

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Gezahegn Nega Chekol
<b>Project Title</b>	Implication of habitat loss and fragmentation for the conservation of habitat specialist primates: the case of Bale monkey ( <i>Chlorocebus djamdjamentis</i> ) in the human-dominated landscapes of Sidama Highlands, Ethiopia (Modified title due to My PhD Supervisor)
<b>Application ID</b>	18337-1
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£ 4760
<b>Email Address</b>	gezahegnnega@gmail.com
<b>Date of this Report</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020

1. 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 impacts of habitat loss and fragmentation on the population size of Bale monkey in human dominated landscapes of Sidama highlands, Southern Ethiopia			✓	
To determine the impacts of habitat loss and fragmentation on the feeding ecology and effects of fragmentation to its survival			✓	
To determine the effects of habitat fragmentation on the daily travel distance and ranging ecology of Bale monkey			✓	
To assess phenology of food plant species of Bale monkey in the home ranges of study groups			✓	
To determine the effect of habitat modification on diet of Bale monkeys			✓	

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

The roads that connect Sidama Highlands with the towns are poor especially during the rainy season to use cars and motorcycles. The local community were not interested with the researcher particularly at the beginning of the study due to their great culture of using bamboo for many things like house construction, fence and furniture preparation and using it as source of income by selling it. They have utilised the forest for animal fodder and grazing land, which directly affects the long-term survival of endemic and vulnerable Bale monkeys. Even higher officials of the study area government were not having knowledge about Bale monkey is endemic and vulnerable primate. To overcome this unanticipated problem the researcher recognised awareness creation among local officials and people as the first hand tool for short term solution to conduct the current research and to integrate the communities' resource use pattern from the forest and the survival of Bale monkeys and other wildlife inside the forest. For this problem, the researcher along with some local officials organised a discussion to create awareness of the communities about the importance of the protection of the forest and the Bale monkeys inside it for better environmental sustainability. In addition to this, the researcher recruited some individuals from the community provided employment opportunities as local field assistants, field guidance and camp attendants that benefited them economically and it also helps them to know how they can do a research to keep their environment good.

The other unexpected problem was local ethnic conflicts in the study area for many times. Due to this problem the study period was increased by a year.

There was also problem of labourer cost increment due to decrease in purchasing power of the money at the market due to inflation. This is tackled by raising additional funds from different sources.

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

- ✘ This study will provide baseline data on population size, activity budget, feeding ecology, dietary preference and ranging ecology of Bale monkeys in human-dominated landscapes of Sidama Highlands which are essential to develop management plan.
- ✘ I am preparing four peer-reviewed papers (almost it is ready to submit for publishers).
- ✘ The copy of these results was given to the local officials, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and will be given to IUCN/SSC, donors and NGOs after publication will be completed to implement conservation action.

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

The local communities are involved in this project in two ways, 1. as field assistant and field guide, which directly benefited economically from the project during data collection process and 2. they are involved in the training given for awareness creation about natural habitat conservation uses and uses of wildlife for the country and local environment, they also benefitted in sharing in sharing skills in data collection to be employed for further research undertaken in the area.

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

Yes, I have planned to conduct the human-Bale monkey conflict, afforestation of fragmented bamboo and preparing training for awareness creation for local officials and local government about conservation of natural environment in human-dominated Sidama Highlands, southern Ethiopia, after completing the publication work of this project.

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

Through publication: a total of four peer-reviewed scientific papers will be published in international journals in comparing the impacts of fragmentation on population size, activity budget, feeding ecology, dietary preference and ranging ecology of Bale monkeys in fragmented forest to those Bale monkeys at their natural continuous forest.

A copy of the report and results were given to the local government officials, federal government and Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority for fast reactions of the problems in the study areas. After publication, the copy of the report and results I will also be given to funding agencies, NGOs to implement the conservation of endemic and vulnerable Bale monkeys and their habitats.

The results will be disseminated through websites of wildlife associations, universities and other media and used for increasing the awareness of scientific and general public.

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

The time duration: September 2017 to September 2019, due to local conflict one additional year was used.

Percentage from the total project period: It is 70% of the project duration.

**8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
GPS batteries, Kerosene for food cooking and stationary	£ 320	£ 320		
Per diem for field assistants	£ 1920	£1920		
Per diem for investigator	£ 2520	£2520		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4760</b>	<b>£4760</b>		Exchange rate during obtaining the grant: £ 1 = 32 Ethiopian birr

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

Now I am finished my PhD dissertation defence, and I am making journals well after a weak will submit to different journal publishers. I will start my further research work on the conservation of Ethiopian primates and their habitat at large and particularly at endemic and vulnerable species

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

Yes, I have used it in my dissertation paper and I also used it my defence PowerPoint slides during my defence. Now it is time also to use The Rufford Foundation logo in all materials that I will produce in relation to this project like in all the publications that I will do.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**Professor Afework Bekele** (Supervisor)

**Melese and Zcarias** (local ecological experts),

**Matios and Frew** (Field assistants and guides),

**Henok** (GIS work)

**12. Any other comments?**

Science I have received the grant during I was a PhD candidate it was aspiring to climb the ladder of academic hierarchy up and making me a doctor during this time. It was difficult to finish my PhD research work without The Rufford Foundation Grant financial support. Therefore, The Rufford Foundation is part of my life in scaling up my academic status.