

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	Gabriel Antwi-Boasiako
Project title	Saving the Critically Endangered Slender-snouted Crocodile from Local Extinction
RSG reference	16593-1
Reporting period	14 Months
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	gantboa09@gmail.com
Date of this report	04-May-2016

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
Investigate baseline information for current size of slender-snouted crocodile	x			In relation to the target species (slender snouted crocodile), we were unable to identify it in the communities. We expanded the number of communities as initially proposed from three to four after our first initial survey to increase our chances of encountering the species. However, we expanded the scope of the research study to include other crocodylians which are also under threat. We were able to identify 17 West African dwarf crocodiles (<i>Osteolemus tetraspis</i>) from five communities. These included the Ankasa Conservation Area (eight along two ponds); Anwafutu (five), Sowodadzem (three) and Paradise Community (one).
Identify potential and existing threats		x		Threats such as the capture and the consumption of crocodile's meat was very common in the communities. Our focus group and questionnaires revealed that a large number of the people engage in these activities. Moreover, the conversion of swampy areas into farmlands and continues setting of traps to catch the crocodiles (dwarf crocodiles) was rampant. During our household surveys, we identified two live captured dwarf crocodiles and encouraged the owners to return them into the wild. Upon education and the creation of awareness about the importance of crocodiles in the ecosystem, they returned them into their natural habitat.
Collaboration, conservation education and capacity building			x	Conservation education was an integral part of our research. The Ankasa Conservation Area is surrounded by about 50 communities. To ensure that we reach a larger audience, we used a radio broadcast. We carried out these broadcasts in the local language and reached out to an estimated 900 people. We also conducted three school outreaches, churches and town hall meetings. We also had household surveys and focus group discussions. All these activities were done in collaboration with the Educational Unit of the Ankasa Conservation Area, opinion

				leaders, reserve rangers and the Wildlife Division. We also had video shows in all the communities which focused on wildlife and natural resources conservation in general.
--	--	--	--	---

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

Although we were aware about the fact that we would need a permit to enter the Ankasa Conservation Area, it took about 2 months to obtain it. This affected the timeline of our reporting format.

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

A. We were able to record a total of 17 West African dwarf crocodiles during the research in four communities.

B. We recorded two live captured crocodiles (dwarf crocodiles) in the custody of locals in the Anwiafutu community. As a result of our focused conservation education, we were able to encourage them to return the species into their natural habitats.

C. The project also provided an avenue to train three undergraduate students, two wildlife rangers and other three project members and other stakeholders on data collection techniques, conservation education and other vital skills in conservation.

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

The project was planned and executed with the inclusion of local people. These communities contributed enormously towards the success of the project. Local people were able to inform us about potential habitats where they had previously identified the target species.

Importantly, the local communities understood the relevance of crocodiles as aquatic organisms. Moreover, the translation of the information captured on flyers and banners into the local language provided a better avenue for the people to participate.

Lastly, activities such as household surveys, focused group discussions and questionnaires also gave the local people the opportunity to make some important recommendations which would be included in our technical reports and scientific publication soon.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This is a preliminary study and we have plans to embark on a very detailed and systematic research in the near future. In our future activities, we hope to extend the research study to include all crocodilians. We will also explore other habitats which have been suggested by farmers as the potential places to identify the species.

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

We are currently working on a scientific publication which would be accessible to everyone. Our technical report would also be made available to the Wildlife Division, Ghana.

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 over 14 months instead of the anticipated 12 months period. We had to restructure our program due to the delay in the permit acquisition which took 2 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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Reconnaissance Surveys (Vehicle hiring, Feeding, Fuel and Accommodation)	144	144	0	
Hiring of Vehicle for Field work	700	750	+50	Additional community added for field survey
Cost of Fuel for Field Survey	420	464	+44	Additional community added for survey
Feeding cost	700	1750	+1050	1050 was provided by our organisation and other Stakeholders as in-kind contribution.
Stakeholders workshop; Snack for participants	120	120	0	
Hiring of Auditorium for Workshop	80	80	0	
Anti-Malaria and First-Aid	50	50	0	
Permit	100	120	+20	The cost of the permit increased over the period
GPS	0	200	+200	Provided by our organisation.
Headlamps	0	100	+100	Provided by us
Tents	160	180	+20	Increase in prices of goods due to inflation.
Communication	100	125	+25	We made additional communication due to the extended period of the research study
Sleeping bags	88	88	0	
Sleeping Mattresses	120	120	0	
Video shows (Hiring of Town-Hall, Power Generator and Hiring of Projector)	348	480	+96	We included an additional community as part of our surveys and conservation education instead of the initial proposed

				three communities.
Printing (T-Shirts)	540	540	0	
Printing of Flyers, info-cards	200	200	0	
Translation of information into local language	200	200	0	
Sign boards	300	300	0	
MP3 from Radio broadcast	120	120	0	
Radio Broadcast	160	200	+40	We extended the broadcast to an additional community
Final Technical Report/Publication and dissemination	350	-	-	Under preparation(money not spent)
TOTAL	5000	6331	1645	

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

The most important steps towards this research is to extend it to other parts of the country where there have been suggestion of the presence of the target species. Moreover, there is a high need to increase conservation education in the area regarding the need to conserve other crocodiles which are currently been used as food. Again, the other communities in the Ankasa Conservation Area which were not included in this research study would be survey in the future.

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?

We used the RSGF logo on the flyers, banners, posters, brochures and t-Shirts. We also informed all stakeholders during our education campaigns about the RSGF charitable support. We will continue to recognise the support of RSGF in our publications and other technical reports.

11. Any other comments?

We are very grateful to the RSGF for this support and all the other stakeholders who took part in this research study.