**Project Update: July 2021**

The PI (Frederick Gyasi Damptey) travelled to Ghana from Germany in May 2021 to start the citizen science project. The project, initially scheduled for March 2021, was rescheduled to begin in May 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its travelling restrictions.

The official permit to use five green spaces (parks and gardens, University of Energy and Natural Resources Botanical Garden (UENR), Residency Park, Sunyani Senior High School tree plantation, and UENR Bat Colonized Arboretum), in the Sunyani municipality were finally acquired in May 2021. This was followed by the community and school student engagement and selection to participate in the project as citizen scientists. In addition, stakeholder consultation and training of project facilitators and citizen scientists have also been completed. Campaigns to raise awareness for biodiversity and ecosystem services and field work with citizen scientists are currently ongoing.

Table 1: Summary of activities and their status

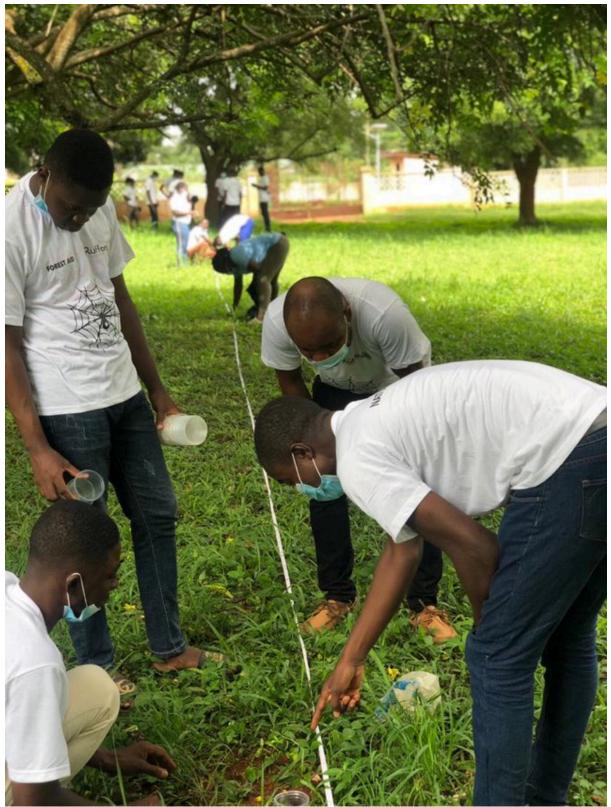| Phases | Activities | Remarks |
|---|---|---|
| Phase 1 | ❖ Reconnaissance survey and selection of urban green spaces | Completed |
| | ❖ Permit acquisition to work in urban green spaces | Completed |
| | ❖ Stakeholder consultation | Completed |
| | ❖ Training of project facilitators | Completed |
| Phase 2 | ❖ Campaign in schools and communities to select citizen scientists | Completed |
| | ❖ Capacity building of staff, volunteers and relevant partners | Completed |
| Phase 3 | ❖ Fieldwork | Ongoing |
| | ❖ Arthropod sorting | Ongoing |
| | ❖ Data management | Not started |
| | ❖ Results compilation | Not started |
| | ❖ Campaigns to raise awareness for biodiversity and ecosystem services | Ongoing |
| Phase 4 | ❖ Planting of multi-purpose tree seedlings in school compounds | Not started |
| | ❖ Publicizing results | Not started |
| Phase 5 | ❖ Scientific paper and report writing | Not started |

Figure 1: Citizen scientists fixing pitfall traps

Figure 2: Citizen scientists learning how to measure tree diameter


Figure 3: Principal investigator demonstrating how to use the beating trap to capture insects

Figure 4: Citizen Scientists measuring the distance between two trees