

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	DR JUSTUS DEIKUMAH
<b>Project title</b>	INDIGENOUS VULTURE MONITORING PROJECT
<b>RSG reference</b>	18912-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	FINAL REPORT
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5,000
<b>Your email address</b>	ivmp@ucc.edu.gh
<b>Date of this report</b>	6TH DECEMBER 2016

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

- Build capacity and create awareness of local people on vulture conservation.
- Educate the general public in Ghana about the plight of vultures and the consequences of vulture extinction.
- Determine vulture population trends in Ghana.
- Identify country-specific threats to vultures.
- Identify areas of potential population declines.
- Develop support base for vultures and feed the national database into the West African sub-regional and global vulture databases.

An online database system was developed by the workshop participants. This moved the project a step faster in achieving its set objectives of creating a short-term baseline data on vulture population status in Ghana. This online database system is not complicated and is easy to access and can be shared among vulture experts.

Data collection was done by IVMP representatives who reported vulture sightings and activities in their various localities to the IVMP secretariat and Team members in areas where there are no Representatives.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Capacity building in local people to support vulture conservation and monitoring efforts in Ghana				A 5-day training workshop was held for participants in January 2016 and a day's training workshop in Ho-Volta Region or over 600 participants in April 2016 as indicated in our previous reports.
Increase public education efforts on vulture conservation in Ghana				So many platforms were mounted by the IVMP team to educate the public on Vulture conservation in Ghana.
Influence the attitude and behaviour of people towards vultures				The attitude of Ghanaians have drastically changed for the better compared to their previous attitude.

Establish a short-term nationwide baseline data on vulture population and decline trends				IVMP participants became ambassadors and were monitoring vultures in their various communities to feed the database of the IVMP.
The baseline data from the short-term monitoring project will serve as basis for further investigation into vulture threats				The baseline data base is serving as the basis for further investigation for some of the threats the IVMP team found. Three major projects have emerged.

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

Some eight IVMP Reps have relocated or were not able to report data frequently as planned so we either train a new rep or visit that locality to collect monthly data.

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

- Based on our several public seminars and training workshops including the many radio and TV awareness programmes we estimated that most Ghanaians (near 65%) have now understand the importance of vultures to the extent that, when they see even a dead vulture, they will call the IVMP team to come and find out the cause of death. That is the attitude of many people have changed towards vultures in Ghana.
- The project has yielded acceptable data that serves as baseline database for future monitoring of populations in Ghana by establishing the status of vulture populations in Ghana.
- Major threats that exposed vulture populations to higher risks of extinction have been identified and proposals for further research into some of these threats and how they are linked to vulture population declines are receiving attention.
- The project was involved in the drafting of the United Nations Environment Programme's Convention on Migratory Birds (UNEP-CMS) Multispecies Action Plan (MsAP) for African Vultures at the 2nd Pan-African Vultures Summit in Dakar, Senegal from 16th-21st October 2016. During this meeting, the IVMP data was one of the most up to date information on the population status of vultures in Ghana and threats they face. The data on peoples' attitude towards vultures could be generalised for the West African sub-Region since there is very little work done in other range states compared to what we did.

- Project was extensively expanded from just capacity building and awareness creation programmes and have yielded two academic journal articles.

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

In most of our community and public talks, we first visit the the various communities and talk to the chief and elders and ask for permission to talk to their members and educate them on the vultures and they help in assembling them on an agreed date and time for the education and after the education, the community leaders give us two or more volunteers to be our representatives in that community. Therefore, the IVMP is having representatives in over 150 communities in the country although future monitoring will depend on how they get motivated. Secondly, most of our public seminars targeted communities, the chiefs, opinion leaders as well as school kids as such they as mostly specially invited and incentivised through honoraria and light refreshments where necessary. We now have started "Wildlife Clubs" in three some local schools and also revamped the University of Cape Coast Primary School's dormant Wildlife Club and have taken up to 760 pupils and 30 teachers for an educational and hooded vulture sighting tour in the Kakum Conservation Area on the 2nd November 2016.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, we now know the status of vulture populations in Ghana and have identified major threats facing them. Firstly, our project revealed the use of Fuadan poison in harvesting bush meat in Ghana but the potential impact on vultures cannot be ascertained although our results from interviews on attitude of Ghanaians suggests that the offal removed after the processing the poisoned bush meat may have been eaten by unsuspecting vultures. It is also not know if the poisoned bush meat may have any public health concerns. These need urgent research.

Secondly, although experts the RSPB's SAVE the Asian Vultures from Extinction (SAVE) from Asia and Europe believe their efforts to ban the use of veterinary diclofenac in some parts of the world, our project found that some veterinary officers use the drug in Ghana. This alarmed many experts Particularly Dr Chris Bowen, the SAVE Director. The decision at the PAVS2 2016 in Dakar was to survey all diclofenac based veterinary drugs and Ghana and investigate the extent of use.

Thirdly, our project revealed that the *Ceiba pentandra* (silk cotton) tree is the most preferred nesting and roosting tree in Ghana and in many range states. However, the tree has been over-exploited in the last 10 years for industrial use and have resulted in the loss of breeding and roosting sites for the vultures. There is a need to

further investigate this and provide empirical scientific data for potential up listing of the IUCN threat status of the tree species so as to avoid secondary extinction.

It also emerged at the PAVS2 that because vultures are trans-boundary species just like elephants protecting them in one range state without any action in neighbouring range states will be in futility. Hence moving forward we had discussions with the head of International Research of the British Trust for Ornithology so as to secure some of the BTO's prototype satellite trackers to study range expansion and movement of hooded and white-backed vultures in Ghana. BTO is willing to provide the trackers for free but fixing them to the vultures requires some skill training. We have plans to understudy experts in the Hawk Mountains in Florida or South Africa pending availability of funds. In any case the satellite trackers will be brought to our lab latest April 2017.

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

Our results will be shared with the general public and with the global scientific community. Currently there are two academic journal articles under review. Both data have already been presented and discussed with experts and Ornithologists from all over the world at the just ended Pan African Ornithological Congress (PAOC 14) and PAVS2 held from 16th-21st October 2016 in Dakar, Senegal.

Locally, we have started some publications in the national newspapers, the University of Cape Coast website and websites of local FM stations. We had 20 minutes discussions each on Multimedia's Adom TV and Ghana Television (GTV) in September 2016. We are hopeful that the articles will go through the final review stages and get published soon while we still have data yet to be explored for more papers.

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

Project is scheduled to start December 2015 and end November, 2016. Project was completed on schedule except reporting which is yet to be submitted.

**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
Advertisement on various Radio stations		299.40	299.40	
Accommodation	1600	2245.51	645.51	
Food & Snacks for participants	1100	3393.21	2293.21	
Conference room	500	499	1	
Auditorium		399.20	399.20	
Identification Charts		239.53	239.53	
Brochures		399.20	399.20	
Office Supplies	150	1596.81	1446.81	
T-Shirts	100	1497.01	1397.01	
Note Pads		499	499	
Pens, Pencils, Erasers		99.80	99.80	
Stickers		99.80	99.80	
Folders		99.80	99.80	
Framed vulture pictures		119.76	119.76	
Hanging and Pull-Up Banners	34	499	465	
Posters	41	299.40	258.40	
Field guides of Birds of Ghana	325	499	174	
Travel Expenses for participants, monitoring and trainers	100	1996.01	1896.01	
Epson Projector	280			
Projector Screen	137			
Coloured Printer		698.60	698.60	
Bottled Water	150	718.56	568.56	
Honorarium for Resource Persons	200	1996.01	1796.01	
Honorarium for TV and Radio stations	150	1596.80	1446.80	
Television				
Communication & Contact ( Credit Cards)	133	299.40	166.40	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>20089.81</b>	<b>15506.81</b>	

## General Comments

- Advertisement was done to invite participants on radio stations across the country for the training workshop.
- The budgeted amount was for only one training workshop but we had additional one in Ho for over 600 participants which has contributed to the increase in the actual budget.
- In Ho, participants were not given Field Guide of Birds of Ghana but rather we developed a field identification chart for vultures of Ghana for each participant.
- Project also expanded with seminars with school kids. With a major field trip with nearly 800 pupils from the University of Cape Coast Primary School.
- The projector and the screen could not be purchased because we needed a printer instead to enable easy processing of document whiles we hired projector and screen for programmes when needed
- Customised stickers, note pads, pencils, etc. became very necessary for participants because we had facts on our target species on them that could be disseminated by participants in the local areas.
- The honorarium for the television and radio stations increased because the number increased from the initial of two each to three and eight respectively and that really helped in the public education and awareness creation.
- The project was supported by the Director's personal income and a partial grant from Mohammed Bin Zayed Conservation Fund.

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

- To further investigate poisoning threats to vultures through bush meat hunting and use of veterinary diclofenac sodium in Ghana and also creating awareness among hunters, veterinary offices and livestock farmers as well as among the general public about potential public health risks it may come with.
- A push for the change in the IUCN's threat status of the preferred roosting and nesting silk cotton tree (*Ceiba pentandra*) is urgent but there will be a need to understand the association and ecology and current distribution in Ghana to make the case for up listing
- Further awareness creation through provision of sign boards with vulture information at strategic locations including community centres, abattoirs, waste destinations.

**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?**

Yes, the logo was used on all the customised items (t-shirts, notepads, pens, folders etc.) and PowerPoint slides. RSGF was acknowledged in all our television, radio or public appearances.

**11. Any other comments?**

Funds have been very useful in unravelling the key threats to vultures in Ghana and have contributed to our understanding of people's attitude towards vultures. Our project was provided the most extensive work done on vultures in West Africa so far. We are most grateful and hope our next proposals will be qualified for the second RSG for continuation of efforts to save vultures in Ghana and West Africa as this provides quality data that creates the baseline for future monitoring. Thank you RSGF!!