

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Claver NTOYINKIMA
<b>Project Title</b>	Identifying Environmental Factors affecting the habitat of the Grey Crowned Cranes ( <i>Balearica regulorum</i> ) in Nyungwe National Park, Rwanda.
<b>Application ID</b>	33414-1
<b>Date of this Report</b>	29 October 2022

**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 assess the quality of habitats for (B. regulorum).				The quality of habitat is well known the information collected by measuring plant height and ground cover.
To assess the threats facing the Cranes and its habitat in and around NNP,				The threats to cranes and their habitat were identified; they are mainly based on human activities and natural hazards.
To identify spatial distribution range of Cranes in wetlands in and around NNP,				Distribution of cranes within the wetlands of our study areas were identified and ranked as either rarely or commonly occurring on the site.

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

**a).** Knowledge about the quality of habitat for grey crowned crane in and around Nyungwe National Park. At the end of this research the suitable habitat of grey crowned crane for both feeding and reproduction within our study areas is known; the information gathered through vegetation sampling. By sharing the information about suitability of habitat of the cranes, policy and decision makers and environmental managers will use the gathered information to set the measures for protection of identified important habitat.

**b).** Awareness about the threats facing the grey crowned cranes and their habitat in and around Nyungwe National Park. This information is necessary to monitor, minimize or stop identified threats and ensure the safety of cranes and other wildlife within identified sites.

**c).** Awareness about population size of cranes remaining in wetlands within and around Nyungwe. The gathered information will be useful by researchers who may study the crane population growth, as well as managers at different levels. Not only scientists but also tourism agents who will develop these wetlands as one of important birding sites which is an opportunity of income generation through community-based tourism.

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

The unforeseen difficulties were the research permit acquisition, which took a long time and a long process. The main cause was the shift of management of Nyungwe National Park from Rwanda Development Board (RDB) to Nyungwe Management Company (NMC), an African Parks company managing NNP. To tackle this issue, I

cancelled the demand for a research permit that I had submitted to RDB then started a new process with NMC managers.

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

The local communities were the main involved and beneficiaries of the project because all research assistants, sampling quadrats makers used during data collection were from local communities and subsistence was reserved for them. Most of the equipment used in this project were purchased from the shops owned by local communities. Information from this study was shared with local authorities and community representation in a wider meeting at Nyamasheke district.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, I am planning to continue this work and upscale it to the next step to ensure sustainable conservation of cranes and other birdlife in our study area. The next step is to develop conservation materials such as community conservation education and awareness, and development of community birding tourism for protection and sustainable conservation of cranes in wetlands outside NNP.

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

My plan is to publish the results to different levels: First, data was visually/physically shared with and presented to the conservation and management decision makers in the stakeholder workshop including Rwanda Environment Authority (REMA), Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Nyungwe Management Company (NMC) and Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (RWCA, a local NGO committed to conserve grey crowned cranes, as well as Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), an international NGO working with RDB for conservation of Nyungwe over 30 years for conservation. Second, I plan to publish data collected in this study in a peer reviewed journal to inform the public.

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

Improving awareness of the community about the conservation of grey crowned crane and educating school children.

**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?**

I used the Rufford Foundation logo on the invitation for the result presentation, and the Power Point Presentation slides.

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

**THE RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>Claver NTOYINKIMA</b>	Researcher, field activities coordinator and data analysis
<b>Felix MULINDAHABI</b>	Researcher's mentor, field data collection trainer and technical adviser
<b>Jacques HAKIZIMANA</b>	Vegetation sampling and plot measuring
<b>François NKURUNZIZA</b>	Grey Crowned Crane and other birds' data collection
<b>Venerand NGIRABABYEYI</b>	Grey Crowned Crane and other birds' data collection
<b>Elysé MUGANGA</b>	Helped in creation of quadrates in wetlands and collection of information concerning Grey Crowned Crane from local farmers.
<b>Damien NTAWURINEZA</b>	Participation in vegetation sampling and data collection
<b>Martin MUDAHERANWA</b>	Participation in vegetation sampling and data collection
<b>Ladislav NKURIKIYIMANA</b>	Participation in vegetation sampling and data collection
<b>Bertin NZABARINDA</b>	Participation in vegetation sampling and data collection
<b>Jean Baptiste GAKIMA</b>	Helped in data entry

**10. Any other comments?**

All planned related research activities were successfully accomplished though we faced some challenges: the long process of acquiring research permits and harsh weather that caused the complicated access to the working sites.



