

## Project Update: December 2018

### Community Education and Awareness Creation

Education and awareness creation on Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018. This was based on the earlier development of resources such as signposts, banner, brochures and t-shirts to promote awareness and educate fringe communities.

The project has installed three giant signposts at the entries to the sanctuary. The signpost provides valuable information as well as a caution of no damage to the sanctuary in order to enhance the conservation status of the area. This will provide a first-hand information to any individuals entering the sanctuary.

An educational float involving school children marching with Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary banner (with an indication of "help save Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary") throughout the fringing communities has been a success in terms of awareness creation. This activity has reached a wider audience in the community to help and protect the sanctuary for its continuous benefit.

Also, a well-organised education involving all the project fringing communities, Wildlife Division (manager and staff), assembly man and the Unit Committee Chairman has successfully been done. This was to shed more light on the importance of the area, its associated threats, validating and instituting the integrated ecosystem assessment done on Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary into its management plans and the follow up of the project recommendations. Educational brochures and t-shirts were also shared among the people to extend awareness into a larger audience in case some individuals were not present at the educational grounds. Currently the project team is drafting its final reports and to be shared among interest stakeholders. Also the project team is actively searching for funding to continue project recommendations.

A more visualised information about the activities can be seen in the appendices below.



Left: Project team together with Wildlife Division launching sign post 1. Right: Project team together with Wildlife Division launching sign post 2



Left: Students floating in project communities to promote awareness. Right: Wildlife Division together with community members during education.



Left: Community members with Owabi T-shirts during education. Right: Wildlife Manager educating project communities about sustainability of the Sanctuary.



Community education in progress.



Left: Project T-shirt 1. Right: project T-shirt 2.

Educational floats



float with music.mp4



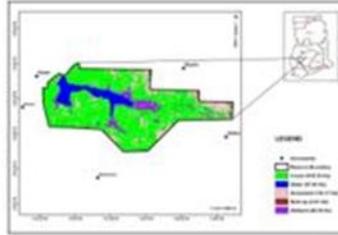
float with music 2.mp4



float with music 3.mp4

## OUTPUTS

- Develop a sustainable management plan for the inner and catchment area.
- Outline the ecosystem services being provide
- Identify the synergies & conflicts among users of the services.
- Synthesize public involvement through educating fringe communities.
- Establish clear and visible sign posts at entry points to increase awareness.
- Sharing of brochures and t-shirt for wider awareness.



## LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary can be found in West Africa Ghana specifically in the Ashanti region about 23km north-west of Kumasi. It is classified as "moist semi-deciduous north-west subtype" that covers an area of about 13km<sup>2</sup> between latitude 6° 47' 3.32" - 6° 41' 52.31" N and longitude 1° 44' 0.81" - 1° 37' 53.04" W. The Sanctuary is characterized by an inner site and catchment area which was designated as a wetland of international importance under Ramsar Convention by the Government in 1988. The forest cover of the area consists largely of secondary vegetation and a fraction of riverine forest, aquatic vegetation and exotic plantation which houses different mammals and bird species listed under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).



## AIM OF THIS PROJECT

The overall aim of this research is to develop a sustainable management plan using an integrated ecosystem assessment to sustainably manage Owabi wildlife sanctuary (both inner and outer). Assessing the consequences of this management plan for ecosystem services and use limit for the local communities will help provide insightful information for policy makers on their management decisions. The project further includes education and awareness creation in project



communities to ensure projects sustainability.

## KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Wildlife Division (FC)
- Ghana Water Company Limited
- Atwima Nwzablagya District Assembly
- Fringe Communities
- NGO e.g. Wildlife Society
- Research Institution e.g. KNUST

## ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE SANCTUARY

1. Provisioning benefits e.g. NTFPs and drinking water.
2. Regulating benefits e.g. Clean air, wetland protection, flood and wildlife protection.
3. Cultural benefits e.g. Aesthetic beauty, education/research and Ecotourism.
4. Habitat benefits e.g. Maintenance of life cycles of migratory birds and genetic diversity.



## THREATS FACING THE SANCTUARY

- Houses development, sand wining and farming practices impacting on the catchment/dam area.
- Illegal and over-exploitation of NTFPs.

## MEASURES TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SANCTUARY

1. Zoned area into protecting and harvesting zone and allocate annual NTFPs for fringing communities
2. Implement alternative livelihood programmes in fringe communities to reduce pressure on Owabi.
3. Restore affected and degraded areas by planting trees.
4. Involve the local communities in decision making process.



FIGURE 1: SPOTTED MONIA MONKEY

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary educational brochure that was designed and shared among fringing communities.