

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Michael Ayeh Adjei
<b>Project Title</b>	Assessing the species richness and relative abundance of cetaceans in Ghana's Marine Environment; A Social Science viewpoint
<b>Application ID</b>	32822-1
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£4925
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<b>Date of this Report</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022

**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
Gathering new information on the poorly monitored local cetacean populations in order to understand the threats posed by interactions with fisheries.				The first half of the project focused on the project team familiarising themselves with the project landscape. In doing this they chanced upon a lot of information on cetaceans which has determined the areas to prioritise for streamlined action.
Formation of a Cetacean Network and creating awareness on the significance of cetacean conservation to fishing and marine life				The project team focused on the formation of the cetacean network during the second quarter. Volunteers from coastal communities were joined the network online platform and were responsible for reporting two major cetacean stranding during the period.
to understand the attitude and perception of coastal communities and local government representatives toward the recurrent stranding of marine mammals in Ghana.				Following the stranded of over 60 melon headed dolphins close to Axim in April 2021 the project team added this objective to generate baseline information for subsequent activities.
To disseminate Project Results and Reports to Key Stakeholders				The project outcome was discussed with stakeholders to include fishermen and locals. A copy of the report will be attached to the final report and a copy to be sent to the Society for Marine Mammalogy for review and possible publication.

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

There were no major or unforeseen challenges during the project implementation. An activity was added to the project objective following the stranding at the western coast of Ghana, the team heightened the cetacean survey introducing new questionnaires and intensified awareness in the nearby community of Eloyim, Ellembelle District of the Western Region. This influenced the results of the project positively.

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

1. From the 10 communities visited during the first quarter, five were prioritised, namely Keta, Akplamanya, Axim, Winneba and Jamestown. Regular visits were made to the prioritised fish landing sites. Eighteen locals, including 13 fishermen and five community leaders volunteered to be a part of the cetacean network. Members of the network reported two cetacean stranding during these quarter.
2. The project team turned our attention to understanding the attitude and perception of coastal communities and local government representatives toward the recurrent stranding of marine mammals in Ghana. This was done using semi structured questionnaire which were administered to 60 individuals in six coastal communities. The result of the assessment is under analysis. Annex 1 is the sample questionnaire used for the analysis.
3. A total of 22 coastal dwellers joined the cetacean network helping with the reporting of three sightings.

**4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?**

**5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.**

Locals from the 10 selected communities were involved in the development of the project and were part of each stage of implementation. Three hundred and sixty locals, mostly fishermen, have been engaged from the fish landing communities to include interviews, joining the cetacean networks and training of volunteers in various communities for sighting and reporting.

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

Yes, we plan to continue this work by extending the cetacean study into other identified fish landing communities and extend the cetacean network to involve workshop and trainings for school children on cetacean conservation. The approach is to encourage studies and conservation approach on all marine and freshwater megafaunas and reptiles. This will also be the mandate of the network, moving just beyond cetacean into community level conservation approaches into marine and freshwater megafauna.

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

The results from the project have been communicated to locals in selected communities and will be shared with the Society for Marine Mammalogy for review and possible publishing on their website. The report will also be available on the Ghana Marine and Freshwater Watch Facebook page as well as a copy will be attached to the final project report for public referencing.

**8. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The grant was used within the 12 months period as expected.

**9. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel and logistical expenses on reconnaissance survey	825	825		
Travel and logistical expenses on main survey: Monitoring of cetaceans along fish landing site	1250	1250		
Travel, and logistical expenses on meetings and trainings with fishermen from communities	1810	1810		
Travel logistical expenditure on stranding survey and general results dissemination	825	1200	+375	The addition of the new survey on the local perception on stranding was not budgeted therefore increasing the expenditure
Other charges	215	200	-15	Savings were made from the purchase of safety equipment to include nose masks and hand sanitizers because the prices were reduced at the market after as COVID subsidies country wide.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4925</b>	<b>5285</b>	<b>+360</b>	

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

Results from the project indicates clearly that sensitisation on threats to marine mammals especially cetaceans at coastal communities and fish landing sites needs to be strengthened and our first step is to establish the network. Subsequent approaches will involve extending the activities of the network into other

communities and promote cetacean sensitisation in basic schools in coastal communities.

**11. 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?**

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used for developing training materials for the training of cetacean network members.

**12. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**Mike Ayeh:** The principal investigator leading the research and field interviews and administering questionnaires. He is the administrator for the Cetacean Network and coordinates all project activities.

**Cosmos Acquah:** Resides at Benin in the Western Coast of Ghana. He continues to visit the coastal communities in the Western and Central regions of Ghana to interact with locals and encouraged them to report sightings of cetaceans and any other rare species they identify at sea or on their coast. He was a major reporter on the melon headed stranded and was interviewed by local radio stations, educating locals on best ways to manage cetacean stranding.

**Daniel Atsu:** A fisherman and a cetacean conservationist from the Volta region of Ghana and stationed at the southern eastern coast of Ghana where he plies his trade. He engaged colleague fishermen on the significance of cetaceans to the fishing and the need for fishermen to support cetacean conservation approaches. He added eight fishermen to the Cetacean Network. He is responsible for the reporting of two stranding of humpback whales at Keta and Akplamanya coastal communities.

**13. Any other comments?**

This research project has provided a great platform for interaction with individuals and groups with interest in cetaceans and marine mammals globally. We hope to widen the scope of the project to reach other marine mammals like manatees and also enhance sensitisation and involvement of all many locals and students in the reporting of sighting and stranding of marine mammals in their areas.