

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Evelyn Asante-Yeboah
Project title	Conservation of fragmented populations of the white necked rockfowl (<i>Picathartes gymnocephalus</i>) in mid-Western Ghana
RSG reference	11248-1
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£5921
Your email address	Naturewatchgh10@gmail.com
Date of this report	10 th May 2013

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
To map the distribution of the species within its known range in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana				An up to date map has been produced. Map attached to the report
To document existing and potential threat of the species and its habitat				Questionnaires used and interview with key informants was able to gather information on this objective
To instigate behavioural change among local people				This objective was achieved to some extent, this is because the local people who were the target audience for this objective, had the chance to go through the educational campaigns with the use of posters, fliers and local participation, however, the local authorities could not make the time for the educational campaigns, but final report will be sent to them. In all the participation was good

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

Initial cooperation with the local people: they were not willing to share their knowledge with us, since they believed, we were sent from the Forestry commission. This is because they know they are not supposed to have any illegal activities in the forest but one way or the other they sneak into the forest therefore, they feared that their information will be used against them. However, upon further explanation to the project and the use of RGSF logo gave them confidence that we are in to work with them toward sustainable conservation.

Exchange rate of the money and sudden increase in prices of fuel against budgeted items: this always happens in project but since the image was not purchase, the money was used to cater for the increasing prices in fuels, also the Nature watch Ghana provided funds to top up the project.

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

a. The production of the species distribution map, which also gave a classification of the forest reserve showing areas of disturbance. Not only is the distribution map necessary for conservation but the disturbance of the forest. The map was valuable to the local authorities who realised the extent of damage of the forest. This is because, these contagious forest reserves, are densely stocked.

b. The knowledge transfer on GIS and remote sensing to a young and upcoming scientist. A BSc student was involved in this project. He had no knowledge in remote sensing and GIS, however, he has been able to effectively carry out his BSc thesis under this project and is performing well on it. The team made good knowledge transfer of information in area where one was lacking. This to me is a great achievement.

c. Educational campaigns: the local people were made to present a pictorial presentation of their community resources and which ones lies close to the forest. After this they were meant to depict which of their activities directly or indirectly affect the forest. From here, some awareness was given on the importance of the species, its threat status and the need for conservation. The local people made good use and understanding of the posters used

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

The local communities were given the chance to describe the resources they have and how important it is to them; we did this using a tool called community village resource mapping. From this community map we presented to the communities how they think their resources are important to them and how they will wish to protect it. We therefore linked this habitat of the rock fowl species which have no means of protecting its habitat. After this the local people shared their indigenous knowledge on how the species can be protecting taking into account their own actions.

During the awareness campaign, the local communities had made a short drama on how their activities in the forest are affecting the species negatively. They also distributed the posters that were used for the campaign to visitors that had come to the village for one activity or the other, and to passing vehicle. Some pasted them on their walls as a sign of conservation strategy.

The local people took pride into the conservation of the species; they were fully involved in the campaign and are willing to protect the species habitat.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are plans to continue this work, however the next step involves assessing high areas of conservation for protection purposes. As the species distribution map revealed, the area surrounding the species habitat needs some conservation measure in order to reduce the activities of legal operators (such as timber contractors) in the forest reserve. We are working with the wildlife division and the Forestry Commission to conduct a detailed assessment of the forest reserve to identify which similar areas will need conservation/protection measures. This is because the work on the rock fowls, has called for their attention.

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

One aspect of the result from this work is the BSc thesis which will be made available at the KNUST library for reference. Another output of the result will be made available at the District Wildlife offices. These will also be made into leaflets, fliers and handbills, which can easily be carried and read by visitors and the passersby.

At the organisations' book shelf, a copy of the report as well as fliers and handbills will be made available. As we are working on the organizations website, information on this project will be made available at the website.

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

16 months compared to 16 proposed months, but final report is still on-going

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 (GBP)	Actual Amount (GBP)	Difference (GBP)	Comments
LITERATURE REVIEW				
*Photocopying *Communication	208.3	180	+28.3	
SURVEYING, AND PRODUCTION OF DISTRIBUTION MAP				
*GPS hiring *Binoculars *image (Landsat) *fuel cost *accommodation	2770	2790	-20.17	The image was not purchased. However, a free Landsat image was sourced from the internet and this was because the recent Aster image had missing scan lines which will make its usage unsuitable for the work. The Landsat was equally good for the work *Two of the binoculars were purchased instead of budgeted three, it was equally sufficient for work. The money saved were used to support high fuel prices
EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND QUESTIONNAIRE ADMINISTRATION				
*development of educational materials *Preparation of drama materials *Developing and printing of questionnaire *Fuel cost *Refreshment for participants *Administrative overheads	2652.33	2790	-137.67	Fuel was the high cost in this project, so much of the money saved from other activities went into fuelling the vehicle for the research
VALIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FINAL REPORT				
*Report development and handbills	291	291	0	
TOTAL	£5921.63	6051	-129.54	The difference was supported by the organisation to ensure the smooth running of the project

Local exchange as of March 2012 1GBP=GHC2.48

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

There is the potential for ecotourism to be developed for the white-necked rock fowl in these three continuous forest reserves. The development of ecotourism will not only protect the species habitat and conservation but will also generate funds for the development of the villages surrounding the forest reserves. It is the hope of Nature Watch Ghana that once the distribution map has been produced, and threat documented, the wildlife unit in Ghana will take the necessary action in developing ecotourism potentials for the habitat of the white necked rock fowl

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 was used in the posters that we developed. It will also appear in the final report. It was also printed in the handbills and educational materials developed. The logo was also used to explain to the local communities who had no knowledge who Rufford is, and their interest in conservation issues. The local people were happy that some organisation somewhere is interested in conserving a species in their region.

11. Any other comments?

Rufford Small Grant has been very supportive in ensuring conservation issues. The small grant provided has contributed in positioning Nature Watch Ghana Organization in its on-going conservation programs. Also the integration of young BSc scientist wouldn't have been possible without this small grant support. Nature Watch Ghana is most grateful for this grant and we look forward to other collaboration.