

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Caleb Ofori Boateng
Project title	Community led conservation of the critically endangered slippery frog (<i>Conraua derooi</i>) in the Togo-Volta Hills of Ghana
RSG reference	14533-B
Reporting period	2014-2015
Amount of grant	£12000
Your email address	calebofori@gmail.com
Date of this report	July 2015

1. Please 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
Institute a community-owned amphibian reserve			100%	This objective was fully realised. A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the relevant stakeholders and a plan developed to guide the management of the reserve.
Restoration of tree cover			95%	2000 were successfully planted. Additional seedlings have been purchased and will be planted in the next wet season.
Reduce human consumption of the Togo slippery frog in the Togo-Volta region			90%	Project monitoring team recorded no hunting incidence in 12-months.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Project activities proceeded as planned

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

The three most important outcome of this project are: (1) Successful establishment of Ghana's first community-based amphibian reserve, (2) Important progress in the restoration of degraded Togo slippery frog habitat and, (3) Reduction in frog hunting. Further details of these outcomes are outlined below:

1) Community-based amphibian reserve

Working with a number local partners, community leaders and religious groups, we successfully acquired about 100 ha of upland semi-deciduous forest land for the establishment of a community-based amphibian reserve. The area donated by a local church, families and the community comprises key breeding habitats for the Togo slippery frog. Preliminary faunal surveys have been completed on the site and adjoining lands. The data emanated from the field surveys have been used in the development of a management plan for the reserve. The management plan will soon be implemented for the effective and long term conservation of the species habitat.

2) Habitat Restoration

We planted 2000 indigenous tree seedlings in the newly established reserve. Fast growing indigenous tree seedlings (Ofram (*Terminalia superba*), Wawa (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), Ceiba (*Ceiba pentandra*), Mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*) and Emeri (*Terminalia ivorensis*)) were planted in collaboration with trainees and select community members. Planting occurred along riparian corridors of the sanctuary where the slippery frog species occur. Restoration of tree cover will help improve microclimatic conditions necessary for the survival of the species. Also it will provide a riparian corridor that aids re-colonisation of the species into its historical distributional ranges where it is now extirpated. An estimate 10ha of degraded riparian habitats benefitted from this tree planting programme.

3) Reduced Hunting Incidence

In 12 consecutive months, field monitoring team and volunteers recorded zero hunting incidence. Although, it is still too early to tell if hunting has indeed completely been halted, we believe this results is a significant milestone towards the realisation of project goal. This results suggest that local people have embraced the project ideals and that our activities are yielding desired outcomes.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The project implemented an outreach programme that presents scientific evidence on religious platforms to educate and inspire societal changes that benefits species conservation. Through this programme we were able to help the local people appreciate the benefits of having a healthy ecosystem. We further train religious leaders who then voluntarily incorporate conservation into their sermons and monitor conservation outcomes to assess if these strategies are succeeding.

Also, through this project we were able to initiate a community dialogue and training programme that has improved local people's knowledge on how to effectively manage wildlife on their lands including the new reserve. Select community members will continue to receive training in conservation planning, park management, ecotourism promotion and tour guiding. The ultimate goal of any biodiversity conservation project is for such work to be carried out locally by the local interest groups. We believe this project has laid a solid foundation towards the realisation of this very important goal.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This work will continue by focusing in two key areas. First, will be to sustain behaviour change outcomes in the local community by providing an alternative protein sources. The second will be to continue the restoration of riparian habitats with the possibility of providing an alternative water source for the local community aimed at reducing human impact on the frog's habitat. These objectives will be pursued in subsequent projects.

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

Plans are quite advance to publish one paper from project monitoring reports in an international peer-reviewed journal. In addition, technical reports on project outcomes would be submitted to all major stakeholders and our organisational website and social media platforms.

7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The Rufford Grant was used in the period of 14 months opposed to proposed 12-month project period.

8. Budget: Please 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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Reserve Management Capacity Building Programme				
Living expense for 10 community members attending training @ £15/day for 14-days	2100	2100	0	
Living expense of 3 facilitators conducting training @ £30/day for 14-days	1260	1260	0	
Cost of printing species inventory guides for trainees @ £8/copy for 10 copies	80	90	10	Printing cost was just a little higher
Cost of printing training monitoring and evaluation forms	14	14	0	
Cost of billboards for advertising community reserve @ £150/board for 3 boards	450	270	-180	We negotiated a little better deal
Habitat Restoration program				
Cost of seedlings @ £ 0.5/seedling for 5000 seedlings	2500	2350	-150	We had 10% discount on the total seedlings cost (£250) of which £100 was used to cover seedling transportation

				cost.
Seedling maintenance cost (weeding and fencing) @ £ 0.5/seedling for 2000 seedlings	550	500	-50	We negotiated a flat rate of £500, to cover fencing, weeding and watering of seedlings
Living expense of project team supervising tree planting @ €10/pers./day for 3 pers. for 30-days	900	880	-20	A team member left the field for 2days to attend to other community work
Extra labor cost for preparing planting site	250	300	50	3 persons were taken as labourers and paid £100 each
Behaviour Change Education in Communities				
Cost of printing 50 educational brochures@ £7.5/brochure	375	450	75	Extra 10 copies were printed and distributed to community leaders
Cost of purchasing 1 projector for community awareness	220	250	30	We under budgeted the cost of the projector (Epson Projector; LCD, 3D 3500 lumens)
Cost of one refurbished laptop for community awareness	250	225	-25	We had a tax free purchase from Amazon.com
Cost of 150 t-shirts for community outreaches @£6 per shirt	900	900	0	
Living expense of project team conducting education in communities @ £15 / pers. for 3 pers. for 80-days	1200	1155	-45	Community education was reduced to 78-days rather than proposed 80-days
Administration				
Maintenance cost of project vehicle @£250/month for 3-months (fuel and parts during fieldwork in communities)	750	950	200	Fuel prices fluctuated and in some instances significantly increased during the project period
Monitoring and evaluation	200	450	250	Living expenses of volunteers were a little higher
Total	11,999	12,144	145	

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

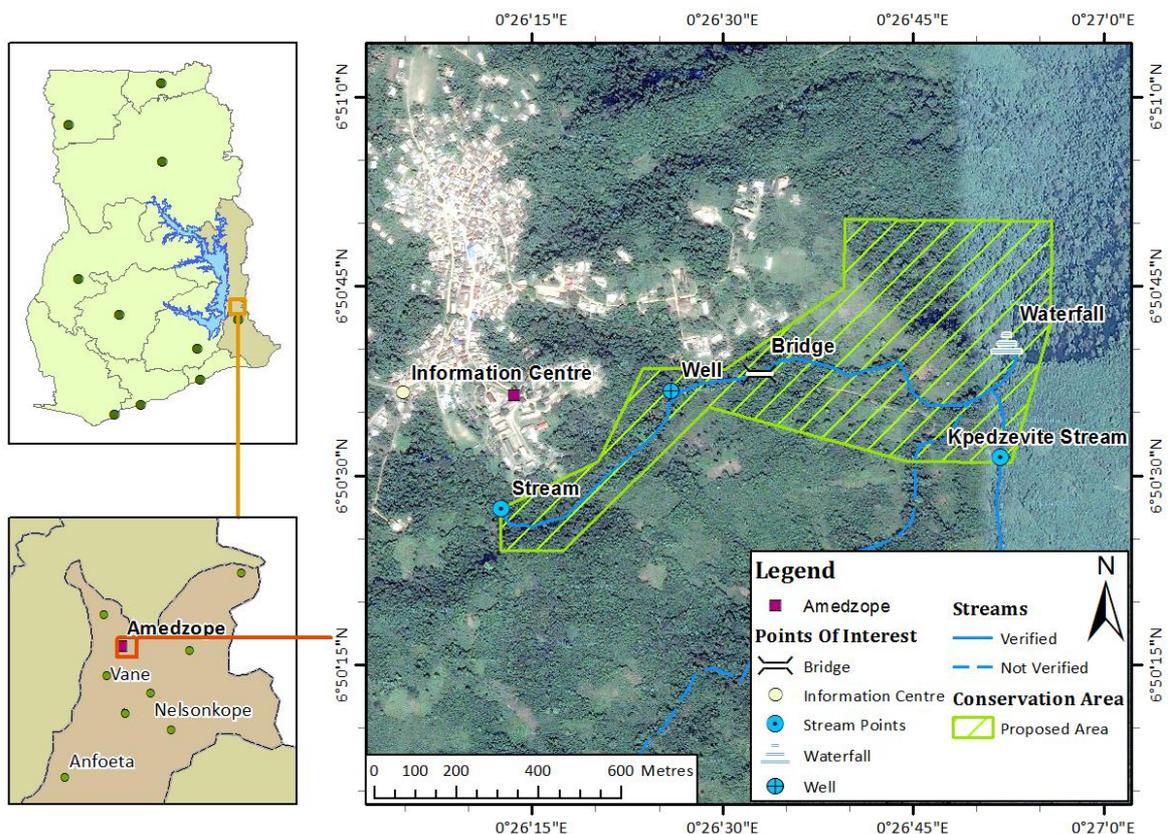
Important next steps in conserving this species, is to enrol other communities into our ongoing community conservation programme. Together we can reintroduce the frog into its other distributional ranges where the frog is now extirpated. Important steps in such reintroduction process will include the restoration of riparian vegetation, training of field monitoring staff and the establishment of a network of protected areas and corridors.

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

The Rufford Foundation's logo was highlighted in all educational materials produced. In all project presentations to stakeholders (including presentations in International conferences), project technical reports, brochures and t-shirts the Foundation's support was acknowledged. The Foundation's support will further be acknowledged a journal article that is currently being prepared.

11. Any other comments?

N/A



Boundary map of the new community based amphibian sanctuary.