

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	Alesia Dedea Ofori
Project title	Community Driven Actions to Conserve Elephants and Improve Food Security in Bia-Goaso Forest Block
RSG reference	21817-1
Reporting period	April 2017- May 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	alesiaofori@gmail.com
Date of this report	23rd May, 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
Train local farmers in red chilli technology				In collaboration with the Wildlife Division and park management of Bia Conservation Area, this project trained local farmers on how to prepare the red chilli solution for their farms. The team further undertook field demonstration on how the solution is applied to achieve maximum impact. A total of 105 farmers were trained under this project. The project undertook joint field demonstrations with farmers following the training to ascertain their level of understanding.
To decrease the incidence of crop raiding in local farms using the red chilli technology.				We are excited to report that, the red chilli solution was very effective in warding off elephants in almost every farm where the solution was applied. Farmers reported of drastic reduction of crop raiding in their farms following the red chilli solution. Importantly farmers were able to increase their harvest, thereby increasing local income and domestic food supply.
Create awareness on human-elephant conflicts within local communities.				The project undertook several educational campaigns to sensitise local communities on the need for people to live in harmony with nature. Overall, seven communities received conservation education. Also, the project educated local schools on conservation education. We are excited to report that, two students who were previously poachers, have now given up on poaching to become conservation ambassadors in their respective schools.

Train local wildlife staff on conflict management				We are excited to report that, this project was able to train 10 wildlife staff on conflict management. Staff were trained on identifying causes of conflicts, conflict development, and techniques to minimise and resolve conflicts and creating harmony in the work environment.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Demand for the red-hot chilli solution rose astronomically more than anticipated. This followed successful demonstrations in some farms within the communities. This situation placed undue pressure on the team to meet the rising expectations of the local farmers, with regards to supplying the solution for individual farms.

The team increased the budget for procuring materials for preparing the red-hot chilli solution. Also, through the trained more farmers on how to prepare the solution, including the materials that could be used to prepare it. This ensured that, individuals who could afford the materials themselves did not rely on the ones provided by the project.

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

1. This project improved local food security and income of farmers. This was achieved through the application of the red-hot chilli solution. The solution helped to reduce drastically the incidence of crop raiding in the farms where it was applied. Through this, local farmers were able to harvest full yield of their crops, thereby improving their incomes and sustaining their livelihoods.
2. This project trained wildlife officers on conflict resolution and conflict management. Overall, 10 officers from the Ghana Wildlife Division, Bia Conservation Area. Five local leaders were also trained on effective conflict resolution.
3. A very important outcome of this project is the renewed commitment by locals towards wildlife conservation. Through community conservation campaigns, schools conservation education and religious groups, this project has highlighted the need for locals to co-exist in harmony with their wildlife. The project has further bridged the gap between park officials and local farmers. Such unity between the staff and farmers has resulted in the commitment of farmers to protect wildlife.

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

Local farmers have been integral part of this project, from conception to implementation stages. Local farmers were involved in the training and demonstration of the red-hot chilli technology in local farms. They also benefited from preparation and application of the solution in their farms. Local farmers have also benefited from beekeeping training as a means of preventing human-wildlife conflict.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We aim to extend the red-chilli solution to other areas of the park where crop-raiding and human-elephant conflict is prevalent but could not benefit from the project due to limited resources. In our next project, we aim to test the use of beekeeping as a means of keeping wildlife from local farms.

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

The results of this work have been made available to the management of Bia-Goaso conservation Area, leadership of the local communities, leaders of the local farmers association and schools head teachers. It is our belief that, the broad consultancy will ensure that, our approach is better refined to ensure it's more effective.

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 funding from the Rufford Foundation was used for a period of 13months instead of 12 months that was anticipated. This was to allow enough time for project monitoring and evaluation.

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
Project launching and stakeholder consultative meetings	400	300	100	We are able to save £100 as the community provided a free auditorium for the project launch.
Conflict resolution workshop for wildlife staff	500	500	0	This amount was primarily used for refreshment and training materials for the workshop.
Red Hot chilli training	1010	1500	490	The difference between the amount budgeted and the actual

				expenditure is due to the unexpectedly high demand for the red-hot chilli solution than anticipated.
Cost of food and accommodation for project team	1800	1500	300	The team had to adopt cost cutting mechanisms such as sharing rooms to free some monies for other aspects of the project such as getting more red chilli solution.
Vehicle rental	1200	1200	0	
Fuel and lubricants	800	1000	200	There were some unexpected fuel increases during the project period.
Branded T-shirts and banners	350	350	0	
Beekeeping training	460	460	0	
Monitoring and evaluation	200	300	100	

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

The project has made significant gains in halting the annual crop raiding menace in the study area. However, the impacts were very limited to a few communities in this first project. There is the need to expand the scope of the project to reach other communities fringing the study area where crop raiding and human-elephant conflict persists. Also, there is the need to pilot many other approaches to ending human wildlife conflicts within the area. For instance, bee-keeping along the boundaries of crop-raiding hotspots have been found to be effective. Future projects will explore these options and others that have been effective in other areas. The need to intensify community sensitisation, awareness and involvement in managing wildlife conflicts cannot be over-emphasised. Important next steps will include escalating such campaigns within the local communities.

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?

Yes. Rufford Foundation logo was used in designing publicity materials for the project. This included t-shirts and banners. Rufford Foundation logo was also used in all outreach materials and PowerPoint slides that was used during training and schools' conservation campaigns.

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

Grace Sarbeng

Grace played significant role in facilitating communication between the major stakeholders of this project, including the local farmers and the wildlife staff. Through

her efforts in community engagement, this project was successful in bringing together the local farmers and the wildlife staff for common purpose. Grace successfully designed our conservation education strategies and materials for implementing those including banners and T-shirts for conservation outreach.

Henry Ofori

Henry was responsible for leading the field implementation of project plans. This is due to the local and cultural/ traditional dynamics of the project area. He was responsible for coordinating the Red-hot chilli solution training, supervising field demonstrations, facilitating training conflict resolution training. He was also very instrumental in community and school conservation education.

Alesia Ofori Dedea

I was responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of this project, assigning roles and responsibilities to team members, ensuring that, project objectives were achieved. I was also responsible for prudently managing project funds, project communication, monitoring and evaluation and ensuring the sustainability of project impacts.

12. Any other comments?

This project enjoyed maximum support and cooperation from the management of the Bia Conservation Area. The park management provided the project with some personnel who assisted in the implementation of the project. The project wishes to especially acknowledge the support from the Park Manager, Mr. Richard Ofori Amanfo, Assistant park manger Mr. Richard Boakye, and Mr. Dominic Doe. The project also wants to acknowledge the support of local chiefs, school authorities, farmers and community leaders.



Field demonstration on the application of red-hot chilli solution in a local cocoa farm.



Photo of farmers and some wildlife staff after red hot chilli training.



Students of Bia D/A junior High school pose for the camera after conservation education.



A section of the local community members during community conservation education.