

Project Update: May 2013

Dry season field surveys as well as community surveys involving interviews with local community members, farmers and hunters for the presence of the Ghana Worm Lizard (*C. kraussi*) and other herpetofauna within the Bandai Hills Forest Reserve have been successfully conducted. Thirteen herpetofauna species composed of five reptiles (two snakes and three lizards) and eight amphibians (six frogs and two toads) were recorded. Despite intensive sampling efforts, no records were made of the worm lizard (*Cynisca kraussi*). There are claims of sightings of the worm lizard during the last rainy season by community members. Before this project, knowledge of the biology and ecology of the endangered worm lizard (*C. kraussi*) was completely non-existent among local researchers and the general scientific community, even with wildlife people. In collaboration with a group of alumni local scientists of Tropical Biology Association (TBA), three local community members and two staff members of Ghana Wildlife Division have been trained to independently identify the worm lizard and other herpetofauna that occur within its habitat ranges. It is therefore hoped that, with the help of these local “scientists” we will find the endangered worm lizard during our next field survey in the rainy season. Through our conservation education programme launched alongside the surveys, we are continuing to work with the local stakeholders and other partners to ensure the species’ long-term survival.

Below is the list of project records of reptiles and amphibians from the Bandai Hills Forest Reserve:

Species Scientific Name	Species Common Name
TOADS	
<i>Amietophrynus maculatus</i>	Flat-backed toad
<i>Amietophrynus regularis</i>	African common toad
FROGS	
<i>Arthroleptis</i> sp.	West African squeaker frogs
<i>Hoplobatrachus occipitalis</i>	African tiger frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus latifrons</i>	Accra puddle frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus calcaratus</i>	Peter’s puddle frog
<i>Phrynobatrachus plicatus</i>	Coast river frog
<i>Ptychadena aequiplicata</i>	Victoria ridged frog
LIZARDS AND SKINKS	
<i>Agama</i>	West African rainbow lizard
<i>Hemidactylus fasciatus</i>	Banded leaf-toed gecko
<i>Trachylepis quinquetaeniata</i>	Rainbow skink
SNAKES	
<i>Philothamnus irregularis</i>	Western green snake
<i>Python regius</i>	Royal python

We are preparing to undertake the wet season surveys.

