

## 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	The ecological roles of isolated retained trees of <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> and <i>Juniperus procera</i> in association to <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantations in a farmscape
RSG reference	21628-2
Reporting period	2017/2018
Amount of grant	£4940
Your email address	habtetelila@yahoo.com
Date of this report	2018

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 regeneration of <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> and <i>Juniperus procera</i> in <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantations				Data were collected both from the field and Google Earth and the result is available as a part of dissertation submitted to Addis Ababa University and will also be available in relevant journal.
To examine the role of local connectivity of the retained trees of <i>P. falcatus</i> and <i>J. procera</i> for the colonization of the <i>Eucalyptus</i> patches by these species				Data were collected both from the field and Google Earth and the result is available as a part of dissertation submitted to Addis Ababa University and will also be available in relevant journal.
To examine conservation barriers and drivers of remnant tree species on farmscape				A socio-economic household survey through semi-structured questionnaire from Forest User Groups of Chilimo forest were conducted and results result will be available in relevant journal.
To assess the impact of conservation regulation that prohibits farmers from cutting and using some of the native tree species				Semi-structured interviews (SSI), the structured questionnaire were administered and focus group discussions (FGDs) for people of different age groups and gender were made. In addition key informants such as from district forest administration, district land administration, NGOs, Federal Ministry of Forestry and regional forest enterprise were interviewed and results result will be available in relevant journal.
To assess farmers' understanding of the role of <i>Eucalyptus</i> plantations in fostering native tree species regeneration				A socio-economic household survey through semi-structured questionnaire from Forest User Groups of Chilimo forest were conducted and results result will be available in relevant journal.

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

I did not see any unexpected difficulties.

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

- I. It was found that not only the natural forest, but also the remnant trees in farmscape, play an important role as a source of seed for the regeneration of trees, if the retained trees in an agricultural matrix are protected.
- II. The study discovered that the construction of fences to keep grazing livestock away from seedlings and saplings will be necessary if the plantations should be used as restoration sites or a foster ecosystem. On the other hand it is understood the construction of fences around *Eucalyptus* plantations may not be easy to convince the farmers as fencing around crop fields.
- III. It was found that for farmers to grow woody plants in their home garden is determined by means of how woody plants contribute to home consumption and immediate cash regeneration whereas farmers are prohibited by law from cutting and using a single tree of *P. falcatus* and *J. procera* this is not the case with *Eucalyptus*. The law indirectly discourage farmers from letting native trees regenerate in *Eucalyptus* plantations need to be changed to help foster growth of native tree species in *Eucalyptus* plantations. It is suggest that laws and policies be revised and the possibilities of introducing different types of certification and control mechanisms evaluated to enable farmers sell timber of native trees from plantations, while at the same time minimising the risk of over-exploitation of native forests.

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

The local community were involving at each and every stage of the study. For example, in household socio-economic survey and highly participating through focus group discussion. Information from persons at the local level (local knowledge) is a key factor in designing biodiversity restoration related policies and regulations. The local community may be benefited from the study since the result from the study is expected to influence the policy makers in amending the regulations that prohibits from cutting using native trees.

**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 continue doing some community based awareness projects to influence the policy makers in using *Eucalyptus* plantation as a restoration tool. Besides protecting the remnant forest, the remnant trees in farmscape, play an important role s a source of seed for the regeneration of trees. Especially identification of birds dispersing retained trees such as *Podocarpus*

*falcatus* and *Juniperus procera* in an agricultural landscape surrounding the Chilimo forest is very crucial. I have also plan to prepare a document that might help as a guide line to integrate forest biodiversity conservation to agricultural landscape in Ethiopia.

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

- ✓ This project was part of my PhD thesis at Addis Ababa University that is available as electronic copies for stakeholders to accesses 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, conferences and mass media.
- ✓ 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 February/2017 to January/2018. Additional time may be required to publish the results in a reputable journal.

**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	£1650	£1754	£104	Due to increased in fuel cost
Accommodation and subsistence ( for Principal researcher and field assistants)	£2400	£2400	£0	
Hall rental and refreshment	£650	£650	£0	
stationery including printing and duplication	£215	£215	£0	
Topographic map	£25	£25	£0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4940</b>	<b>£5044</b>	<b>£104</b>	

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

I think finding the way to influencing the policy makers in amending the regulations that prohibits the farmers from cutting using native trees such as *Podocarpus* and *Juniperus* retained in their farm land. Furthermore I feel finding the way both farmers and government in protecting not only natural forest but also the retained trees in an agricultural landscape. I also feel the mechanism to convince 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 RF logo on the power point presentation during thesis defence and I used it in my PhD dissertation that will be available at AAU library. I am mentioning and acknowledging RF whenever I use the result during course delivery in classroom and outdoor activities. Moreover the logo has been introduced to different stakeholders during field data collection. It will also be used and acknowledged in every publication concerning the study.

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

List of the members	Their role
Mr. Kumsa Tadesse	Field assistant
Mr. Malaku	Herbarium technician
Prof. Kristoffer Hylander	Help in designing the project, preparing field data protocol and analysis
Prof. Sileshi Nemomissa	Help in plant identification and designing the project
Shimelis Ayana	Help in coordinating the community during FGDs
Getachew Garuma	Field guide

**12. Any other comments?**

I am exceptionally thankful to The Rufford Foundation 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 the ecological role of the retained trees in an agricultural landscape in relation to *Eucalyptus* plantation. The study also revealed the farmers' outlook why they left the trees in a farmscape, for what purpose they need trees of *Podocarpus* and *Juniperus*. Moreover the project dealt with farmers' perspective on the regulation of Ethiopia that prohibits from cutting and using the trees of *Podocarpus* and *Juniperus* that was meant for conservation. However the regulation discouraged from planting

native trees. Thus, the knowledge from this study might help to influence the policy makers to improve the regulation that discouraging farmers from planting trees that are economically and ecologically important. Furthermore the may initiate an approach of restoration from which people gets benefits. The study might help in finding ways to held agricultural activities and biodiversity conservation. Mainly in countries like Ethiopia where human population is alarmingly increasing and establishment of large protected areas is becoming difficult. 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 RF in the future if needed.