

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Your name</b>           | Caleb Boateng, Ofori   |
| <b>Project title</b>       | Conservation of two Critically Endangered Frog Species in the Forest Zone of South Western Ghana |
| <b>RSG reference</b>       | 67.02.09   |
| <b>Reporting period</b>    |  |
| <b>Amount of grant</b>     | £6,000   |
| <b>Your email address</b>  | <a href="mailto:calebofori@gmail.com">calebofori@gmail.com</a>                                   |
| <b>Date of this report</b> | 12/01/2011   |

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   |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Conservation Education and Training    |              |                    | x              | Our conservation education focused on five communities fringing the main project areas. Our activities have resulted in significant behaviour change among local people. For example rate of exploitation of tree resources for firewood have been remarkable reduced over the project period and this is likely to continue. In addition, we successfully trained 20 people in five villages on beekeeping as an alternative livelihood support option to cater for loss income that would other wise have been gained from continuous forest exploitation. Conservation education was in the form of picture and video presentations, doorstep campaigns etc |
| Habitat Restoration                    |              |                    | x              | A 1000 tree seedlings, comprising indigenous species, were planted to both restore and extend the habitat of a Critically Endangered frog. We are very excited that we were able to plant these trees. Our activities have laid a solid foundation that will ensure the long term persistence of this species.   |
| Development of Conservation Guidelines |              | x                  |                | Conservation guidelines for the Jukwa Community Resource Management Area have been drafted and currently being circulated to stakeholders for final inputs. This guiding document was produce collaboratively with all major stakeholders including farmers, landowners, chiefs and the Ghana Wildlife Division.   |
| Amphibian survey.                      |              |                    | x              | Fifteen forests were surveyed twice for their amphibians over a 15-month period and recorded 34 amphibian species including one <i>Phrynobatrachus</i> species believed to be new to science.  |

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

N/A

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

i. Twenty hectares forestland for the conservation of a Critically Endangered frog species (*Phrynobatrachus* sp.) have been secured as part of this project in which 1000 trees have been planted and all known anthropogenic interference successfully eliminated. We consider this an enormous achievement! In the future this forest land will not only protect frogs but also serve as an important stepping stone forest for the largely fragmented landscape of south western Ghana providing refuge for several threatened species.

ii. One of our target species (*Phrynobatrachus intermedius*) is officially listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN based on the information provided by this project. In addition, our survey efforts have resulted in significant understanding of the amphibian fauna of southern Ghana including a first country record (*Kassina cochranæ*) and a record of a species believed to be new to science (*Phrynobatrachus* sp.). Thus this RSG project has laid a solid foundation for the management of the amphibians of southern Ghana which is great!

iii. Twenty community members from five communities were trained as part of this RSG to adopt an alternative livelihood in beekeeping. In addition, a ready market for products (honey) to be produced by these beneficiaries has been negotiated. This will ensure that the impacts of this RSG project is long lasting in that rural people dependence on forest resource for their livelihood will be drastically reduced.

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

Local communities have been significantly involved both in the planning and final execution of this RSG project. At the onset of the project, team members and volunteer students embarked on a door to door education programme in which we interacted with 90% of all households in our target communities. As a follow-up, local people were invited to community gatherings where we made both video and photo presentations to them. Our education campaign finally paid off when local people voluntary joined the team to embark on reforestation and extension of a 3 ha forest fragment in Jukwa for the maintenance of a viable population of the target frog species. Some farmers have given up lands (40 ha) for future plantation as the learnt of the significance of species protection and maintaining forest lands around their farms.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

In the future our conservation efforts will seek to plant 2000 trees on lands donated by local farmers to serve as a buffer zone to the main project site. We will also strive to ensure that community members continue to benefit from conservation efforts by promoting ecotourism and other alternative livelihood options.

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

We have submitted the conservation guidelines drafted with the community members in the course of this project to the Wildlife Division of Ghana for consideration. A manuscript has also been drafted describing the new findings and species account of the amphibians of southern Ghana hopefully will be published soon.

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

The RSG was used for about 18 months instead of the anticipated 12 months period. This was due to the fact that dealing with local people was very unpredictable and required a lot of time and patience to build meaningful consensus.

**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  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Reconnaissance Survey                 | 262.5           | -             | 265.2      | It became necessary to include a reconnaissance survey prior to the field work.                                 |
| Conservation Education and Awareness  | 1015            | 1015          | -          |   |
| Habitat Restoration                   | 500             | 700           | 200        | Price adjustment over the period by the national tree seed centre.  |
| Field Surveys                         | 3,350           | 3850          | 500        | A few more days were needed to sample an additional two forests fragmented originally not included in our plan. |
| Training Workshops /Seminars/ Manuals | 625             | 625           |            |   |
| <b>Total</b>                          | 6000            | <b>6190</b>   | 190        | Exchange rate £1=2.24 GHC   |

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

Amphibian conservation in Ghana (as do many other species) faces threat from habitat loss and degradation. The threats maybe grouped into two those mainly originating from local communities (e.g. firewood collection, illegal logging for domestic use etc) and those from commercial sources (e.g. mining and timber extraction). Unfortunately for amphibians they respond rather sensitively to such anthropogenic habitat modifications and they are relatively incompletely known. Whereas the project have focused on reducing threats emanating from local communities future conservation efforts must in addition to this focus on dealing with commercial source of threat and highlighting the plight of amphibians on a national scale.

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

The RSG logo was used in our entire project T-shirts and received regular mention in our radio programs. It has also been duly acknowledge in our draft manuscript for publication and conservation guidelines.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are extremely grateful to the RSGF for granting us such a great opportunity to contribute to species conservation in Ghana. Without this RSGF we could never have accomplished what we did and the persistence of these Critically Endangered frogs could never have been guaranteed.