

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	Henry Abuaku Howard
Project title	Assessing the Dimensions of Frog Meat Consumption and Trade in Ghana
RSG reference	11722-1
Reporting period	One-year
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	henry@savethefrogs.com
Date of this report	08/10/2013

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
Identify and record species and the quantities harvested for consumption and trade.				We conducted interviews among 140 respondents in the Upper East and Northern Regions of Ghana. To verify the species that local people harvested we also went out with local frog hunters during their hunting expeditions, and used photos of frogs that do not occur in the area. The most common frogs harvested and traded were identified to be the African tiger frog (<i>Hoplobatrachus occipitalis</i>), edible bullfrog (<i>Pyxicephalus edulis</i>) and two <i>Ptychadena</i> frogs (<i>Ptychadena bibroni</i> and <i>P. oxyrhynchus</i>).
Establish baseline information on the status of frog meat consumption in Ghana.				We studied seven local communities and identified that 80% of the respondents in our interviews eat or have eaten frogmeat. We also identified two markets we suspect are Ghana's largest frog meat markets: Fumbisi and Sandema markets in Builsa South District and North Districts respectively). From our market surveys, on five visits we encountered a total of 72 frog meat traders who sold on the average 90 smoked frogs on each market day. We also identified trade routes in and out of Ghana to Burkina Faso, through the Feo and Soe communities in the Bongo District of the Upper East Region. Despite new and sophisticated methods (nets especially) that are now being used to harvest frogs, according to frog hunters within the past 5-10 years frog captures have drastically reduced. These days, frog hunters have to travel longer distances to catch frogs. Based on these results we suggest that frog consumption and trade may have decimated frog populations.
Campaign against hunting of frogs for meat and trade.				The northern part of the country received its first ever amphibian conservation education from this project. We dubbed

			<p>all our campaign messages “SAY NO TO FROGMEAT!” With this we organised community meetings, radio programmes and school outreach and educated local people about the importance of frogs, their plight both worldwide and globally, thus, why the need to say no to frogmeat. We produced and distributed leaflets, info cards, banners and t-shirts, to traditional leaders (called chiefs), District Chief Executives, assembly members, community groups and individuals. At local schools we made presentations and freely distributed educational materials as well. Through our radio broadcast programmes including phone call-ins, we reached out to over 5,000 audiences. We also made house-to-house visits where we engaged local people in narrating folktales and proverbs about frogs. In all we collected a total of 23 proverbs associated with frogs. In addition, still on the theme “SAY NO TO FROGMEAT”, in collaboration with US-based SAVE THE FROGS! We climaxed our awareness creation activities with the celebration of the 5th Annual Save the Frogs Day (http://michaelgstarkey.wordpress.com/2013/04/19/the-5th-annual-save-the-frogs-day-begins-in-chiana-ghana/). We reached out to at least 250 live audiences, and hundreds of people through parades we organised on principal streets. We also involved one of the best local cultural troupes (with drummers wearing our branded t-shirts) to drum for the frogs. We also organised dramas and poetry recitals for local children to display about the importance of frogs, the need to say no to frog meat and ways they local people can be involved in rather protecting frogs’ populations.</p>
<p>Build the capacity of students and local people in amphibian research and conservation.</p>			<p>Through workshops and hands-on experience, we successfully trained local people and undergraduate students in species’ identification, ecology and surveys. Again, these trainings and the</p>

			<p>local people involved represent the first ever for the northern part of the country. To sustain the project's initiatives in the long-term, in collaboration with both SAVE THE FROGS! USA and SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana, we established SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana Chapter at Northern Ghana's only university, University for Development Studies (UDS). The mission of this Chapter is to work in collaboration with SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana to reduce frog meat consumption and trade, while further building the students' own capacities in amphibian research and conservation. Meanwhile, on this project we specially trained one of the UDS students, Mr Abdul-Rasheed Salifu and supported his undergraduate thesis work, which focused on frog meat consumption.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

One major problem was accessibility as the northern parts of the country are far remote from the south. Transport availability to some of our project sites are only on certain days and it takes as long as 13 hours to get there from the south. Local vehicles within the study areas also charged more than what was expected due to lack of competition from other vehicles and low patronage from locals. This did put a lot of strain on our budgeted expenses. Most of the remote parts could also not be reached by lorries. In such cases we had to go out on rented motorcycles or bicycles.

Cultural wise, to get people to attend and listen to presentations, they had to be lured with refreshments (pastries and soft drinks) so that the message of wanting them to stop hunting for frogs can be passed on.

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

A. Baseline information: Our study represents the first research on the subject for the whole of Ghana, hence an indispensable source of reference for future investigations. We established that many communities in northern Ghana especially harvest large quantities of frogs than was initially perceived. We could identify the following frog species as those commonly harvested for trade and meat: African tiger frog (*Hoplobatrachus occipitalis*), edible bullfrog (*Pyxicephalus edulis*) and two Ptychadena frogs (*Ptychadena bibroni* and *P. oxyrhynchus*). We also located the two most important frog meat trade markets in Ghana; the Fumbisi and Sandema markets in Builsa South and North Districts respectively, which could compare with other top frogmeat markets in West Africa, as reported by Monheke *et al.* (2010).

B. Capacity Building: With the aim of sustaining the project's initiatives in the long-term, we established the region's first local capacity and network of local people and students. We collaborated with the University of Development Studies (UDS) in training Mr Abdul-Rasheed Salifu to collect data for his undergraduate project thesis: *Assessing Frog Meat Consumption in the Kumbungu District and Some Parts of Tamale Metropolis in Northern Region, Ghana*. Our new SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana-UDS Chapter will continue with further research investigations into frogmeat issues and educate local people and schoolchildren on the importance of conserving frogs, while further building the students' own capacities in amphibian research and conservation.

C. Raising Awareness: We succeeded in highlighting the need to "SAY NO TO FROGMEAT" on various platforms including Facebook, twitter, press releases, blogs [(<http://www.modernghana.com/news/417021/1/save-the-frogs-ghana-being-supported-by-uk-based-r.html>), (<http://www.savethefrogs.com/newsletters/2012/2012-10-03-Ghana.html>), (<http://www.savethefrogs.com/frogblog/save-the-frogs-news/ghana-grant-frogmeat/>)]. Further, with the same message of "SAY NO TO FROGMEAT" we held the 5th Annual Save the Frogs Day; an annual worldwide celebration of amphibians. This gave us the opportunity to reach hundreds of people educating them about the need to protect frogs rather than harvesting for meat and trade. Overall, it had been an eye opening experience for local people who were receiving first hand information on frogs' contributions to the environment.

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

Local involvement on the project was very crucial for getting around and contacting the right people (especially opinion leaders). We used the snowball method where we basically relied on local people to help identify other people who are also involved in frog exploitations and trade. Local people were also happy to be involved in narrating stories and proverbs associated with frogs. Local people also drummed for the frogs, whereas local children happily engaged in drama and poetry performances.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. With the establishment of SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana UDS Chapter especially, this project is set to continue into the future. For instance, by the end of this project we discovered that elsewhere in other communities there is an emerging use of frogs - hundreds of frogs are reported to be harvested as baits for fishing. There were also reports of sand winning being another important threat to the survival of frogs. We would like to confirm these newest threats to frogs while we work to provide alternative means of fishing. We will also look for alternative livelihood means for local people who harvest frogs for meat and trade.

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

We have already shared some of our project findings on social networks such as twitter and Facebook and through blogs and newsletters [(<http://www.modernghana.com/news/417021/1/save-the-frogs-ghana-being-supported-by-uk-based-r.html>), (<http://www.savethefrogs.com/newsletters/2012/2012-10-03-Ghana.html>), (<http://www.savethefrogs.com/frogblog/save-the-frogs-news/ghana-grant-frogmeat/>)]. We have

also made available relevant project photos at our website www.savethefrogs.com/ghana. Mr Abdul-Rasheed Salifu's undergraduate thesis that the project supported is also made available at the University for Development Studies (UDS) Library. We are also developing a webpage dedicated to the project and future related frogmeat issues.

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

The project lasted for 16 months. We needed a little more time to write our reports and organise post-project assessment programmes.

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	445	600	155	We relied on the funds for contingency to cover the extra cost of transport to remote areas.
Field/Market Surveys	2175	2310	135	We relied on the funds for contingency to cover the extra cost of transport to remote areas.
Conservation Education/Workshops/seminars/radio programmes	2505	2755	250	We got the additional funding from SAVE THE FROGS! To organise events for the 5 th Annual Save The Frogs Day.
Printing (t-shirts/Manuals/Guides)	585	585	0	
Contingency	290	290	0	
TOTAL	6000	6540	540	

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

Our interactions with actors involved in the frog exploitations revealed that this project can be best sustained with local people provided with alternative sources of income and meat. Thus, as suggested by local people themselves we propose the provision of beekeeping as best alternative economic venture to frogmeat consumption and trading. We also suggest that support should be given to our new SAVE THE FROGS! UDS (University) Chapter to continue in the education of local people and school children.

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 used the RSGF logo in all related presentations during workshops and at conferences. We also had the RSGF logo on all branded t-shirts, posters, banners and flyers.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to acknowledge RSGF for this support. We also acknowledge both SAVE THE FROGS! (USA) and SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana for additional support both in kind and cash. We thank all the Chiefs and assembly members of the various communities we visited in the Upper East and Northern Ghana regions. As well, we are grateful to all the local people who were represented on the project on behalf of their communities. We are especially thankful to Alex Akebe (Chiana-Navrongo), who led in community meetings to get folktales and proverbs associated with frogs. Finally, we thank Mr Ziblim Imoro, Head of Wildlife Department of the University Of Development Studies and his students for collaborating with us on the project. For help in developing our research methods especially questionnaires we are grateful to PD Dr Mark-Oliver Rödel, IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Working Group Chair for West/Central Africa, Humboldt University, Germany, and Dr Markus Eichhorn, Lecturer in Ecology at the University of Nottingham, UK.

