

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Samuel Yao Afutor
<b>Project Title</b>	Population Status and Conservation of the Critically Endangered Western Chimpanzee in the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve, Ghana
<b>Application ID</b>	32154-1
<b>Date of this Report</b>	2022-08-08

**1. 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
Chimpanzee abundance and distribution				We conducted an intensive chimpanzee survey in the Globally Significant Biodiversity Area of the reserve, covering a total distance of 112.4 km. We encountered 12 chimpanzee nests comprising one fresh nest, three recent nests, five old nests and three very old nests. This yielded encounter rate of 0.11 nests/km in the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve. Also, there were no direct sightings of chimpanzees. However, a local hunter we interviewed claimed he had seen two adult chimpanzees in the forest in August 2019. Since very few signs of chimpanzee activities were recorded in the reserve there was no distribution pattern shown by the subspecies activities in the reserve.
Chimpanzee threats				The anthropogenic activities such as wire snares, empty cartridges, burnt trees, poacher's camp, illegal mining, and logging as well as illegal farms were recorded in the forest. A total of 505 signs of human activities which are considered as direct and or indirect threats to the persistence of the subspecies are recorded in the reserve and provided an encounter rate of 4.49 signs per km walk. This showed the prevalence of human activities that are threats to the long-term survival of the subspecies in the reserve.
Stakeholder dialogue and conservation education programs				We engaged community leaders, religious groups, schools, farmers, and hunters on the conservation importance of chimpanzees and the need to mitigate current threats associated with the survival of chimpanzees and other species within the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve. This

			was delivered in the form of talks, video shows and power point and poster presentations. Over 1300 community members were educated through our awareness campaign, and it is expected that their attitude towards hunting, mining and logging and agricultural activities in the reserve and its surrounding will be affected.
Capacity building			The project has successfully built the capacity of 10 volunteers (four university students and six locals) in primate survey and conservation techniques with focus on chimpanzees. The volunteers were also taught how to properly use compass, range finder, binoculars, GPS and camera traps among others.

**2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

**a).** This project documented the continuous existence of chimpanzee in the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve and recorded 12 chimpanzee nests along the total recce distance of 112.4 km covered in the reserve. This yielded encounter rate of 0.11 nests/km in the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve. Chimpanzee nest distribution in the reserve was determined. However, since only few nests were encountered, no nest distribution pattern was shown.

**b).** Additionally, the project team identified hunting activities, illegal logging, and mining as well as agricultural encroachments as key threats to the long-term survival of the subspecies in the reserve. There is pressure on chimpanzee habitat in the reserve as chimpanzee nest encounter distribution totally overlapped with these human activities documented in the reserve. However, there was no evidence of direct target hunting of chimpanzees in the reserve.

**c).** Over 1300 people were educated on the conservation importance of chimpanzees and forest protection. In addition, capacity of 10 volunteers were built in primate survey and conservation techniques with focus on chimpanzees. These volunteers had been equipped with expertise in chimpanzee survey design, identification of signs of chimpanzee activities, use of survey equipment such as GPS, camera traps, range finder, binoculars, and compass. The six local volunteers are currently the first point of contact for the project team with regards to any information on the subspecies and conservation challenges in the reserve.

**3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

The pandemic situation has made us to adjust the scheduled execution time for some of the project activities. Also, the 4x4 truck which we were being offered at a

highly subsidised price broke down and we had to wait for 2 months to get everything fixed by the owner and this has also delay some of the project activities.

**4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.**

The participation and involvement of local community member has been overwhelming and successful. Importantly, the community leaders provided enormous support in organizing their members for conservation awareness. Some of the leaders were given a branded Rufford t-shirt for their great support. We trained few volunteers in primate survey and conservation techniques.

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

Yes, I deem it expedient to intensify conservation effort toward a long-term conservation of primates in the Krokosua Hills Forest reserve. With a second Rufford Small Grant and other grants, activities such as continuous ecological survey, increase conservation awareness, strategic establishment of local volunteers in all fringing communities and possible alternative livelihood programme is expected to contribute significantly to a positive behavioural change and safeguard the subspecies in the reserve.

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

I hope to publish the result of this project in the African primate ecology journal and social media as well.

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

- To intensify and extend the ecological survey of the chimpanzees to cover other potential habitat area of the subspecies in the reserve. This will help us get enough data to determine the abundance and distribution of the species in the reserve.
- To increase and reach out to more fringe communities of the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve with primate conservation awareness and forest protection campaigns. This will rally more local conservation support for the subspecies and other wildlife species in the reserve.
- Train and establish primate conservation volunteer groups to serve as watch dogs to monitor and address conservation challenges in and around the reserve.
- The livelihood of members of the fringe communities is highly dependent on the forest resources of the reserve and are threats to the long-term survival of the subspecies and other wildlife species in the reserve. Hence, local community members will be trained in alternative livelihood ventures and provide them with mentorship to help them start any alternative livelihood venture.

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

The project was publicised on my Facebook page, LinkedIn and among various local class page platform within Kwame Nkrumah University and Science and Technology. The Rufford logo was used on the printed t-shirt shared to some of the community members who were engaged during the awareness campaign. The logo was also used in the PowerPoint slides.

**9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.**

**Samuel Afutor:** I spearheaded the successful implementation of this project. As a team leader, I was responsible for all the various conservation activities. I lead the team throughout the chimpanzee survey and volunteer training.

**Francis Boafo:** He assisted on all aspect of the project from ecological survey to conservation education programs. He led the GIS aspect of the project and was also responsible for taking pictures during all project activities.

**Elvis Bawah:** He assisted on all aspect of the project activities but played a leading role in organizing stakeholder workshops and community outreach programs during the project period.

**Solomon Adzah:** He is a Local Assistant who played a very significant role in implementation of all aspect of the project. He assisted and guard us throughout the field survey as well as led the project team to meet leaders and chiefs of the fringe communities to organize our conservation awareness campaigns.

**10. Any other comments?**

I am very grateful to Rufford Foundation for enhancing my potential with this grant. It is indeed a step in the right direction towards my vision of elevated society where people can live harmoniously with wildlife.