

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Tariku Mekonnen Gutema
Project Title	Promoting the Co-Existence Approach of Carnivore Conservation in Human dominated landscape of Ethiopian Highlands, Guassa
Application ID	29692-D
Grant Amount	£9995
Email Address	Jtarikumg@gmail.com
Date of this Report	20 May, 2021

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 Improve public understanding of how nature and wildlife contribute to ecosystem service				Increasing the community awareness about the contribution of African wolves, regarding controlling rodent pests and cleaning the environment. This improves the knowledge of the local communities toward the ecosystem services of African wolves.
Minimize the interspecific competition between African wolves and Ethiopian wolves.				In normal circumstances, African wolves live near to human settlements, while Ethiopian wolves are in the centre of the protected area. However, due to the serious human-African wolf conflict, the competition between Ethiopian wolves and African wolves has increased. Humans have pushed the African wolves toward the habitat of Ethiopian wolves. Therefore, the minimisation of the human-African wolf conflict indirectly minimises the competition between the two wolf species.
Improves skills in Bee farming				Most farmers do not use modern farming in the area.
Identify and characterize den site of African wolf and minimize impacts of killing pups by poison and smoking				All the den sites of African wolves were identified. The discussion was undertaken with the protected area managers and the community about how to protect the reproduction site of the African

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

Covid-19 is the unforeseen difficulty that arose during the project, which prevented us carrying out the interview and group discussion with the communities on time. I tackled the problem by following different restriction guidelines and using only a small number of communities in the discussion.

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

The main outcomes of our study are as follows:

- Community awareness toward the African wolf's ecosystem service increased.
- The den sites (reproduction sites) of African wolves were identified for conservation.
- The communities have started to generate alternative livelihoods (nature-friendly income sources e.g. modern bee farming).
- Establishment of a new local NGO (Threatened Species Conservation with other Rufford grantee, Ababayehu Aticho) which is important to take further conservation commitment.

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

Two field assistants (Demeke and Abebe) have been permanently employed full-time for 1 year. Four field assistants have been working on the project, based on contract, for 6 months, each. All assistants involved in the project have had an important experience. This benefits them to participate in future nature conservation. The project has created awareness toward human-carnivore conflict mitigation that contributes to carnivore species conservation and livelihood improvement for the community.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project has provided us with valuable information about the human-carnivore conflict mitigation measures in the Guassa. It also reduced the anthropogenic impacts on the reproduction sites of African wolves. Therefore, we have planned to use this experience for other parts of the country. The next plan will:

1. Develop a conservation management plan for Guassa community conservation area.
2. Continue promoting human-carnivore coexistence and minimising conflict in another Afro-alpine part of Ethiopia (Bale Mountains National Park).
3. Evaluate the status of African wolf population and human-African wolf conflict in lowlands of Ethiopia, where high conflict has been observed, Gambella and Chebera-churchura National Park, to compare with Ethiopian highlands.

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

The results of this study will be widely shared with the policy makers and decision-making authorities to implement conservation measures. We are planning to publish our work in peer review journals. Most importantly, we will share outcomes of the study with the local community by conducting community workshops and audio-visual presentations and through the local media. Two papers are ready for publications.

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

The RSG fund was planned to be used for 1 year in the beginning. However, due to Covid-19, some activities of the project delayed by 6 months.

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
Local transport (horse,)	495	495		
Per diem for assistants during interview and community awareness	630	630		
Per diem for researcher	900	900		
Kinjohi HC-801LTE 4G Hunting Camera 16 MP 64 GB Trail Camera IP65 photo		2500	+2500	
Den site survey	1600	1600		
Training selected farmers for beekeeping, as a model	1400	1400		
Focus group discussion with community	520	520		
School nature club field visit	700	700		
Stationery	500	500		
Transport	630	2780	+2150	
Workshop for Expertise and managers at different level	620	620		
School Club Motivation	750	750		
Community workshop	1250	1250		
TOTAL	9995	14645	+4650	4650 was from other sources, 995 from RSG

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

Promoting human-carnivore coexistence in the country.

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, we have used The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials we produced. For instance t-shirts and posters.

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

Tariku Mekonnen Gutema from Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine-Principal Investigator

Claudio Sillero-Zubiri from university of Oxford is leading scientists on EW conservation. He established EW Conservation Program (EWCP), which played key role in research, and conservation of EW for over two decades. He will be involved in all aspects of the Project.

Nils Chr. Stenseth from University of Oslo is one of the few high-profile researchers interested and highly engaged in biodiversity research of Africa. He leads the discovery of the AW and many other important findings in Ethiopia, and he is the main research advisor of my project.

Peter J. Fashing from California State University leads a long-term project on biodiversity in the central highlands of Ethiopia. He will be mainly involved in the writing of the manuscript from this project.

Anagaw Atickem from Addis Ababa University, he will participate all aspects of this Project

Community awareness toward the African wolf's ecosystem service was given on the field.



Figure 1: Tariku giving awareness for the shepherds while guarding sheep on the field



Figure 2. Tariku and community living around the Guassa Conservation Area discussion on alternative livelihood (honey production)

The outcome of the project also reduced the anthropogenic impacts on the reproduction sites of African wolves. Therefore, we have planned to use this experience for other parts of the



Figure 3. Demeke pointing toward Den site of African wolves

Successful stories from my Rufford Project:

- **Establishment of a new NGO called 'Threatened Species Conservation (TSC)'.
After donation by Rufford Foundation (four rounds), my friend (Wattled Crane Rufford Project, Jimma) and I (African wolf Project) have established the new NGO. To play more role in the conservation of the threatened species.**
- **Establishment of a new protected Area Rainforest Trust.:**
Anaz Guassa Community Conservation Area (Expansion of Guassa Community Conservation Area) by Rain forest Trust
<https://www.rainforesttrust.org/projects/saving-the-ethiopian-wolf-from-extinction/>
The Rufford Small Grants Programme website is doing a great job for our nature conservation. The former member of Rain forest Trust (Rick Passaro), wrote an email looking at my project, from the Websites, then we developed a proposal to establish a new protected Area, Anaz Guassa Community Conservation Area, and it becomes successful.

Email from Rain Forest Trust: Rick Passaro Rick@rainforesttrust.org on the date 4,2016, 8:45PM "Dear Tariku Mekonnen Gutema-

Greetings. I recently read of your work on the Rufford Small Grants Programme website, and I thought you might be able to assist each other.

Briefly, here at Rainforest Trust we seek out in-country NGOs to assist in protecting local and endemic endangered species by buying or designating land and then assisting our local partners in protecting that land as well as the species within. If this is something you are interested in pursuing, then we would certainly like to hear more about your work and discuss a possible future collaboration. Alternatively, if you should know of any well-run local NGOs within the country that might be interested in partnering with us, we would certainly appreciate hearing about them''.

Rick