The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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	Abebe Getahun
Project title	Enhancing conservation of the *Labeobarbus* species flock of Lake Tana, Ethiopia, through better understanding of their ecology and active participation of the community.
RSG reference	61.08.09
Reporting period	June 2010 to December 2010
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	abebeg@bio.aau.edu.et and abebe12002@yahoo.com
Date of this report	20 December 2010

1. Please 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
Creating awareness about the threats and conservation status of *Labeobarbus* spp. flock of Lake Tana, especially of those fishes that use Arno-Garno River		√		The effectiveness of the awareness depends on socio-economic factors (availability of alternative livelihoods for the fishermen and farmers, development of aquaculture practices, etc.) and the extent of implementation of management measures all around Lake Tana. Follow up workshops may also be required.
Determining the diversity of the *Labeobarbus* spp. that use Arno-Garno River as breeding ground or as a route to other tributaries			√	It is believed that the sampling is extensive and exhaustive not to miss any of the *Labeobarbus* spp. that aggregate at the Arno-Garno River mouth and use the river and its tributaries as breeding grounds.
Determining the relative abundance of each of the *Labeobarbus* spp.			√	We have determined which of the species are abundantly found at the Arno-Garno River and its tributaries
Determining the reproductive status of the fishes by examining gonad maturity stages			√	We have determined that the species that aggregate at the river mouth and also migrate upstream to tributary rivers are for spawning purposes (with mature and ripe gonads)

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

- The sampling sites were remote and difficult to reach especially during rainy season (time of migration of the fishes). However, use of animals and unreserved cooperation of the local fishermen has helped to solve this problem

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

- Awareness creation among the fishermen of the locality as well as development workers and experts of related ministries (Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources).
- Basic data on the identity, abundance and gonad maturity of the fish species that use Arno-Garno River for migration and spawning.
- A graduate student is associated in the study and an MSc thesis is being produced by the results obtained from this investigation.

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

- The local community, especially the fisher community, was actively involved in collecting samples from the river mouth as well as the main river and its tributaries.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- Yes, there are plans to continue similar work on all the feeder rivers and then proceed to radio telemetric studies of the migratory behaviour of the fishes. The awareness creation workshop will also continue with fishers, development workers and decision makers.

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

- An MSc thesis will come out soon and there will, hopefully, be a scientific publication in a locally reputable journal. The project and its achievements will also be announced through a newsletter of the College of Natural Sciences, Addis Ababa University.

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

- The project actual work started in June 2010 and went up to December 2010. This was also the proposed length of the project.

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
Workshop at Maksegnit (Transport)	100	80	20	The number of participants was a little less than expected
Workshop at Maksegnit (poster preparation)	50	60	10	Price of materials and services has increased.
Workshop at Maksegnit (Lunch/Tea/Coffee)	200	150	50	The number of participants was a little less than expected
Workshop at Maksegnit (per diem for participants)	500	400	100	The number of participants was a little less than expected
Public transport	340	250	90	The place was remote, and some distance was covered on foot and animals
Vehicle rental	400	450	50	Price of materials and services has increased.

Boat rental	200	250	50	Price of materials and services has increased.
Fuel expense	350	450	100	Price of fuel has increased very much
Per diem of principal investigator	500	500	0	Has participated in the anticipated trips and utilized the proposed amount
Per diem of associates and fishermen	3360	3410	50	Some additions as subsistence expenses increased.
Total	**6000**	**6000**		

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

- Survey of all feeder rivers that are potential breeding areas and passage ways for the migratory fishes. We need to establish the pattern of the migration of the different species of *Labeobarbus* through radio telemetric methods. The awareness creation workshops should also continue and focus on discussing alternative livelihoods, management measures, especially closing season during migration of the fishes, licensing legal fishermen and controlling illegal fishermen, avoiding harmful fishing gears, etc..

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

- Yes, it has been displayed and properly acknowledged during the workshop that took place on 29th October 2010, in Maksegnit, Ethiopia. It is also now ready to be published in the newsletter of the College of Natural Sciences. The RSGF will also be properly acknowledged in the production of an MSc thesis and anticipated peer reviewed publication that will emerge from this work.

11. Any other comments?

- We are very much grateful to this very timely support as a contribution to save the unique and only surviving species flock of *Labeobarbus* spp. of Lake Tana as the lake and its biota are, currently, highly threatened by human pressure.