

Project Update: September 2012

Introductions

After receiving an award (grants) from Rufford small grants in March 2012, the activities for the project began, although much work has been done earlier. In April and May, the literature work review continued, visits were made to the District Offices of Goaso for information on the species, Goaso because that is the district capital where the species is found. Discussions were also made with the man (Mr Abeko) who rediscovered the rock fowl species in the three forest blocks in Asunafo Forest District. After much work has been done we gathered much information including needed logistics and prepared for the field for the surveying and mapping of the species in August, the first round of the field visit has ended and we found interesting activities in the field.

The nests of the birds were all under rocks of course, hence the name rockfowls. Their nests were interesting and their feed as well. We also found other feeding materials such as snail shells and leaves which suggest that the birds are present in addition to other animals such as squirrels.

We also realized that the species are more clustered than scattered and appears to move to the inner parts of the forest. Although we discovered two habitats of the birds in an area a bit close to the logging area, we realized the species do not use those habitats anymore, an indication that they are being driven away by noise and excessive human activities and destruction of their habitat. However, the analysis of the satellite image will further prove this fact.

Pictures from the first field visit to the three forest blocks containing the habitats of the rock fowl species



Fig. 1. Fresh faeces of the Rockfowl bird showing activeness of the bird in the habitat. Fig. 2. Mr Ofori (BSc student) and Mr Abegko (Discoverer of Bird) standing at one rock in the species habitat.



Fig 3. Newly constructed nest with freshness of the nest, the whitish appearance is the wet nest yet to be dried. Fig 4: remains of snail shells which are feed for the Bird and also the Squirrels who live around the rock fowl habitat.



Fig 5. BSc student examining one of the nests of the species within the species habitat range. This nest is constructed under a huge rock in the Ayum Forest Reserve. Fig 6: Rock Fowl species in its nest in the night. The go feeding during the day and come to rest in the night.