

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	Hussein Ibrahim Seid
Project title	Behavioural ecology of hamadryas baboons (<i>Papio hamadryas</i>) in and around Borena-Sayint National Park, northern Ethiopia
RSG reference	22256-1
Reporting period	July, 2017 to June, 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	husseineim99@gmail.com
Date of this report	July, 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 assess the activity patterns and ranging behaviour of hamadryas baboons in and around Borena-Sayint National Park				
To determine the diet and feeding ecology of hamadryas baboons				
To determine the habitat use of hamadryas baboons				
To assess the monthly phenology of graminoids, forbs and trees in the home range of the study groups				
To assess the vegetation composition of the forest within the home range of the study groups				
To instill the conservation value of wildlife and their habitats to the members of the communities surrounding the park				It needs more time and effort to have the expected awareness among the communities

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

This research project has been carried out as planned and there were no major difficulties encountered during the study period.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project include:

- This study provides baseline data on the activity patterns, ranging behaviour, feeding ecology and habitat use of hamadryas baboons in and around Borena-Sayint National Park which are important to develop conservation management plans.
- The data are essential inputs to the wildlife managers in the Park, Zonal and Regional Wildlife Office, Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and other stakeholders to plan feasible conservation management scheme for hamadryas baboons and other wildlife and their habitats.
- Awareness creation on the conservation value of wildlife and their habitats to the local people surrounding the park.

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

The local communities were involved in several ways, for instance as field assistant, local guide and camp attendant thereby benefiting economically. They also benefitted economically by hiring their horses, mules and donkeys. In addition, the local people were benefitted in learning and sharing skills to participate in scientific data collection to be employed for future research projects that will be undertaken in the area. The local people involved in this project will be advocates of conservation of wildlife and their habitats in their communities. The community leaders were also involved in this project through discussion about the importance of the project and to conserve the wildlife of the study area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes indeed. After this research project, I have already planned for further research project on the population size, structure and distribution of hamadryas baboons in and around Borena-Sayint National Park. Thus, this will help to have full information about hamadryas baboons of BSNP for any future scientific based conservation and management plan for the species and its habitats in addition to the result of the current research.

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

At the end of the project, I have a plan to share the results of the project by publishing in reputable peer-reviewed scientific journals. The results of this project will also be given to the funding organisations, the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the relevant local, regional, and federal government and non-governmental agencies to implement the conservation of hamadryas baboons and other wildlife and their habitats. The results of the project will also be disseminated through websites to reach the public at large. In addition, I will give presentations at local and national workshops and conferences about the results of the project.

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 has been conducted within the time frame as planned

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
Wireless Thermometer (1×£32)	£32	£32		*During obtaining the grant, one £ sterling was exchanged with 28.45 Ethiopian Birr
Wireless Rain gauge (1×£43)	£43	£43		
Compass (1×£15)	£15	£15		
Sleeping bags (4×£85)	£340	£340		
Field boots	£210	£210		
Tents (1×£95)	£95	£95		
Per diem for principal investigator	£1700	£1700		
Per diem for a field assistant	£800	£800		
Per diem for a local guide	£906	£906		
Per diem for a camp attendant	£859	£859		
Total	£5000	£5000		

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

The current research project was successful in achieving the goals as planned. The next important steps for this project are to organise and analyze all the data and write up process, proceed to publishing the results and submitting the reports to the decision makers to initiate the implementation of recommendations from this project to conserve the hamadryas baboons and other wildlife and their habitats. My next research plan is to conduct surveys to determine the population size, structure and distribution of hamadryas baboons in and around BSNP. Afterwards, I will engage in research projects on the conservation and management of Ethiopian primates and their habitats in collaboration with national and international primatologists.

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

I didn't produce any material till now from this project so that there was no any previous use of The Rufford Foundation logo. However, I will use The Rufford Foundation logo in any of the publication materials, reports and PhD dissertation that I will produce in relation to this project. With regard to the publicity of RF in general and approval of my project to this fund in particular, I have informed Addis Ababa University (Department of Zoological Sciences), Wollo University (my home institution), EWCA and other organizations and for colleagues working on the Biodiversity of Ethiopia.

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

Prof. Afework Bekele, Peter Fashing and Dr. Addisu Mekonnen have been supervising this research project starting from proposal development to finalizing the data collection. In addition, their help and support will continue in organizing and analyzing the data and manuscript preparation for publication in well-regarded journals.

12. Any other comments?

I would like to express my warm appreciation and thank to The Rufford Foundation for funding my research project that otherwise wouldn't have been conducted. This financial support enables me to direct my activities only towards achieving the planned goals. Furthermore, many thanks are to RSGF for your kind support and contribution to the conservation efforts in Ethiopia.

During my stay in the field I saw hamadryas baboon groups less than five individuals. In the study area, the smallest group has only two members.

Hence I kindly request you to change the description of the previous photo (that is available in the web page) as given below.



Resting of hamadryas baboons and geladas towards sunset



A group of hamadryas baboons foraging outside the park