

Project Update: July 2018

A first meeting was set with the Wildlife Division (WD) in charge of managing the Owabi Wildlife Sanctuary. This was to get access to the sanctuary for site reconnaissance and to assess the status of the area. With a forest guard we were able to get access to the vegetation, forest cover, riverine area as well as the dam site. This activity gave us a general idea of what ecosystem services being provided by the area. Also, a discussion with experts from the WD and Ghana Water Company Limited (WD) gave out possible fringe communities that benefit directly or indirectly from this ecosystem services. It was realised since the area is close to the big city of Kumasi and getting more urbanised, not all fringe communities got any benefits from the area. This was affirmed by developing and testing of our questionnaire to assess the benefit obtained by fringe communities. Therefore, communities chosen were based on accessibility, benefit and distance to the sanctuary thus communities less than or equal to 5 km to or from the sanctuary. The possible fringe communities include Owabi, Esaase, Bokwankye, Ohwim and Atafra. This will also help in future developments of the project in terms of targeted group for community education and awareness creation to promote sustainability of the sanctuary.

The sanctuary falls under two districts thus Nwabiagya District Assembly and Kumasi Metropolis and therefore a second meeting was schedule to assess the population around the area. Together with Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and District Assembly, we were able to assess the population status of the possible fringe communities for the year 2010 (Table 1). This data will help develop a workable sample size for community interviews in the near future of this project. With a scheduled community and expert interviews, we will be able to further highlight the ecosystem services being benefited, the threats associated with the use of these benefits, conflicts among users of this benefits and management measures to enhance the sustainability of the Sanctuary to continue providing these services.

Table 1: Showing the population status of chosen fringe communities for the year 2010

Community	Population Status	Source
Owabi	2,00	Atwima Nwabiagya District Assembly
Esaase	2,718	Atwima Nwabiagya District Assembly
Bokankye	3,844	Atwima Nwabiagya District Assembly
Ohwim	15,743	GSS
Atafra	4,062	GSS

Site Reconnaissance – photographs below:



Left: Project leader at the Sanctuary. Right: The aquatic vegetation's of the Sanctuary.



Left: At the dam/catchment area of the Sanctuary. Right: Bamboo canopy area of the Sanctuary



Left: House encroachment at the Sanctuary. Right: Waste dumping at the Sanctuary.



Left: The Owabi catchment in the Sanctuary. Right: Flooding impact of the Owabi River at the Sanctuary.



Spotted
Monkey

Mona