

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Eugene Gakpo Alhassan
Project Title	Integrated ecosystem assessment to develop a sustainable management plan for Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary in Ghana
Application ID	24094-1
Grant Amount	£5000
Email Address	Eugenere_2000@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	31 st May, 2019

1. 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
Contribution to developing a sustainable management plan for Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary by using integrated ecosystem assessment.				With the use of an integrated ecosystem assessment approach and the help of involved stakeholders like Wildlife Division (WD), Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL), fringe communities, Atwima Nwabiagya District Assembly and Ghana Statistical Services, a comprehensive sustainable plan has been documented.
Contribute to creating a public/community awareness				Three giant sign posts have been installed in three entry areas of the Sanctuary. Promotional t-shirts were developed and shared among community members to help promote the area. A large banner was made and was used in educational float by Owabi M/A students around fringing communities promoting the importance of the place and associated threats. An interactive but participatory education on resource management fringing Owabi t-shirts promoting public/community awareness have been distributed among communities.
Contribute to public/community education and validating the sustainable management report.				Community education involving the dissemination of educational materials (brochures) and validating the report on the sustainable use of Owabi resources have been done throughout the fringe communities and with key stakeholders. The plan has been validated for the period 2019-2020

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

There were no major unforeseen difficulties that arose during the initial implementation of the project. Specifically, there were non-technical issues concerning the final arrangement date for community education, educational float and the validation of the sustainable management plan that was developed. Most especially bringing all the key stakeholders together for that day was quite difficult and could have delayed the project implementation. This was handled properly by the project team with special arrangements from the Wildlife Division to convey the message on the favourable time and place. Although, it took some time, it in turn was a success.

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

1. The project has contributed to developing a sustainable management plan for the whole area of the sanctuary (both inner site and the catchment area). The project used an integrated ecosystem assessment approach which was more localised, particularly to the project communities. This plan provides a comprehensive list of ecosystem services obtained from the sanctuary by benefiting communities. These ecosystem services especially the provisioning services have been spelled out with their carrying capacity indicating services being used sustainably and unsustainably. Such information can be used in determining the future of these services to continuously benefiting from them. The plan provides quality information for the Wildlife Division (WD) and Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) in providing services e.g. Fuel wood and drinking water in a more sustainable way. The plan offers evidence on communities' interest (benefit they obtain from the area) in terms of providing alternative livelihood when full protection of the area is required. It again provides necessary stakeholder relationships from the fringing communities stand point. This is relevant for any potential conflict or synergies in the future when providing interventions.
2. The project implementation has uplifted awareness of the Sanctuary in the project communities. T- Shirts, distributed during the project execution has increased the protection awareness for the sanctuary. Again, students from Owabi M/A school and some staff from the Wildlife Division joined in the "float campaign" to promote the importance of the Sanctuary far and beyond. Three giant signposts indicating a welcoming feeling and entry point into the sanctuary have been established. All these activities have increasingly promoted awareness of the sanctuary hence will reduce lowest level of encroachment than before.
3. About 100 individuals from the project communities together with committee chairman, district assembly man and Wildlife Division have been involved in Owabi education session together with the distribution of 100 key educational brochures. The aim of the project was addressed in the session. Individuals were educated on the benefits of the sanctuary and the necessary measures needed for its sustainability.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Local communities were involved during the assessment, implementation and dissemination process of this project. Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary and the fringing communities were the prime target for this project. Local communities were involved in assessing the benefits deriving from the sanctuary, as well as their supportive measures to ensure the sustainability of its ecosystem services. This took place during the community survey and interview. Communities can now continue benefiting from the sanctuary (e. g extract drinking water) in a sustainable way without degrading the sanctuary. Also, the local communities are well informed and well educated about the importance of the area, its conservative status and the consequences of encroachment and exceeding carrying capacity of its ecosystem services.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I would love to. More importantly the communities and key stakeholders want me to continue as well. The sustainable management plan shared light on the collaborations among neighbouring communities including traditional authorities. Also, worth noting, communities supported some measures they believe enhances the sustainability of the sanctuary. This showcases the enthusiasm of project communities in resource management. It would be therefore necessary to set up and activate community resource management club, which is localised to ensure sustainability of the sanctuary. Therefore, it is necessary for the project team and interested entities to seek for additional funding that assists in activating such club and provide capacity building to club. Also, to reduce the pressure on the current ecosystem services obtained from the sanctuary, there are plans to restore affected or degraded area by planting natives species and most importantly develop and champion other livelihood alternatives programmes for fringing communities. Proposals have been developed and the project team is actively seeking for funding.

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

Hard copies of final report will be shared among the stakeholders involved. Also, the soft copy would be available on my public websites like ResearchGate, LinkedIn upon request.

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

The grant was used from the period of June 2018 to May 2019 as intended.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Contingency (10% of total budget)	374	552	+178	Extra cost for designing and printing Owabi T-shirts
Cost of printing report and manual for stakeholders interested	250	300	+50	Extra cost for printing report for some individuals requesting report materials from the communities
Cost of Stationery	155	160	+5	This was due to price hike during the period of project implementation
Cost of printing and photocopies for workshop material	250	350	+100	Workshop material included a banner and brochures. However, there were extra costs in printing and mounting the giant sign posts.
Cost of a day workshop to validate management plan and plan of action	700	750	+50	An extra cost for the educational float
Cost of 2-member team from the sanctuary for 10days during Community survey (Ghc 300/day per person)	1000	970	-30	Depreciation of the Ghana Cedi's during project period.
Cost of 25 gallons of fuel per day for 10 days for deploying survey tools (Ghc 21/gallon)	735	852	+117	Mainly high fuel price and decreasing value of the Ghana cedi's during project period
Cost of 2-member team from the sanctuary for a 4 day field reconnaissance survey (Ghc 300/day per person)	400	390	-10	Depreciation of the Ghana Cedi's during project period.
Cost of 18 gallons of fuel per day for 4 days for reconnaissance survey (Ghc 21/gallon)	211	246	+35	Mainly high fuel price and decreasing value of the Ghana cedi's during project period

Cost of hiring vehicle for 15 days for deploying survey tools (Ghc 250/day)	730	609	-121	Car rental at a cheaper rate during project period.
Cost of hiring a vehicle for 4 days for site reconnaissance (Ghc 250/day)	195	162	-33	Car rental at a cheaper rate during project period.
Total	5,000	5,341	+341	Note: 1 GBP = Ghc 6.16 (during the period of implementation)

External support also came from the Environmental System Analysis group in Wageningen University and Research

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

The important next steps include finishing up the final report for The Rufford Foundation and sharing it to all the relevant stakeholders. Also, the sustainable management plan highlighted some key recommendations, which would be necessary to undertake. Firstly, the plan recommended that the area must be zoned into protecting zone and harvesting zone (applying their carrying capacity). Also showcasing a clear management responsibility and collaboration between WD and GWCL and opening discourse about the tenure agreement among these governmental bodies and landowners. This would help to know where to extract, protect and by which factor. Facilitating this process would be a necessary step. Secondly, implementation of alternative livelihood programs in project communities would reduce pressure on the Sanctuary resources. Thirdly, restoration of degraded areas by planting trees and maintaining dam to support community's extraction. Lastly, involving local communities in Owabi resource management, thus activating local volunteering group. It is encouraged that business entities, NGOs, government etc. to get involve in championing these steps.

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

Relevant effort was made wherever and whenever possible to publicise The Rufford Foundation as the funding agent of this project. This was explained during the project preparation and implementation (community awareness and education) and dissemination of project results in the communities. Signposts, t-shirts, banners and brochures all bear the Rufford Foundation logo as the funder of this project.

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

Dr. Rudolf de Groot

Dr. Rudolf is my international supervisor from the Environmental System Analysis group at Wageningen University, Netherlands. He is an expert in ecosystem services assessment and proficient in developing frameworks in assessing these ecosystem

services. He provided the best supervision by reviewing the project report during project development and execution. He continuously provided feedback to improve the project, as well as the report.

Mr. Samuel Ayesu

Mr. Samuel is my local supervisor from the Resource Management Support Centre (Forestry Commission) in Ghana. He has the expertise in forest resource management and specifically in ecology and biodiversity. He played the role of connecting me the wildlife division in the Sanctuary. He reviewed the technical framework in collecting field data and provided relevant feedback on the final report.

Mr. Philip Damoah

Mr. Philip played the major role in assisting the project team during field reconnaissance and data collection. He assisted in both the community and expert interviews, education and awareness creation workshop. He is also credited for most of the pictures taken during the project.

12. Any other comments?

Over the years, the Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary has been dealing with more threats, especially since the sanctuary is situated inland with increasing population demand. Despite such threats, the area contributes to the world's forest ecosystem services. The support from the Rufford Foundation has been undeniably helpful in headlining the area in terms of resource management and community wellbeing. Such support will ensure the sustainability of sanctuary by conserving biodiversity, enhancing forest productivity and stimulating the prosperity of the fringe communities now and for future generations. Engagement with the foundation for such activities will be inevitable.