

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Prudence Ndabasanze
Project Title	Community-based Ecological monitoring of critically endangered Hooded Vulture in Rwanda
Application ID	33747-B
Date of this Report	April 20th, 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
Establish a long-term Monitoring program of Hooded vultures across the country				<p>30 Vulture Conservation Champions (VCCs) from 15 selected locations were trained on using the Cybertracker software for data recording and engaged in population assessment at feeding and nesting sites, nests monitoring, threats assessment, and raising awareness.</p> <p>As of December 2021, 186 records collected across the country on the selected sites showed presence of hooded vultures. Other species of vultures were recorded as well. A detailed report will be finalised and shared with conservation stakeholders.</p>
Raise community awareness on vulture conservation				<p>Together with Nature Rwanda team, the Vulture Conservation Champions played a critical role on International Vulture Awareness Day celebrated for the first time in Rwanda on September 4th 2021, at all 15 locations.</p> <p>This activity was partially achieved due to the measures taken by the Government to curb COVID-19. Though the planned awareness activities didn't reach the initial targets, we leveraged on the digital platforms to raise awareness and Nature Rwanda's eco-clubs. Moreover, we developed materials in Kinyarwanda and distributed the in the selected 15 locations.</p>

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

- a). Estimated population of hooded vultures outside protected areas - we are elaborating a report which will provide baseline information on the population of hooded vultures in Rwanda.
- b). Established vulture monitoring tools and methodologies that enable community members to take part into the monitoring work of hooded vultures, as well as spreading conservation messages to other community members.
- c). Increased community awareness on vulture conservation at the target locations through a developed understanding of myth and facts about vultures.

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

There were no major difficulties during the project implementation apart from the challenges related to COVID-19 global pandemic. This had delayed some of the activities and impacted the initial awareness raising activities. To tackle this, we leveraged on digital platforms to raise awareness on the conservation of vultures and eco-clubs' activities in collaboration with Nature Rwanda.

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

Local communities were very crucial for the success of this project. Upon training on vulture ecology and monitoring methodology, Vulture Conservation Champions (youth volunteers) were involved in vulture monitoring work in their respective assigned sites. Assisted by the local authorities; they were also given time to pass a conservation message to the community members during community meetings.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As tools are there and Vulture Guardian are willing to keep supporting the work, the work will continue at all locations. More attention will be made on nest monitoring in Busaga forest in order to understand the breeding ecology of hooded vultures within this forest. We also plan to work with Akagera Management Company to start vulture monitoring work in Akagera National Park.

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

Publishing the result from this project in a scientific publication is a way to share our findings. Moreover, the finding will also be shared to different conservation partners in conferences, trainings, seminars, and workshops.

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

There are three main things to do as part of the next step of this project:

1. Strengthening the enforcement and patrolling of Busaga Forest to minimise threats to hooded vulture breeding sites, then improve their breeding success, which will lead to an increase of the population of hooded vultures.
2. Assess the implication of movement patterns of hooded vulture on food resource distribution, main threats at their feeding and nesting sites, the association between their nest site selection and safety, and whether nest site selection can affect their breeding success.
3. Enhancing the public awareness through education or fun activities.

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, the Rufford Foundation logo was used on all printed and electronic communication materials produced and developed under this project. The Rufford Foundation was also mentioned in all media outlets developed under this project.

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

Prudence Ndabasanze: Project Lead.

Jean Claude DUSABIMANA: Arranged all the activities in this project and now working on data analysis & paper writing.

Thomas Kanyempura: Coordinated data collection and awareness activities.

Clementine MUSENGIMANA: Coordinated the financial management.

10. Any other comments?

I would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for the financial support provided to this project in order to make it a success. This is an unforgettable contribution to the conservation of vultures in Rwanda. The insights from this project will serve as a baseline for the upcoming initiatives on conservation of vultures in Rwanda.