

Project Update: November 2015

The project is going on successfully as planned. Preliminary visits were made to both project sites in June, 2015 to establish contacts with local hunters, traditional leaders and other key stakeholders in the fringe communities. Reconnaissance surveys were then undertaken with assistance of some local hunters to familiarise them with the areas where crocodiles are located in the two reserves and the geographic coordinates of these areas were taken. From July-August 2015, wet season data was collected for the Draw River Forest Reserve where 13 individuals of the West African dwarf crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*) were recorded. Unfortunately, the slender-snouted crocodile was not spotted during this survey but we hope to record it in subsequent surveys. Concurrently, awareness campaigns were undertaken in the Draw village and the community school to educate them on the importance of crocodiles. Wet Season data collection is currently on going in the Tano Offin Forest Reserve.



Left: Community members listening to the team members as we took them through the need to conserve crocodiles. Right: Juvenile West African dwarf crocodile spotted basking near the Draw River.



Left: Part of the people we interacted with during awareness campaign in Draw village. Right: Wire snare set at the bank of one the rivers in Draw Forest Reserve to trap West African Dwarf Crocodiles.