



## 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. 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. 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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Albert Addo
<b>Project title</b>	Integrated Community Biodiversity Conservation, Training and Awareness to Protect Safe Habitats for Chimpanzees and Monkeys of Togo Plateau Range - Ghana
<b>RSG reference</b>	09. 02. 08
<b>Reporting period</b>	21th August 2008 – 30th December 2009
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5,420
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:adhaphofou@yahoo.com">adhaphofou@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> April 2010

**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
PUBLIC AWARENESS Communities and Schools Educational Programme		Partially achieved		Fully achieved for the 13 (Eastern North) communities of Togo Plateau and their various schools out of the 27 overall initially selected communities to benefit and their various selected schools to carry out the project. The remaining 14 (Eastern South) communities and their various schools could not be achieved.
INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS FOR LOCAL CBO STAFF			Fully achieved	46 CBO staff from all 27 villages were brought together for capacity training workshop. These also include forests, other NGO staffs, committee chairmen, some opinion leaders, selected units committees executives, assembly members and area council members from all the 27 beneficiary communities.
YOUTH VOLUNTEERS TRAINING PROGRAM Community Level Youth Leadership Program Community peer educators, advocators, forest patrol guards, fire combatants.		Partially achieved		Fully achieved for the 13 (Eastern North) communities. The normal scheduled training programme of training at least six community forest managers and 12 community forest protection volunteers (patrol guards) for remaining 14 communities at this time was suspended due to insufficient availability of funds.
LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TRAINING PROGRAM Training for poachers in livestock/grass-cutter rearing, farmers in organic/		Partially achieved.		Recommendations 1. Other alternative sustainable livelihoods option for the region needs to be explored. 2. Introduction of modern technologies in beekeeping to maximize production and reduce fires. 3. Marketing of the products outside the districts should be developed to raise the income generated from eco-friendly honey and bee products. The government should invest more in

agro-forestry and beekeeping, women groups in mushroom farming, chainsaw operators and others in snail farming/livestock				the area to curb insecurity and improve the dilapidated infrastructure to open up the Togo Plateau to tourism and more proactive active conservation.
TOGO PLATEAU RANGE HABITATS RESTORATION PROGRAM Tree planting, agroforestry and sustainable agriculture			Fully achieved	Over 150 ha of teak plantation have been developed at degraded area of the plateau so far with 74 ha in Akpafu zone alone. In late 2009, a larger nursery of different tree species was created with aim of distributing them to our farmers for continues transplanting during the 2010 major farming season (May and June).
HABITATS PROTECTION, DAILY SITE SECURITY AND FIELD MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES			Fully achieved	Fully achieved for the 13 present project communities and are in operation.
ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES Revolving loan for local stakeholders: (i). livestock/grass-cutter farmers (ii). Beekeepers (iii). Mushroom farmers (vi). Snail farmers		Partially achieved		10 % of registered stakeholders received training in various skills and are practicing these. Global financial crises affecting marketing of products. More other alternative sustainable livelihoods option for the region needs to be explored.
MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS Printing of posters, flyers, certificates, radio, advertisement and making of billboards, etc.			Fully achieved	Only billboards could not be made. Bill boards were too expensive far beyond the estimated cost.

MEDICINAL PLANT SPECIES CULTIVATION	Could not be achieved			The expert in-charge of the programme was indisposed during the start of the project period.
BUSH FIRE CONTROL		Partially achieved.		Started alongside tree planting with the planting of fire protecting species.

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

Towards the end of 2008 and third quarter of 2009, unusually heavy rains rocked the region. The valley area outside the protected area which was earmarked to be used for sustainable agriculture and other alternative livelihood activities by local stakeholders resulted in flooding, this was not only limited to patrols but also not easy for agricultural work schedule for, somehow reduced the number of illegal incursion due to the inclement weather conditions. Now self-regulation is the way forward in natural resources utilization due to limited investment in the region and in the area. We decided to use the flooded valley for cereal cultivation especially rice.

Another constraint was in implementing permanent and sustainable financing mechanisms for the Togo Plateau conservation project. Capacity and funding access to construct a rural access road to open-up the Togo Plateau to the rest of the world and funds to enable us to fully implement the programme within the time constraints of the project was not available and up to now has not been sorted.

Awareness educational campaigns and training on forest protection, tree planting, and a fire belt for fire prevention and organized workshops were the major activities for the period of the project. The normal scheduled training programme of training at least six community forest managers and 12 community forest protection volunteer patrol guards for the remaining 14 communities at this time was suspended due to insufficient availability of funds until another permanent source of income has been secured.

Efforts to continue the training programme on a yearly basis for the communities did not happen because a regular source of income on an annual basis has not yet being secured. In addition to the fire combatants and village forest management training programme, refresher courses could also need to be organized in the years to come.

The committee observed that despite education and motivation that was given to the inhabitants, about 40% still rely on forest resources for their survival. Cross-examination shows that due to acute rural poverty that continues to affect the rural dwellers they always prefer to use resources in the forests for survival than some of the alternatives provided

Access road networks in the region are very poor to enable free movement of vehicular transport accessibility for services and marketing of produce and are forced or compelled to go to the forests for resources.

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

(i) Sociological studies, quantitative evidence of the improved awareness / protection of monkeys and

chimpanzees /general awareness education campaign that was provided. During this process, over 200 poachers, 3,000 farmers and over 5,000 other illegal intruders were formally identified and are willing to restrain from hunting. Moreover, they control illegal activities in their villages, such as bushmeat trade, and intrusions in the biological reserve have been reduced considerably.

(ii) The most encouraging activity following successful awareness educational campaigns and conservation training programme is the initiative of the villagers around Kwamikrom, Akpafu, Bowri and Kawu area to set up surveillance committees popularly called forest committees in collaboration with Ghana Forestry Commission (GFC). The AHHF regularly supports these committees in sensitization activities. Projects that encourage this initiative are currently developed and followed up by AHHF staff and other different partner organizations such as Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) around the Togo Plateau.

(iii) So far over 150 ha of teak plantation have been developed on degraded areas of the Togo Plateau with 74 ha in Akpafu zone of the plateau alone. Another major activity was development of agro-nurseries in late 2009 - a larger nursery of different tree species was created with aim of distributing them to our farmers for transplanting during the 2010 major farming season (May and June). A seed unit was created, with the task to purchase, store and distribute quality seeds of requested species to the farmers and hunters groups.

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

With the Rufford Small Grant funding, a number of pilot activities were started and these, which will form the basis of much larger interventions in future, have started yielding positive results. Support from Rufford to AHHF project for the last 2 year has enabled more conservationists, local inhabitant's communities, farmers, hunters, NGOs, researchers and businessmen to work in the area. Agroforestry can mean a more dignified life for small-scale farmers, hunters, women's groups and youths without jobs in our area and ensure a life without hunger and poverty, a life with a lot of possibilities for communities around the Togo Plateau in Ghana. The awareness had resulted in raised income for the local community, investment in infrastructure and environmental conservation and improved awareness on natural resources management among the local community to stop escalating the poaching incidents and hampering conservation efforts currently underway in the Togo Plateau.

Throughout 2008/2009, the AHHF was approached by villagers, associations and schools to provide information about the conservation of the forest and the chimpanzees and monkeys that exist there. Some new micro-projects that have been developed in the Kawu area through a cooperation of various local and international NGOs such as Rufford, Rainforest Information Centre RIC, Australia and SWBG-Conservation Fund. Projects include rearing grasscutters, pigs, chicken and rabbits and planting of a 150 ha teak plantation in collaboration with GFC in the deforested area of the Togo Plateau. These projects will provide alternative future revenues for poachers and are an incentive to stop hunting. In Bowiri and Kwamekrom specific actions of villages or local organizations around the Togo Plateau not only increased significantly over the past years but activities and projects also became much more organized and therefore will have a higher impact on the protection of the concerned areas.

This project has benefited directly over 13 indigenous ethnic communities and indirectly about 27 earmarked communities, including women, youth and children; a population of approximately 350,000 lives along the boundaries of the Togo Akwapim ranges (Togo plateau) in Volta Togoland. Other indirect beneficiaries include schools, NGOs, institutions and the Government of Ghana. The potential possible impact in achieving long-term poverty alleviation identified is the critical role of women and children in sustainable use and management of tropical forest resources. In the Togo Plateau tropical forest zone, it is clear that women are in control of the non-timber forest products. They harvest and use them for food, fuel, medicine and fodder. They also trade in them for limited cash income. They collect and process shea nuts into butter, baobab fruits into condiments and leaves, stem portions and roots of various plants and herbs into medicine. Fuelwood and charcoal production are also a female preserve and account for the employment of a majority of rural women. Women have therefore accumulated a profound knowledge of local ecosystems and have vital roles to play in natural resources conservation, utilization and sustainable management.

Tropical forest-based economic enterprises run by women are bound to suffer with tropical forest resource degradation and this will negate the poverty reduction objective of this ICBCTA. Hence involvement of women in natural resources management is key to poverty reduction in the tropical forest just as it is key to ensuring a balance between natural resource exploitation and systems of sustainable tropical forest management.

Children and women in rural communities bear the burden of environmental degradation in Ghana by walking long distances to procure forest products for household consumption. Children's needs, including school fees, are often met by incomes generated through various forest-based economic enterprises their mothers engage in. As the future heirs of the environment and its resources and problems, Togo Plateau tropical forest resource management must be the business of children as it is of adults. Catching them young is the best assurance for building their capacity and empowering them for future natural resource conservation, utilization and sustainable management. This has been achieved through organizing youth workshops and training camps, environmental education in school curricula, and forming environmental clubs in schools and colleges. Encouragement and empowerment are two key actions necessary to improve women and children's roles in natural resource conservation, utilization, benefits and sustainable management.

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

Yes, there are plans to continue the same project with a Rufford Second Grant in the other 14 remaining villages and communities. This pilot initiative would be replicated in other villages and communities who need support to help the idea grow and make it sustainable by provision of sustainable livelihoods option, awareness creation on Natural resource management and Forest legislation/Act 2002 on Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

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

The final report of the conservation project study results will be effectively disseminated and explain to the local people. Gaining the understanding and support of local people, especially those who might be affected by recommended changes in deforestation and hunting practices, is fundamental in working

towards the conservation of endangered species. Study results will also be disseminated to scientific community, research institutes and universities, and at least one review article will be published in a major Ghana wildlife journal. Also, the study results and recommendations will be given to the Ministry of Lands and Forestry (MLF) through Ghana Forestry Commission (GFC) and its relevant divisions and Ghanaian Natural Resources Institute (GNRI), the government body in charge of natural resources and protected areas. Lastly, results from this research will be part of AHHF NGO dissertation

### **1. Community Patrol Guards**

The few Patrol Guards who had been trained on resource surveillance and data collection between 2006 and 2009 have been used to provide information on field reports like sightings of threats and illegal incidences gathered during patrols in the reserves.

### **2. Interviews - formal and informal with key people on the ground**

They include Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), Ministry of Food Agriculture (MOFA) Officers, local community leaders, forest committees, local NGO and CBO personnel and District Assembly representatives in various communities.

### **3. Direct field observation**

Response to the structured questions may be used to supplement with informal conversations and direct field observations on various aspects under investigation.

### **4. Government records**

Government records where possible, would be used, vehicle log books, crime Occurrence Book (OB) for arrest and reported incidences and cases, other records from Forestry Department, the Police and GWS may be used to retrieve information on threats and action taken.

### **5. Secondary literature**

Data may also be obtained from literature reviews, projects annual reports, and district development plans, statistical abstracts, and unpublished manuscripts such as the Togo Plateau National Reserves quarterly and annual reports to date. The main objective of this data collection will be used to: 1). Improve local capacity to assess resources, define threats and articulate realistic and effective conservation strategies; 2). Implement at least more pilot programmes for participatory monitoring resources and mitigation of threats; and 3). Facilitate communication between local community groups, government, and with the outside world by establishing community based conservation

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

The grant was used between 21 August 2008 and 30 December 2009. Anticipated actual length of the project is 12 months but due to unforeseen circumstances and difficulties that surrounded the project during its implementation, the length was extended to 17 months.

**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.**

**UK £1.00 = GHC 2.2. 00**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Public awareness	£1,750	£2,100	£350	Inflation continues to gallop always in Ghana due to unstable economic stability and poor governance.
Institutional training and capacity building workshops for local CBO staff	£1,390	£1,490	£100	
Youth volunteers training programme (community level youth leadership programme)	£1,140	£1,210	£70	
Local stakeholders economic empowerment training programme	£1,140	£1,210	£70	
Togo plateau range habitats restoration programme (tools, logistics and equipment)	£1,537	£1,537	–	
Habitat protection, daily site security and field management activities	£1,500	£1,650	£150	
Establishment of community alternative economic livelihood activities (revolving loan for local stakeholders)	£2,000	£2,000	–	
Media and publications	£500	£900	£400	
Administrative expenses	£185	£422	£ 237	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£11,142</b>	<b>£12,519</b>		

**NOTE PLEASE:** The project received an amount equivalent of £1,377 inflationary budget support from Rainforest Information Centre (RIC) in Australia to complement the project budget during the period of the project. Our sincere thanks go to all contributors.

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

This pilot initiative would need to be replicated in 14 remaining villages and communities who also need support to help the idea grow and make it sustainable by provision of sustainable livelihoods option, awareness creation on natural resource management and Forest legislation/Act 2002 on Participatory Forest Management (PFM).

1. Alternative sustainable livelihoods option for the local stakeholders needs to be explored. For example, Kawu culture and ecotourism which is increasingly becoming popular in other parts of Ghana.
2. Introduction of modern technologies, providing basic agricultural equipment and improving in sustainable agriculture to maximize production, especially cereal production, agroforestry and reducing fires.
3. Marketing of the products outside the district should be developed to raise the income generated from sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly honey and bee products.
4. Training on Participatory Forest Management, a concept introduced in the new Forest Act 2002 which came into force January 2006. It is necessary to enlighten the community on the new Act which recognizes the right of communities living around forest to sustainably manage and utilize the forest resources.
5. The government should invest more in the area to curb insecurity and improve the dilapidated infrastructure to open up the Togo Plateau to tourism and more proactive active conservation

**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?**

Yes, we do in printing of the project T-Shirts and some of the publication materials.

Yes, the local media was used to thank the members and communities, basically Lolorny FM. The only available and recently established FM station in our area

**11. Any other comments?**

The threat to the Togo Plateau ecosystem, though very high in the past, so far and during the survey is now noted to be on the lower scale and does not pose a significant threat to the biodiversity for areas under the project presently. This is due to the support received from Rufford Small Grant and its partner's organizations which enabled education of local people to reduce pressure on the resources of the forests. Many destructive natural resource-based activities which posed a significant threat to the environment, with the exception of wild fire whose benefits and negative impacts to the environment have not been well understood, have been reduced to minimum. But this should not be a reason to change the conservation measures to stop the threats identified. Indeed, this is the best opportunity to prevent these threats from getting bigger and more serious, since it will be easier to control them at this early stage. That's why AHHF is working with local communities to support their own initiatives in resource monitoring and surveillance. A few pilot activities started will form the basis of much larger interventions in future. The last 3 years of AHHF project in the reserve has enabled more conservationists, NGOs, researchers and businessmen to work in the area. The awareness had resulted in raising income for the local community, investment in infrastructure and environmental conservation and improved awareness on natural resources management among the local community to stop escalating the poaching incidents and hampering conservation efforts