

Project Update: October 2018

The project is currently running successfully. Three fringe communities were identified and preliminary visits were made to communities in April 2018 to establish contact with local hunters, traditional leaders and other key stakeholders in the fringe communities. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the project to the communities and further enlighten them on the intent of the project. The project team also paid a visit to the community schools to raise awareness about the species and the environment in general. Wet season Field surveys were carried out from May to June 2018. During this survey individuals were spotted in the Jimi River over a survey distance of about 11.2 km. We have recorded three West African slender-snouted nests. Unfortunately, all the nesting areas discovered so far are under serious threats from anthropogenic disturbances mainly illegal logging, clearance for agriculture and local alcohol distillation. . Awareness campaigns and focus group discussions are still ongoing. Local sensitisation included two selected community schools. We selected local fish farmers who will undergo training to response to emergency of fishpond invasion by crocodiles. Community sensitisation touched on the importance of crocodiles, crocodile ecology and environmental protection.



Left: Meeting with traditional leaders. Right: Team members interacting with Local gin distillers on the effects of deforestation.



Left: A tree that has been felled by the distillers to be used as firewood. NB this was just at the banks of the river. Right: Local distiller's camp and work close to the Jimi River.



Left: The Riparian vegetation along the Jimi River is under pressure from farming activities. Right: Team members educating school children.



Left: Night crocodile survey. Right: Beside a Crocodile nest.



Left: Team members with our local guide. Right: Team members and our local guide after a night survey.



Left: Hatchling of West African slender-snouted crocodile spotted along the Jimi River in Obuasi. Right: West African slender-snouted spotted during night survey in Obuasi.