

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Patrick K. Ahumah
Project title	Conservation Awareness Campaign for Communities around the Agumatsa Wildlife Sanctuary in the Hohoe District of Ghana
RSG reference	11. 10. 08
Reporting period	1 Year
Amount of grant	£5,500
Your email address	pkahumah@yahoo.com
Date of this report	27th August 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
Organise Stakeholders Meeting ^a			Fully Achieved	The stakeholders meeting was well patronised which gave us an indication of their commitment and support for the project. The contribution of the stakeholders was evidenced by their frustration on the enforcing of bylaws on the killing of wildlife in the sanctuary. A copy of the minutes of the stakeholders meeting has been submitted to the district assembly. A follow-up meeting and an advocacy training programme for the stakeholders will go long way to help the communities protect and conserve their forest and wildlife.
Community Education and Awareness Campaign			Fully Achieved	Education and awareness have been carried out in target communities on wildlife protection and forest conservation. The participation of local traditional leaders and chief boosted the programme. However, the local leaders and chiefs want a consistent and continuous education programme to achieve the desired change in attitude among community members and challenged the project team to endeavour to provide more education in the community. A post education and awareness quiz showed an increase in knowledge on conservation compared to the beginning of the project. Posters and megaphones were used during the campaign and children were also actively involved and showed keen interest.
Train Local Theatre Group			Fully achieved	An already existing community theatre and drama group was trained on a particular drama to create awareness on conservation of the wildlife sanctuary in the area. The reason to target this group is to ensure long term sustainability of this activity even after funding elapses. The theatre attracted most people from the communities' especially young people and children. Each of the target

				community benefited from a theatre event, however due to poor weather and bad road networks the times were rescheduled for each community. Chiefs and elders of the target communities were present during the theatre to support the programme.
Establish Eight Green Clubs in Schools			Fully achieved	A total of ten green clubs has been established in the target communities. Initial goal was to establish eight, but the interest shown by the other children encouraged us to extend the green clubs to 10. The clubs have Patrons who are teachers and support the project. The children have benefited extensively from conservation and biodiversity issues. The children of the green clubs have held a radio discussion programme on the benefits of conservation for the next generation. There is high interest among children and there is the need to train young conservation educators within the schools to sustain the education and awareness in a sustainable manner.
Radio Discussion Programme			Fully achieved	Before the start of the programme, a new radio station was commissioned in Hohoe and this made the radio discussion programme even more attainable. In all six adult radio discussion programmes were held on Lorlorny FM and four children's radio programmes on the same subject, conservation, were held. Callers into the radio programme however wanted the extension of the project to bring on board officials of the district assembly so as to enforce the bylaws governing the protected areas in the Hohoe District.
Design and Erect Billboards		Partially achieved		Twelve billboards have been deployed in the target communities. The messages on these billboards were "Keep the promise, Let's conserve our environment". The messages were also translated into the local dialect (Ewe). Some of the billboards were unfortunately damaged by torrential rain and storms which hit parts of the district a few months ago.

Print Posters			Fully achieved	Both small and big sized posters were printed and used extensively for the educational and awareness campaigns in the communities.
Establish and train four conservation task force leaders in target communities			Fully achieved	Four conservation task force leaders have been trained. The training was spread over a period 3 weeks to allow the task force leaders to identify challenges and possible solutions. Local solutions to local problems were more sustainable and so the task force was trained on advocacy, negotiation and conflict management as these were the major problems confronting them in the community.

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

There were no major difficulties during the course of the project; however, some of the billboards erected were badly damaged by torrential storms that hit the area. Some of them were re-erected.

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

The first most important outcome has been the improvement in conservation knowledge demonstrated by children during radio discussions programmes, which attracted many people to call into the programme to ask the project initiators to train these to champion conservation education targeting children and young people their communities. The radio programme by children of the green clubs generated a lot discussion and there were widespread calls for the communities to be educated on the bylaws governing the conservation of protected sites in the District.

The second most important outcome is the communities' participation, especially chiefs and community elders taking the lead role in project activities, especially during awareness campaigns which have resulted in significant increase in knowledge on conservation especially on wildlife among the members of the communities.

Finally, chiefs and community leaders assert that poaching from the sanctuary has reduced drastically over the past 6 months or so due to the work of the conservation task force. This is so because the noise of gunshots according to some of the chiefs has died down gradually as compared to a year ago.

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

The local communities have been actively involved in the education and training campaigns. They have also participated in theatre and radio programmes. The roles assumed by community elders give an indication of the community ownership of the programme. The Community leaders organise campaigns and start discussion before the arrival of the project team members.

The communities have benefited from education, awareness and sensitisation on conservation; the communities have also received posters on conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work for another period so as to consolidate the gains so far. As requested by the communities, there will be the need to educate the communities on the bylaws governing protected areas in the district, train at least 20 young conservation educators in the schools and train women and youth groups specifically on conservation and ecotourism. After another year we will conduct an internal evaluation and document the impact of RSG funding in the target communities.

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

The results of the outcomes are already being documented in brochures for distributions to all stakeholders, schools, libraries and other institutions. The results will also be posted at the website of our affiliate organisation CARE NET GHANA at www.carenetghana.org/latest_news

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 1 year and it is the anticipated time frame.

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
1. Stakeholders meeting and community durbar	327	300	27	Difference moved to cover Line 3
2. Training of local theatre group and performance (lump sum)	470	400	70	Difference moved to cover Line 3
3. Community education and awareness campaigns (lump sum)	600	1,200	-600	
4. Radio discussion program (1hr airtimex6times) @ £250x6	1,500	1,600	-100	
5. Design and erection of 12 billboards (4ftx8ft) @ £55	660	720	-100	
6. Printing of education materials-1,500 posters & 5,000 leaflets	870	560	310	Difference moved to cover Line 3
7. Travel, communication and mobilisation (lump sum)	400	230	170	Difference moved to cover Line 3

8. Stipend for team members (lump sum)	273	250	23	Difference moved to cover Line 3
9. Establish and train four conservation task force leaders in target communities	400	200	200	Difference moved to cover Lines 4 and 5
Total	5,500	5,460		Exchange rate: 1£ = 1.9100

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

First, as the team leader I see continuation of the education and awareness programme as key to changing the communities' attitude towards conservation and owning the programme.

Secondly, the need to build local community capacity – train community-based conservation educators (adults and children) to continuously provide education and awareness in their respective communities. There will also be the need to educate the communities on conservation and eco-tourism.

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, the RSGF logo is boldly publicised on the billboards and posters that were produced during the course of our work.

11. Any other comments?

I am personally grateful to RSG for allocating the grant for us to implement this project. The long-term benefits of this action will justify your support and I hope that RSG will allocate a second year funding to enable complete the tasks.