

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. 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. 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	Amaning Kwarteng David
Project title	Imminent Actions for the Conservation of Endangered and Endemic Bobiri Reed Frog, Eastern Ghana.
RSG reference	14089-2
Reporting period	October 2013-October 2014
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	davekwart@gmail.com
Date of this report	4 th March, 2015

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
Undertake targeted conservation education in communities fringing <i>H.bobiriensis</i> core range			x	<p>This project successfully carried out varying conservation education programs in communities fringing the core range of the Bobiri reed frog. Some of the programs are listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Soccer for Frogs: This project successfully organised a football competition for 10 fringing communities. The soccer for frogs capitalises on the fact that many Ghanaians are football lovers and will easily support any cause connected to it. This activity brought together about 500 community members to receive education on amphibian and nature conservation whilst enjoying their most cherished game-soccer. b) Schools and campuses conservation campaign: This project educated about 5000 school children in 10 community schools in the project catchment area. Students were shown beautiful pictures of frogs, how their activities affect them and what they can do to ensure those beautiful frogs lives for a longer time. c) Community conservation education: This project successfully carried community conservation education in five fringing communities. Various presentations on amphibian conservation as well as other wildlife videos were shown to community members. Community members were exposed to the threats of amphibians, and how their activities were further aggravating these threats. They were accordingly advised to halt their negative practices.
Restore degraded habitats of <i>H.bobirensis</i>		x		<p>We are happy to report that we have transplanted about 1000 native tree seedlings on degraded portions of <i>H. bobirensis</i> habitat. Tree planting is currently still ongoing. Even</p>

				more thrilling is that the habitat restoration programme is actively championed by the community members. Aside helping to collect tree seeds for nursery, community members have volunteered lots of their time to help with transplanting. This is very positive for conservation.
Train students and community members in amphibian ecology and conservation			x	This project has successfully trained 10 students from three Universities in Ghana and five local community members on nature and wildlife conservation in course dubbed Ecology Field School. The course was held for 1 week in the middle of a rain forest in Ghana. Students were taught courses including Research methods, Project design, amphibian capture and handling, amphibian identification protocols, small mammals. More emphasis was laid on amphibian conservation.
Species Monitoring			x	We employed the visible implant alpha tag technique to monitor the population of <i>H. bobirensis</i> . The species were monitored both in the wet and dry seasons.

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

This project encountered the complete drying up of the perennial pond in which the species occur. This delayed our species monitoring part of the project and subsequently delaying our reporting.

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

- a) We are excited to report that, the population of *H. bobirensis* increased by 10% in the wet season. Analysis of our population data in the dry season gave us population estimate of 145 ± 10 . However, legendary pond in which the species occur.
- b) Also we are thrilled by the overwhelming endorsement of our conservation education campaign among targeted communities. Aside the massive attendance and participation in our education programmes, the communities have fully embraced our behaviour change campaign. Our soccer for frog competition has now been adopted by the communities and has become an annual football competition between the local communities. Overall outcome of these activities is the renewed interest of community members to support nature conservation activities. This is evidenced through the community cheerful donation of some rare seeds of native trees for nursery and transplanting. Also, community members freely volunteered their time to partake in tree planting activities during the project. Importantly, our conservation education resulted in the formation community volunteer groups who will monitor the species core range against further degradation.
- c) We are happy to report that, this project contributed to successful the training of 10 students and volunteers, in various aspect of nature conservation including amphibians,

reptiles, small mammals, birds and tree species. The project gave the opportunity to these students to experience nature at first hand. The course was held in the middle of a rainforest in Ghana further strengthening its impact. Student's trainees can now set up their own small nature conservation projects.

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

Local communities' members were greatly involved and fully participated in this project. For instance, the local communities came together to compete for the amphibian trophy during our Soccer for frog campaign. Also community members fully participated in the rehabilitation of degraded sites. The involvement and attendance to our outdoor conservation education was further emphasising the involvement of local communities in the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We intend to continue with the next phase of the work.

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

Aspects of this work have already been shared in an international conference which was organised in Ghana to expose the biodiversity of the Atewa forest and the need to designate it as a national park so that its resources can be preserved. Further to this, we intend to publish the results of this work in an internationally recognised peer-reviewed journal for wider readership.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual 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
Transportation	1200	1000	200	Our car rental firm gave us a surprise discount which accounted for the difference
Fuel	1000	1050	-50	There were many fuel price increments in Ghana during the project implementation period.
Training	1700	2000	-300	Our decision to run field course in the middle of a rainforest, that will give the students both theoretical and field experience increased our budget than anticipated.
Conservation Education	900	900	0	
Personnel	1000	800	200	Subsistence for project personnel was reduced to support other parts of the project that were affected by

				unplanned circumstances.
Communication	200	150	50	
Species Monitoring	0	1500	1500	Our budget did not make provision for the species monitoring component of the project. Thankfully Herp Ghana provided funds for the monitoring component
TOTAL	6000	7,400	1400	

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

- a) In the coming years, we intend to upscale and intensify our conservation education campaign. We will increase the number of targeted communities from the current 15 communities to 30 communities.
- b) In the next phase of the project, we will train community members on alternative economic improvement options. This will greatly reduce their dependence on the fragile forest resources.
- c) There is the need to continue in the training of more students, volunteers, park managers and other wildlife workers in through our Ecology Field School Program. Train more students and volunteers
- d) We will continue to monitor the species in the coming years to ensure its persistence for the longer term.

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 the RSGF logo was used in the production of project t-shirts and banners. The logo was boldly embossed on it to give the RSGF the necessary publicity and acknowledgement.

11. Any other comments?

We greatly regret for the delay in submitting this report. The pond in which the species occur dried up completely and thus affected our species monitoring component of the project. Also, the project team leader fell sick towards the ending of this project. This accounted for the late reporting.