

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	Bernard Essel
Project title	Conservation of Fosu lagoon and the protection of wading birds through community- based approach and development of GIS database to enhance biodiversity
RSG reference	21775-1
Reporting period	April 2017 – April 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	esselbernard000@gmail.com
Date of this report	05/04/2018

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
To develop an ecological database of the lagoon and its marsh vegetation.				
To promote and create awareness for involvement of existing and new stakeholders and also the community in the conservation of the Fosu Lagoon, the marsh vegetation and the wading birds				
To create a website specifically designed to give ecological information of the site to the public.				

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

In executing the project, there were two major difficulties that was encountered. Firstly, the project encountered difficulty in the area of mobilising the stakeholders. This issue was tackled by constantly following-up on the stakeholders. Furthermore, another difficulty was in the area of organising the community members to actively participate in the project. This was solved by making several attempts to get them and also consistently engaging the community leaders.

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

The project was able to firstly develop the GIS database for the lagoon and it associated vegetation. The project mapped the lagoon's habitat, the current condition of all ecological units, map locations and areas under encroachment. Also, another outcome was realised in the area of plastic waste reduction. The clean-up activities in the lagoon contributed immensely in the plastic waste reduction. Last but not least, the project was able to publish it findings in a peer-reviewed journal and also created a website that host the findings and the GIS database.

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

The surrounding communities were involved through activities such as clean-ups, educational outreaches for basic schools and house-to-house educational outreaches. In the end, the fishermen and the surrounding communities gained understanding into how they can prevent pollution of the lagoon.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There is no plan to continue.

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

The result was shared by publishing it in a peer-reviewed journal, sharing the report to the all stakeholders and creating a website that host the report and the GIS database.

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 small grant was used within a 12 months' period (April 2017 to April 2018). There wasn't any extension to the period of work. The project was executed within the scheduled 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
Hiring of GNSS receiver	100	80	-20	
Administrative cost	185	150	-35	
Cost of organising community group meetings	600	650	+50	
Cost of training and educating Friends of Fosu lagoon club members	650	500	-150	
Cost of organising stakeholder meetings	600	500	-100	
Cost of printing training/ educational guides or materials	450	400	-50	
Cost of organising team meetings	250	300	+50	
Cost of organising clean-up activities	550	650	+100	
Cost of radio broadcast	700	700	0	
Cost of setting up the website	250	250	0	
Cost of mounting the billboard	125	120	-5	
Living expenses for fieldwork	100	250	+150	
Cost of monitoring the project	440	450	+10	

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

Looking forward, the following steps are necessary for the sustainability of the Fosu lagoon project. Firstly, continuous ecological assessment of the Fosu lagoon and its associated vegetation should be planned. Also, continuous budgetary allocation from the Cape Coast Council for the management of the lagoon should also be planned and incorporated.

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

The Rufford logo was used on the billboard installed, displayed on the website created and on educational materials distributed.

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

Bernard Essel - Project team leader (coordinated all project activities)

Justice Kwame Gyesi – corporate social responsibility officer (organized all community meetings and lead the education campaign)

Ohene Boakye Adomako - Conservation expert (organised the field work, assisted in monitoring and evaluation)

Randy Nii Eshun – Monitoring and Evaluation officer (organised all follow-ups on the project and evaluated the project)

12. Any other comments?

None.