

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	Abebayehu Aticho
Project title	Strengthening community capacity to undertake Wattled Crane and its habitat conservation in Boye Wetland Complex, Jimma Ethiopia
RSG reference	20793-2
Reporting period	15 November 2016 - 30 October 2017
Amount of grant	5000 £
Your email address	abebayehu.aticho@ju.edu.et OR j.aticho@yahoo.com
Date of this report	15 Nov. 2017

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
Providing customized capacity building trainings for local community				As per the plan, 60 individuals from the community are participated on the training.
Provide capacity building trainings				Planned to train 60 students, thus, 60 students trained
Supply materials for environment and nature conservation club office construction				The project has supplied the proposed materials to the two school clubs, but in one school, the construction is postponed to 2018 due to other activity overlap
Assess Wattled Crane (WC) breeding biology, threats and site protection				Fully done as per the plan, hatching success monitoring is underway in one site and flooding interrupted the breeding process in other site.
Monitoring seasonal dynamics of crane population, habitat and anthropogenic pressures				Population of cranes, livestock, and other threats monitoring is conducted as per the plan and information are produce for future conservation actions.

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

- The event of unexpected extended dry seasons (due to climate change) has distorted the breeding seasons of WC in the project area. As a result, the cranes started breeding later (in September) and breeding success monitoring is underway (yet not completed). To overcome the budget challenge for continuing monitoring breeding success, we have shifted budget to this activity from other activity without compromising its quality.
- In one school conservation club (environment and nature) offices construction in the school compound is not completed as per the schedule, because the school community has engaged in similar activity (construction of classroom for students) to accommodate the rising number of pupil in next academic year. To overcome this challenge in consultation with the school community, we have purchased the proposed materials for the construction and handover to the school, and the construction will be done in 2018 academic year.

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

The project has achieved outcomes that are contributing for sustainable conservation of the cranes and its habitats. Among the outcomes, the three most important are:

- ❖ Improvement in wattled crane breeding, better breeding progress observed at the project site. In the past two years (2015 and 2016), only one breeding pair has prepared nest and successfully complete its breeding process. In this year, because of the conservation efforts made (e.g., through awareness creation, breeding site protection) substantial improvement is observed in crane breeding; two breeding pairs have started breeding process through building nests. Among the nests, one was taken away (washed) by excessive overland flow comes from River Gibe situated adjacent to crane breeding site. Regardless of nest removal by flooding, the initiation breeding pairs for reproduction via nest building (in the past couple of years the pair didn't attempt to build nest for breeding) is one of the indicators of our conservation efforts on reducing disturbance at site (via livestock, children) during breeding season. "Ensuring breeding is ensuring the continuing of the species in future". From this, we learn a lesson to realize successful breeding in the next seasons-through creating nesting place for the breeding pair out of the reach of overland flow (flooding) from the river.
- ❖ The local community members participated on trainings acquired basic knowledge on economic and ecological importance of local suitable alternative livelihood activities. The smallholder farmers participated on this occasion are motivated to start or modify the existing traditional practices at least in one alternative of the livelihood practices. Conservation clubs based at school are able to convey conservation messages (in their own words) to the community about the relevance of wetland and wattled crane's needs. For example, club member students prepared poem, drama and music to aware the community on conservation; one of the poems is translated from local language to English and sent to International Crane Foundation (ICF) for banner exhibition at global crane conservation event, in USA. Further, most club member students are enthused to learn and understand more about their environment (e.g., crane, wetland) through practical oriented ecological exercises, and to know linkage of local conservation issues in global context (question on local conservation problems are global agenda). This implies, the project has positively influenced next generation's perception on environmental issues and conservation, and inspired them to learn and engage in conservation. In general, the project is contributed for the improvement of local community understanding on the relevance (e.g., social, economic, ecological) of wetland habitats and cranes thereby breeding sites disturbances (livestock and children) is reduced for reproduction seasons and crane nesting activity improved.
- ❖ Finally, the project has generated vital information on seasonal (dry and wet) dynamics of the cranes and livestock population, and threats of the habitat and

breeding processes. The information provides important direction for future conservation decision in the project area, other parts of the country and beyond. So, far the results are shared to potential stakeholders working on crane and wetlands in Ethiopia, Africa and beyond.

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

- The local community members participated in trainings are directly benefited from gaining scientific knowledge on local suitable, environment friendly (wetland ecosystem) and economical profitable livelihood activities, from DSA and refreshment.
- Environment and nature conservation clubs in two schools are benefited from material donation for construction of conservation club office in the school compounds.
- The project has recruited data collectors from the local community member, these community members are benefited from acquiring basic knowledge on scientific data collection and from monthly payment.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Definitely yes, we have planned to continue working to address the important WC and wetland conservation concerns to ensure sustainable conservation of the species through working on conservation needs identified during this project period (2nd RSG) together with the community. Therefore, I have a plan to apply for Booster Grants to work on the identified conservation needs.

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

We have shared the project results to various international, regional and national stakeholders working on crane and wetlands. For example, the results are shared to:

- African Crane Conservation Program (ACCP) at Endangered Wild Trust /EWT/ Head office in South Africa, Jonesburg through sending monthly updates.
- International Crane Foundation (ICF) via sending project progress reports and vital events. ICF has shared the reports to other relevant stakeholders. Further, a poem on crane conservation prepared by conservation club students is shared to ICF for banner exhibition in USA.
- Local stakeholders on meeting, and sharing reports,
- One video on breeding has uploaded on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK3xcqtCOsc&feature=share>

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 project duration is 12 months. All of activities are done per the schedule, except breeding success monitoring due to interruption of breeding season.

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. 1 £ sterling = 27.21 birr

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
DSA for field work	1416	1416	0	The team members travel to field to monitor late breeding progress without DSA
Local transportation cost	380	439	-59	Transportation cost raise, and extra days travel to observe late breeding
Preparation of training guidelines	97	97	0	As per the plan
Duplication and binding of training guidelines	168	0	168	Most of the training participants are unable to read. Thus, this budget is transferred to others activities.
Stationery	126	132	-5	Stationery price raise
Refreshment, transport & DSA for training participant	960	997	-13	Raise in cost of some items due to inflation
Supplies for school club office construction	683	699	-16	Raise in cost of material
Crane and livestock population, and habitat monitoring	480	480	0	As per the plan
Mobile air time	240	240	0	As per the plan
Breeding, nesting site and threat monitoring	450	500	-75	Breeding success monitoring is extended for one month at a site due to late breeding
Total	5000	5000	0	

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

During the second RSG period, we have done meaningful conservation activities and attained important conservation outcomes in the pilot site, which is promising to improve WC population in the project area. Though, nature conservation work is not

fully achieved through one-time efforts at micro-level (pilot site), we want to continue working to sustain the good practices at micro-level, address the felt conservation needs, and expanding good and promising practices to other sites. Therefore, we have a plan to precede working on conservation gaps identified together with the local community and lessons learned from the pilot. The identified and proposed conservation activities for the next step comprise: 1) scale-up breeding pair monitoring and breeding site protection at potential breeding sites/pairs, 2) create nesting place in wetland (far from flood effete and contained suitability vegetation) for breeding pair in flood prone area, 3) cultivate conservation club members' practical relations with nature and improve their awareness in global context, and 4) study local community knowledge, attitudes and practices towards wetlands and cranes 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, throughout the project event the Rufford Foundation is duly acknowledged for its financial support, the logo is used in presentations and displayed on project reports communicated to organizations working on cranes and wetlands (ICF, ACCP-EWT, others). In addition, we have publicised the foundation and encouraged other conservationists to work with it.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to thank the Rufford Foundation for the financial support provided to undertake this project, without which it is impossible to realize what was reported in this document. In addition, I would like to thank the local community and other peoples who are directly or indirectly contributed for the success of the project site. The activities undertaken with the support of Rufford Foundation has brought real impact on WC and its habitats conservation efforts in Jimma area.

We are very confident that, the support of Rufford Foundation will continue in the future so that the current conservation efforts will be scaled-up to other sites. Further, the project team has developed experiences in conservation activities, learned lessons from past project activities, created strong links with local community and organisations (national, regional, and international) working on crane and wetlands, which improved team's ability to successfully implement small, medium and large conservation projects. Therefore, we kindly request the foundation's booster grant awards to continue the conservation works in the pilot site and beyond to ensure sustainable conservation of the cranes and its habitat-wetland.