

Project Update: December 2017

As part of our KNUST Wewe River Amphibian Project (K-WRAP), we have started area-wide inventories and mapping of all amphibian breeding sites within the Wewe Catchment for long-term monitoring. In late September 2017 (20-30th) we identified seven breeding ponds in the southern part of the KNUST River Catchment. We recorded egg masses, advertisement calls, and the first-hand mating activity of white-lipped frog *Amnirana albolabris*. We took the geographic positions of all breeding ponds with a GPS receiver (Appendix 2). Overall, we recorded eight species (Appendix 1) occupying the ponds.



Fig1: Anuran egg mass recorded in a pond within KNUST Wewe River Catchment



Fig 1: Mating activity of *Afrivalus dorsalis* in amplexus recorded in a pond within KNUST Wewe River Catchment

Threats to Amphibian breeding ponds

It is unfortunate the breeding ponds are rather disconnected due to farming and dry season gardening in the area. Local farmers cultivate mostly maize during the rainy season and extract water from the ponds in the dry season to irrigate vegetables. Another potential threat is the harvest of wild sugarcane (*Saccharum spontaneum* L.), which we observed as important calling perches for species such as the brown banana frog *Afrivalus dorsalis*. Local farmers also reported that in recent years the ponds dry up earlier than usual.



Fig 3: A farmed pond habitat in KNUST Wewe River Catchment



Fig 4: Wild sugarcane perches for frogs in KNUST Wewe River Catchment

Appendices

Appendix 1: Amphibian checklist of species recorded at breeding sites in KNUST Wewe River Catchment

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Afrivalus dorsalis</i>	Brown banana frog
<i>Amnirana albolabris</i>	White-lipped frog
<i>Arthroleptis</i> sp.	Squeakers
<i>Hoplobatrachus occipitalis</i>	African crowned bullfrog
<i>Hyperolius concolor</i>	Lime reed frog
<i>Leptopelis spiritusnoctis</i>	Night spirit frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus latifrons</i>	Accra puddle frog
<i>Ptychadena bibroni</i>	Broad-banded grass frog

Appendix 2: Geographic coordinates of breeding ponds recorded in KNUST Wewe River Catchment

Pond	GPS coordinate
Pond 1	N 06°40.436' W001°34.617'
Pond 2	N 06°40.431' W001°34.616'
Pond 3	N 06°40.427' W001°34.614'
Pond 4	N 06°40.434' W001°34.609'
Pond 5	N 06°40.433' W001°34.604'
Pond 6	N 06°40.416' W001°34.617'
Pond 7	N 06°40.418' W001°34.620'