring and other inflated costs. One of the study areas was not accessible with vehicle so we had to walk for many hours during the sampling period which made life a bit difficult. However, the good spirit we had and the support from community member enabled us to complete the project with less sufferings.

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

Our project was completed with success and also gave us more homework. Some of our notable success stories can be summarised as follows:

- We were able to recover some few numbers of the critically endangered short headed frog and also identified some of the most notable human induced threats exacerbating the loss of biodiversity in general and the targeted frog species in particular.
- Community awareness programmes on how to protect the environment and minimise human interference created a platform in which the community members agreed to work with us in conserving biodiversity. The project also abled to change the attitudes of the local communities towards frogs as most of the indigenous people in the study areas are not fond of animals particularly frogs. This project is also one of a kind in Ethiopia to address the issues of amphibian conservation and brought the attention of stakeholders at different levels of administration.
- Four university students were given the opportunity to work with us and got training how to design field-based amphibian monitoring studies, catching of frogs, identification and assessment of environmental variables such as soil pH, canopy cover etc.

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

The communities were part of the project as much as possible. During the community awareness campaign, we interacted with the village leaders seeking their permission and assistants to organise the events of public education. Some of the local people allowed their horses to transport our logistics to our campsites.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project served as an icebreaker in initiation of amphibian-based conservation programme in the country. It was able to bring the attention of the local communities on the need of amphibian conservation. So the project will continue to strengthen the capacity of the local people in conservation and also attempts will be made to survey the amphibian population in wider geographical locations.

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

The results of the project have been communicated with the local communities, administrations and academia in the area to highlight what has been achieved so far. The results will also be communicated to the scientific community at large in the form of conference deliberations and scientific journals in which manuscripts are under preparations.

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 overall time period planned to conduct the project was 18 months. The RSG was used for a period of 18 months.

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
Travel cost (vehicle hiring)	1000	1800	800	The planned and the actual expense for hiring vehicle were not similar. The rent was almost twice higher
2 GPS	250	250	0	
Digital camera	200	200	0	
DSA for team members and	2500	2300	200	We had to cut the DSA so that we could be

assistants				able to cover the expense for vehicle hiring
Tents for team members	350	350	0	
T-shirts for public education	450	450	0	
Book	100	100	0	
Stationary	200	200	0	
Head torches	240	200	40	
Payment for camping	400	400	0	
Unforeseen costs	300		300	
Total	5990	6250	260	

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

Thorough population assessments on the two critically endangered frog species within and outside their historic range is required to determine the population dynamics. No single individual of one of the species, *Ericabatrachus baleensis*, has been recovered which urges us to survey the species in wider geographical locations. The community awareness and engagement programmes should also be strengthened through continuous programmes so that the local people minimise their reliance on the forest.

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?

We have used Rufford Foundation logo on the t-shirts, posters and during seminars and presentations and acknowledgements were made during the deliberations. We also duly acknowledged RSGF in our manuscripts under preparations.

11. Any other comments?

The support we got from the Rufford Foundations helped us to conduct this amphibian conservation study which gave us a good prospect in continuing conservation works. We are determined to continue working for conservation of biodiversity in our country so that the currently prevalent erosion of biological resources is minimised.