

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	Tsigereda Dessalegn
Project title	Distribution, Abundance and Breeding Success of the Critically Endangered Hooded Vulture (<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>) in Addis Ababa and Surrounding Towns, Ethiopia
RSG reference	26075-1
Reporting period	October 2018 to November 2019
Amount of grant	£4,648
Your email address	tsrose2002@gmail.com
Date of this report	30 th December, 2019

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	achieved	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To estimate the abundance and distribution of Hooded Vultures (<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>)					The population density and distribution of the species is well described. The main potential areas and habitats for resting and roosting were also well assessed.
To assess the breeding success of the species					The major breeding attempts of the species were described. But it needs further investigation as the breeding behaviour of hooded vultures (<i>N. monachus</i>) is confirmed to lasting quite long period of time throughout the year.
To identify major conservation threats of Hooded Vultures (<i>N. monachus</i>)					The major conservation threats of hooded vultures were described as electrocution, indirect poisoning, persecution, and habitats destruction and loss (both roosting and breeding) with current expanding infrastructure and related anthropogenic activities.

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

It is expected to face challenges in such ecological studies, and I have also similar experiences. But, the most unforeseen difficulties in this project were:

- i. We faced difficulties to access and undertake survey in the abattoirs, surrounding areas and on private farmlands. We managed to explain the aims and outcomes of the project and reached at mutual consent.
- ii. Another challenge was financial constraints related with administrative and management overheads (i.e. 10% of the overall project fund) to the organisations, which received and administered the project grant on my behalf. We have resolved the issue by going through thorough compensation and shifting cost from other proposed activities and items.
- iii. We have also faced difficulty with inaccessibility of top-of-the line equipment, such as camera traps, to undertake survey specifically on raptors. We tackled the issues by using an ordinary camera as an alternative though it was only a temporary solution.

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

- i. I got detailed experiences in ornithological techniques including survey design, and data collection on hooded vulture which is also very crucial to future conservation endeavours on raptors ecology, behaviour and conservation.
- ii. Complete assessment of the population density and distribution of hooded vultures.
- iii. Since the species is Critically Endangered, and needs immediate conservation action, it is basic to identify major threats, which is successfully accomplished with the current project.

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

Two local field guides and one field assistant were hired from the surrounding community to assist with fieldwork. They have got significant experiences in field data collection and bird counting and identification skills which is also important for their involvement in further projects and conservation activities. Selected individuals from the surrounding communities, abattoirs and municipalities were also participated in questionnaire data collection session as well to get informed about the conservation significances and threats of vultures.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. With this project, we better understood the population density, distribution patterns and conservation threats of hooded vultures in the study areas. More effort is needed to undertake further investigations about the breeding behaviours of the species. Community education and outreach programme is also highly significant to increase communities understanding about the conservation significance and reduce major conservation threats to improve the conservation status of the species. Therefore, we are planning to continue the project on the breeding behaviour of hooded vultures, and investigate the nest site selection, breeding success and possible causes of nest failure. It will provide up-to-date significant information to identify conservation priorities and devise sustainable conservation action/strategies since the species is categorised as critically endangered and needs immediate conservation attention to safeguard the future existence of the species.

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

We will communicate and share the results and outputs of the project with the scientific community and conservation societies through publication, as we are preparing two peer-reviewed scientific papers which will be published in reputable scientific journals. I will share the progress of the study on the Rufford Foundation website. I will also use my ResearchGate and other social media accounts to share

the information of the project and communicate with other concerned professionals.

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 Rufford Foundation grant was used over the anticipated period from October 2018 to November 2019. All the proposed activities were accomplished within the timescale as designed in the project proposal.

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
Accommodation for principal investigator	£1260	£1260		
Allowance for field assistants	£975	£975		
Payment for local guides	£960	£960		
Transportation cost	£485	£600	+\$115	The difference was due to an increment in transport cost
Equipment (Digital Camera recorder) cost	£345		-\$345	The allocated fund was shifted to cover the administrative overheads. And, I have borrowed the equipment from my colleague.
Laboratory supplies cost	£215	£215		
Fuel expense	£80	£60	-\$20	The difference was used to compensate the transportation cost
Data storage device	£153	£58	-\$95	The difference was used to compensate the transportation cost
Consumables (AA Alkaline Battery for GPS and torch) and communication expense	£175	£55	-\$120	The difference was used to compensate the management overheads cost

Administrative and management overheads (10% of the overall project fund)		£465	+£465	I didn't expect such grant deduction and propose to include for Administrative and management overheads. Rather, I was supposing to receive the grant to my personal bank account.
TOTAL	4657	4648	-9	The exchange rate was about 36.47 Ethiopian Birr for £1 GBP Sterling.

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

Ethiopia is regarded as an important stronghold for vultures in Africa and considered as one of the most important countries for conservation of threatened vulture, yet they are less investigated. Therefore, we are supposing to extend our project on the breeding behaviour of hooded vultures in the country to have complete scientific information. It has long-term contributions in provide significant baseline information to design sustainable species conservation action plan/strategies to minimise population declines and improve the conservation status of the species.

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?

Though I did not use the logo so far, I will be presenting the progress report of my PhD study, in which RSG Foundation is acknowledged. I'm also working on scientific publications for my theses, in which the foundation will be acknowledged very well. The logo of Rufford Foundation will also be used promptly in upcoming scientific journal publications and conference presentations on conservation organisations, scientific societies, and any further communication.

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

Tsigereda Dessaegn: - She was the project leader. She was responsible in managing the overall project activities including research design, data collection, logistics, data compilation and analyses, and report writing.

Professor Afework Bekele: - Pro. Afework was project supervisor and assisting in the details of ecological survey design and data collection techniques. He was also supporting in logistics.

Bezawork Afework (PhD): - Dr. Bezawork was also a project supervisor. She was assisting in the details of Ornithological field techniques and hooded vulture survey methods. She was also very supportive in data collection and analysis techniques.

12. Any other comments?

We are grateful for The Rufford Foundation for supporting this project, without which this work would not have been successful. I look forward to getting future support from the foundation as well. It is highly appreciated to pay the grant through personal bank account to minimise the unnecessary deduction for overhead and administrative costs to organisation for receiving the grant on our behalf with no significant involvement in the project elements, and also the bureaucracies and delay in processing the grant. Many thanks should go to all of the project team members, local guides, and assistants who have helped with fieldwork and for their unreserved guidance. We are also extremely grateful to all administrators and members of abattoirs and landowners who have allowed us access to undertake fieldwork.

Thank you for your contribution on my project.



Vultures survey around Sebeta abattoir. © Tsigereda, 2019.