

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Kingsley Bekoe Ansah
Project title	Community Ecosystem Management Project (CEMP) in the Atewa Range Forest Reserve in Ghana
RSG reference	15015-1
Reporting period	April, 2014 to May, 2015
Amount of grant	£5973
Your email address	bekoekingsley@yahoo.com
Date of this report	1 st June, 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
Develop and test community based tools and systems to help communities to identify, assess and quantify the ecosystem services that is provided by Atewa using the concept of ecosystem services assessment			×	The tools developed have been used to collect data from the project communities to estimate the quantities and quality of ecosystem services derived from Atewa. The tools developed also formed the basis for the training of community members on the sustainable use limits of the benefits from Atewa. This also provided the background information needed for the development of the management plans.
Develop a management plan which is localised, specific to the community and based on the needs of the community and the capacity of the ecosystem.			×	The management plan has been developed for all the five project communities. Key development issues in the plan has been captured by the decentralised local governance system (Municipal Assembly) for implementation (this is to ensure sustainability of the impacts/outcomes of the project).
Documentation and dissemination of the tools, systems, processes and lessons learnt from the pilot to be used by other communities fringing Atewa and for other forest reserves in Ghana		×		The project communities have received information on the sustainable use and conservation of Atewa. They have also received information on forest sector policies and laws relevant for the sustainable use of Atewa. However dissemination of the final report and other relevant information has not been completed. This is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.

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

No major unforeseen difficulty arose during the implementation of the project. However, there were technical issues with facilitation at the community that was handled effectively. Community members especially leadership (assembly members, chiefs) normally demand for payments and other tokens in the form of drinks and money during community meetings. This situation has been brought about due to the influence of some NGOs in the past who were paying community members

some token for participation in community meetings (this refers to meetings held at the community). If this is not handled properly it could lead to delays in project implementation and sometimes apathy and unwillingness of communities to participate in project meetings. With the experience of the team, we managed to convey the message to them about the need for the project, their contribution to the successful project implementation in terms of their time and what greater benefits will accrue to them with their effective participation. This was done over a long period of time in order to fully bring everyone on board.

The second issue had to do with the arrangement of a suitable date for the stakeholder's workshop at the district level. This was mainly due to the unavailability of some key district stakeholders on many of the dates scheduled. We finally managed to agree on a date that was favourable for all the stakeholders including the community members.

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

The most important outcomes of the project are

- a. Tools, processes and systems developed and used in five project communities through a collaborative and participatory approach to develop management plan for the protection and limited encroachment of Atewa Range Forest Reserve in Ghana. The tools developed have been accepted widely, adopted and adapted for use in a broader and holistic ecosystem assessment and valuation study (also referred to as the Atewa TEEB study) to be undertaken in the coming months to support the decision to elevate the status of Atewa to a national park. As a result I am part of the international and multi-disciplinary team to undertake the study together with consultants from Netherlands and Ghana. The holistic study is supported by the governments of Ghana and Netherlands and financed by the Dutch Government.
- b. A management, synergy building and conflict management plan for the five project communities in relation to Atewa in place. This plan has the buy-in of the local government system (the Municipal Assembly) and will be used to feed into broader national level discourse on Atewa. The plan has enabled communities to identify development approaches and paths that is consistent with their aspirations of economic growth and development and still conserves and maintains the integrity of Atewa.
- c. Report of the project and other relevant information materials produced and distributed to wide range of stakeholders including the communities, NGO coalitions including the CONAMA (Coalition of NGOs Against Mining in Atewa), Forest Watch Ghana (FWG) and government (the Municipal Assembly).
- d. The level of awareness of the community members in the project communities has been enhanced through the implementation of the project and together with the implementation of the management plan this will reduce to the minimal level the encroachment and destruction of Atewa Range Forest Reserve. About 250 community members (160 males, 90 females) from the project communities have directly received the awareness and this is expected to provide benefits to over a thousand community members indirectly through its ripple effect. The communities testify that they had hitherto never received information on forest sector laws, their rights and responsibilities in relation to the forest reserve and the co-benefits they could receive from conservation and sustainable management of Atewa. After the awareness meetings the communities resolved to engage in sustainable forest

management practices and also protect Atewa in order to continue to enjoy especially the non-use values/benefits provided by Atewa.

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

Local communities benefited from and contributed to the project implementation a number of strategic ways. The communities were main targets of the project and were therefore involved directly as receivers of awareness information or providers of critical information feeding into action planning towards conservation and sustainable use of Atewa. Through the baseline survey and community meetings, relevant indigenous information on conservation values, norms, rules and regulations in relation to Atewa was sourced. The project communities were also directly involved in all the information sharing/awareness creation meetings as recipients. They also provided valuable insights which feed into the ecosystem assessment tools developed and the management planning afterwards. The community have thus received training on using indigenous knowledge together with orthodox ones to assess the usefulness, quantity and use levels of ecosystem services of Atewa in order to develop systems and practices to ensure wise/sustainable use and conserve critical flora and fauna of Atewa.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is huge demand from the communities, the Municipal Assembly and other relevant actors to continue the work. So far the management plan identifies possible collaborations between different stakeholder groups including NGOs to carry on some aspects of the project including the community sensitisation aspects through formation and sensitisation of environmental clubs in first and second cycle education institutions. The management plan has also identified possible collaborations with private and public institutions in Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to develop the ecotourism potential of Atewa to provide some decent and gainful employment to fringe communities and thus contribute to the conservation and sound use of the forest reserve. The action plan has also tasked implementers of this project and other NGOs to look for additional resources (grant funding) to build the technical capacities of fringe community members and provide start-up capitals for small and medium scale enterprises to reduce the pressure on Atewa. In the coming months it is anticipated that other relevant learning experiences and issues from the implementation of this project will be outlined and used to develop grant funding proposals to donors for support.

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

The final report of the project will be shared with all relevant stakeholders. The hardcopies will be distributed to all relevant stakeholders. The soft copy will be made available to A Rocha Ghana and Civic Response (frontline NGOs championing the conservation of Atewa in Ghana) to be put on their websites for greater publicity. I will also share the report with the team of consultants working on identifying and valuing the ecosystem services of Atewa (also referred to as Atewa TEEB study) of which I am part in order for it to feature prominently and feed into the recommendations of the study. The study is expected to inform government's long term policy decision on Atewa which includes elevating the status of the reserve into a national park to conserve critical flora and fauna.

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

The grant was used over the period of April 2014 to May 2015 which translates to 14 months. This means the actual project implementation lasted for an additional 2 months than was presented in the proposal. This is largely attributed to delays in arranging a suitable date for the stakeholder validation and action planning workshop.

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
Cost of hiring of vehicle @ Ghc 150/day for 5 days for reconnaissance survey (REC)	221	221	0	
Cost of 20 gallons of fuel per day for 5 days @Ghc 10 per gallon for REC	294	320	26	This was largely due to the hikes in fuel prices and the depreciation of the Ghana currency over the period of the project implementation.
DSA for 2 team members @Ghc 120 per day for 6 days for REC	424	424	0	
Cost of hiring vehicle@Ghc 150/day for 15 Days for survey tools deployment (SD)	662	662	0	
Cost of 25 gallons of fuel per day for 10 days @ Ghc 10 per gallon for SD	735	750	15	This was largely due to the hikes in fuel prices and the depreciation of the Ghana currency over the period of the project
DSA for 2 team members @Ghc 120 per day for 10 days for SD	706	706	0	
Cost of 2 day workshop to validate management plan and develop action plan for its implementation	1618	1618	0	
Allowance for 2 rapporteur for the workshop @Ghc200/day per person	235	235	0	
Cost of printing and photocopying of workshop material	235	250	15	This is due to depreciation of the local currency over the period and the high cost of printing services
Cost of stationery	118	118	0	

Cost of printing of end of project report and manual	441	450	9	This is due to depreciation of the local currency over the period and the high cost of printing services
Contingency (5% of total budget)	284	284	0	
Total	5973	6038	65	Note: The inter-bank average exchange rate used over the period (April, 2014 to May, 2015) is 4.65 Ghc to 1 GBP.

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

The important next steps include finalising the project report and sharing with all relevant stakeholders including Rufford Foundation. Also the key findings of the report will be incorporated into the recommendations of the Atewa TEEB study in order to gain traction with government and ensure sustainability of the important outcomes/impacts of the project (will use my influence as part of the consultants on the TEEB study to do this!). It is also important that in order to keep the aspirations of the community in suitable balance, different proposals need to be developed by NGOs and civil society organisations using the information from the project to explore the options of attracting donor funding to implement actions identified in the Management Plan. It is also anticipated that Rufford Foundation as a key and strategic partner will use the information in this report to engage with other donors to streamline and provide funding options for implementing a suit of capacity building, capital financing and awareness creation actions to provide holistic income generation livelihoods for fringe communities to provide as incentives to protect Atewa.

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

The project team made a conscious effort to ensure maximum publicity of the Rufford Foundation in the implementation of the project. During all the community meetings, the Rufford Foundation was mentioned as the funder of the project. The project implementation team went ahead to explain the interest of the funders in funding the project and the conservation and sustainable use of Atewa. In the interactions with other stakeholders at the district level, Rufford Foundation was mentioned as the funding partner of the project. All correspondence to stakeholders especially in the arrangement and implementation of the district stakeholder’s workshop mentioned Rufford Foundation as the funder. The banner developed for the workshop carried the logo and acknowledgement of the Rufford Foundation for maximum visibility (this is also shown in one picture from the project presented in the project pictures document). The products developed for the project including the reports, information materials carried the logo and acknowledgement of Rufford Foundation.

11. Any other comments?

The Rufford Foundation grant support has been extremely useful in terms of making resources available for the project team to do what it believes in to save nature around the world. With the grant we are taking the gradual but important step to protect Atewa Range Forest Reserve (conserving several hundreds of fauna and flora species) for present and future generations, supporting livelihoods of millions of people, guaranteeing the provision quality drinking water to

over 2 million people in Ghana's capital through the protection of vital watersheds and contributing to the mitigation of climate change. It is the hope of the project team that Rufford Foundation will continue its enormous work of conserving the world's ecosystems. We look forward to continuous engagement with the foundation.

Picture Report

Project title/number: Community Ecosystem Management Project (CEMP) of Atewa Range Forest Reserve in Ghana (15015-01)

Funded by: Rufford Foundation

© Kingsley Bekoe Ansah & Cedric Ofusu Fianko



Project team leader in a meeting with the manager of the District Forest Services Division of Ghana Forestry Commission



Project Assistant undertaking reconnaissance/baseline survey in a project community



Project team leader facilitating a district stakeholder's workshop at East Akim Municipal Assembly in Kibi, Ghana



Project team leader sensitizing community members on conservation values and policies and laws of forest management in Ghana



Project team leader addressing community members on benefits from Atewa and how they can protect the forest reserve



Project assistant undertaking ecosystem assessment with the survey tool developed with the communities