

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh
Project Title	Assessing the Feasibility of a Local Community Managed Protected Area Creation to Save the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin from Extinction
Application ID	29786 -D
Date of this Report	August 2023

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
<p>Scoping study to entail desk studies to collate existing information pertinent to the proposed site and site visit combining ground truthing through limited site assessments to evaluation the habitat quality and to determine potential boundaries of the protected area</p>				<p>Initially this activity was scheduled from April 1 to 30, 2020 but due to the restrictions of the Covid19 pandemic, it was carried out from September 1 to 30, 2020.</p> <p>Intensive scoping studies, including desk studies aimed at gathering existing information relevant to the proposed site for the establishment of a locally managed protected area, have been carried out within the limits of our capacities.</p> <p>Visits combining field verifications and rapid site assessments to assess the quality of the habitat and determine the potential limits of the zone to be created for the protected area have been organised involving local communities, traditional chiefs and certain officials of the regional authorities.</p>
<p>consultation meetings with all key stakeholders including government at national and regional levels, local communities, civil society organizations, traditional and religious authorities to determine support for protected area creation, type of protected areas, legal process to create protected area, size and boundaries of the protected area</p>				<p>This objective is partially complete. Optimistic results were obtained by securing a principal agreement for a potential, motivated and voluntary support from the main stakeholders, namely the local community and community-based organisations working in our project area on the concept of the creation of a locally managed protected area.</p> <p>Furthermore, we believe so far that there is still a lot to do in terms of advocacy and raising awareness among government technical department.</p>
<p>Participatory - consultative workshop to determine all relevant stakeholders' support for the scope of the project</p>				<p>This objective is partially complete. Due to delays in the implementation of project activities partially related to the advent of the Covid19 pandemic, the participation of government technical</p>

			departments was very limited in the few workshops that we had organized.
conduct intensive advocacy campaigns to convince government authorities and all relevant stakeholders to support the designation of the community managed protected area			This objective is partially complete. We made significant progress during the grant, but for reasons beyond our control, the implementation schedule was not met and not all expected results were achieved. Many planned activities have been partially carried out including a series of consultation meetings planned with the government at national and regional levels to determine support for the creation of protected areas, the type of protected areas, legal process to create a managed protected area locally, size and limits of the area to be protected.
Preparing article on the project results for publication of the project results			Despite the many difficulties encountered beyond our control, this report and the results of our project's work are available to the local community and the technical environment department of the government. Based on the information collected during all of the various Rufford Small Grants obtained so far, a publishable memo is currently being drafted and will soon be submitted to a newsletter of a national study and research centre.
Applying to attend a session of RSG conferences to present the results of the project and to meet other beneficiaries of Rufford Small Grant			As the delivery of our final report were delayed, we did not apply.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a).** Principle will from the authorities in charge of the environment to include the concept of locally managed protected areas by the community in an upcoming legal framework on the management of protected areas in the Republic of Djibouti.
- b).** A principal agreement for a potential, motivated and voluntary support from the main stakeholders, namely the local community and community-based organisations working in our project area on the concept of the creation of a locally managed protected area.

c). Openness and positive reception by all stakeholders, including women, of the idea of setting up volunteer eco-guards/eco-guides from the local community.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The major difficulties encountered during the execution of the project were similar to the concerns we had encountered previously (Refs: 18.03.09-Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh, 11021-2 -Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh & 13301-B -Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh), namely the distance of the site of implementation of the activities (Day Forest) compared to our office which is located in the capital, the city Djibouti and the lack of infrastructure of accessibility to the project area (rough geology and lack of roads) as well as the high cost of living in our country (high vehicle rental costs).

The situation has been somewhat improved with additional financial support from other donors to cover the amount needed. A significant fund from SIDA (Sweden) through the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center and Network (HoA-REC/N) in Ethiopia which allowed us to reach the end of the tunnel in order to implement the majority of our project activities.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Like all of our actions contributing to the country's biodiversity conservation efforts, this project has enabled the local community to better understand the importance of local, participatory, urgent and inclusive community engagement in achieving of actions guaranteeing the sustainability of the relict forest areas of the Mount Goda ecosystem, to the benefit of both the living conditions of the local community and the survival of the animal and plant species threatened and dependent on this ecosystem.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

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

A fundamental problem in solving conservation problems in my country, Djibouti, is both the lack of a clear environmental policy at the governmental level and the lack of financial means and experienced human resource capacities of civil society, including Djibouti Nature that remains one of the organisations most committed to nature conservation.

But like so many developing countries in the world in general and in Africa in particular, Djiboutian civil society organisations working on conservation issues are poorly supported and remain weak in contributing to development or conservation efforts. .

If a national network of civil society organisations is formed and has capacity, this would surely have created opportunities to share experiences gained during this project.

Again, as the state of the targeted ecosystem is still little known, the agreements and openings in principle obtained during the implementation of our project will have a significant impact on future work and should be of great help to our organisation in the continuity of our advocacy actions for the conservation of nature in our country.

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

Since its creation in 1999, Djibouti Nature, our organisation, has never spared its efforts to advocate the causes of nature conservation issues at the local, national, regional and even global levels.

Regionally and globally, Djibouti Nature has focused its energy to join nature conservation networks and successfully, Djibouti Nature, has become a member of the following networks: BirdLife International Partnership, East Africa Environment Network, Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center and Network (of which Djibouti Nature is a founding member) and Wetlands International. Also, Djibouti Nature has collaborated and still collaborates with several other non-governmental organisations, universities or research institutions including World Pheasant Association (UK), Duke Lemur Center Museum of Natural History of Duke University, North Carolina (USA), Hawkwatch International of Utah State University, Utah (USA), Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Washington DC (USA), etc.

At the national and local levels, Djibouti Nature has produced and disseminated environmental awareness and education tools.

In reference to the unrestrained will of Djibouti Nature, the emerging openings and the agreements in principle of the stakeholders at all levels (at the base, in the academic world and at the governmental level), awareness and environmental education for all the levels remain our priority of the next major steps to solidify efforts to sustain the level of future interest recorded during the implementation of the project thanks to the support of the Rufford Foundation.

8. 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, when introducing workshops and/or consultation meetings with stakeholders, the financial support of the Rufford Foundation has been highlighted and the logo has always been used.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Mr. Houssein Abdillahi Rayaleh (Team leader and applicant)

Mr. Ali Dabale Mohamed (Community liaison)

Ms. Fatouma Moumin Abdillahi (Finance and administration officer)

Mr. Hassan Wadour Had (Driver)

Mr. Mohamed Abdallah Ali

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed

Mr. Abdillahi Houssein Abdallah (PhD)

Mr. Djama Goumaneh Awaleh (MsC)

10. Any other comments?

Significant financial resources mobilized by the secretariat of HoA-REC&N, within the framework of the HoA-CCP 2015-2018 and HoA-ESR projects respectively financed by the governments of Netherlands and Sweden, have brought about observable significant changes in the target landscapes including the day forest in Djibouti.