

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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| Grant Recipient Details |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Your name               | Habte Telila   |
| Project title           | Is a small <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantation in a farmscape potential site for herb plant species? An assessment based on local, landscape and historical factors |
| RSG reference           | 18241-1  |
| Reporting period        | 2015-2016  |
| Amount of grant         | £4850  |
| Your email address      | habtetelila@yahoo.com  |
| Date of this report     | 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 examine what factors determine the colonisation of <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantations by herb species.  |              |                    |                | Data were collected both from the field and Google earth and the result will be available as a part of dissertation that will be submitted to Addis Ababa University relevant journal.   |
| To investigate the role of remnant natural forest as a source of propagules of herb species for colonising <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantations.       |              |                    |                | Vegetation data were collected from the field and result will be available as a part of dissertation that will be submitted to Addis Ababa University.   |
| To investigate the farmer perspective on the issue of <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantations that might be important in plant biodiversity conservation. |              |                    |                | Community-based questionnaire surveys and interviews with various stakeholders (structured and semi-structured) were conducted and results result will be available as a part of dissertation that will be submitted to Addis Ababa University and relevant journal. |
| To identify typical forest species from invasive species that will have great implication for biodiversity conservation.                        |              |                    |                | Vegetation data were collected from the field and result will be available as a part of dissertation that will be submitted to Addis Ababa University relevant journal.  |

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

Collection of community-based questionnaire surveys and interviews was pretty difficult because of political instability that is Oromo protest (the major ethnic group in the study area and in Ethiopia) against the government since November 2015.

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

1. The study discovered that if small *Eucalyptus* plantations should be used as a restoration sites for native vegetation it is important to control livestock grazing. Despite the improvement of habitat quality (e. g. regulating grazing) is crucial for recovery of plant biodiversity under exotic plantations landscape factors such as connectivity could also play prominent role.

2. *Eucalyptus* plantations embedded in agricultural landscape mostly owned by farmers might contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by providing an environment for the cultivation of forest herb species as an alternative to their destructive harvest from the natural population.

3. The knowledge from this study might initiate an approach of restoration from which people gets benefits. Mainly in countries like Ethiopia where food, firewood and other key resources to sustain human populations are limiting.

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

The project was basically focused on studying the farmer perspective regarding the use of *Eucalyptus* plantation to foster native vegetation. In principle restoring native biodiversity in *Eucalyptus* plantations seem to hold a great deal of promise. Moreover, *Eucalyptus* plantations are common and the cover is increasing in Ethiopia. In the Ethiopian context there is a great need of finding positive synergies between goals for conservation and economic development that also are supported by the farming community. Thus, the knowledge from this study might initiate an approach of restoration from which people gets benefits.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes I have planned to continue the research and looking for some potential funding sources. Also I am planning to do some community based awareness projects in using *Eucalyptus* plantation as a restoration tool. Beside the empirical studies related to establishment of native flora in *Eucalyptus* plantations I have also planned to do some experimental studies. I am also planning to assess the law and regulations pertaining to restoration through plantations in Ethiopia. Moreover, global biodiversity conservation efforts have mainly focused on the establishment of protected areas although majority of biodiversity are present outside of the protected areas. Thus, it is crucial to integrate biodiversity conservation and agriculture. Therefore, clear understanding of the landscape context of agricultural matrix such as the ecological value of retained trees is essential.

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

This project was part of my thesis at Addis Ababa University that will be available for stakeholders to access also electronic copies will be made available.

Publication in relevant journal that will be available online for stakeholders to get benefit from.

The translated version in local language i.e. (Afan oromo) will be printed and distributed

Presentations in different workshops.

Also all relevant results/information will be made available on Rufford Small Grants website.

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

Grant was used for carrying field work in agricultural matrix around Chilimo natural forest in central Ethiopia, in the months of December/2015 to January/2016. Data cleaning and checking on the field was late due to political instability in the study area. Desk based studies were completed before field work at Addis Ababa University.

**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                       |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Transportation, Fuel cost and bike rental for multiple visits to study site   | £663            | £682          | £19        | Fluctuation in the rental cost |
| Accommodation and subsistence ( for Principal researcher and field assistant) | £1995           | £1995         | £0         |                                |
| video camera and binocular  | £870            | £870          | £0         |                                |
| ArcGIS software and Aerial photos   | £700            | £754          | £54        | Increment in the cost          |

|   |       |       |     |                       |
|---|-------|-------|-----|-----------------------|
| stationery including printing and duplication | £622  | £639  | £17 | Increment in the cost |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | £4850 | £4930 | £80 |                       |

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

I feel that finding the way to convince both farmers and government in using the rapidly increasing cover of *Eucalyptus* plantations as an opportunity to use as restoration site for native vegetation. The awareness rising can be done using public media and local cultural and religious institutions so that the *Eucalyptus* plantation in the backyard of the farmers will play a great role in the biodiversity recovery beside its economic importance.

**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, I used the RFSG llogo on the power point presentation during thesis defence and I used it my PhD dissertation that will be available at AAU library. Moreover the logo has been introduced to different stakeholders during field data collection. It will be used acknowledged in every publication concerning the study.

**11. Any other comments?**

I am exceptionally thankful to RFSG for financial support to comfortably complete the field work. It was crucial assistance to complete my study as the research funded is part of my PhD Dissertation. The research dealt with one of the controversial issue in the field of restoration ecology particularly the role of *Eucalyptus* plantation. Thus, the knowledge from this study might initiate an approach of restoration from which people gets benefits. Mainly in countries like Ethiopia where food, firewood and other key resources to sustain human populations are limiting. Additionally the outcome of the study can be transferred to other tropical studies involving *Eucalyptus* and forest management that in turn can contribute to global biodiversity recovery. I really appreciate the support and hoping for similar cooperation from RGSF in the future if needed.