

## The Rufford 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Kingsley Bekoe Ansah
Project title	Collaborative management of the Atewa Range Forest Reserve in Ghana for co-benefits of conservation and enhancement of livelihoods
RSG reference	18162-2
Reporting period	19 September, 2015 to 19 September, 2016
Amount of grant	£4990
Your email address	bekoekingsley@yahoo.com
Date of this report	28 September, 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
Create a forest buffer zone around Atewa Range Forest Reserve to protect the critically endangered flora and fauna species of Atewa, enhance livelihoods of fringe communities.			100 %	2020 mixed tree seedlings have been planted on an area of approximately 52.8 ha engaging more than 160 farmers. Technical awareness on maintaining and caring for the trees has been provided to the farmers. It is envisaged that this action will support the creation of conducive habitat for survival and growth of some fauna species. A strong collaboration with the Forestry Commission has been built during the implementation and this will inure to the benefit of conservation efforts of the forest reserve.
Facilitate a multi-stakeholder facilitated process that supports the development of the ecotourism potential of Atewa.		80%		Through the support of the Business Advisory Centre of the Municipal Assembly, the project has provided basic training for a total of 150 community members from the four project communities. The project has liaised with AROCHA-Ghana on understanding the ecotourism potential of the area by participating in an ecotourism study validation workshop. This collaboration informed the skills training component of the project. It is intended for this to continue with advanced training and post-training support to potentially viable entrepreneurs.
Sensitise communities to increase the long			100 %	An awareness creation material explaining key facts about Atewa, its

term impacts of the project and also link issues generated at community level to policy advocacy at the national/district priority development actions.				benefits and how communities and all stakeholders can help to protect it has been developed. This material has been used in awareness creation in 10 first cycle schools in the Municipality. Additionally, the material has been used in enforcing awareness creation efforts at the community level.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

The major unforeseen challenges that arose during the implementation are as follows:

- a. The project sought to support communities to raise their own seedlings in the form of community nurseries. However, it was not anticipated how difficult the acquisition of the planting materials and other inputs will cost. For instance, the acquisition of planting materials through picking from the wild (Forest Reserve) required a lengthy application process with the Forestry Commission. This to a large extent discouraged majority of the community members. The planting materials were also costly. Additionally, package for planting was also costly. The project team has therefore negotiated with the Forestry Commission to support the communities with supervised material acquisition at regulated intervals to undertake the community nursery. Also, the community has devised an innovative way of collecting plastic waste, from sachet water packs to use as packaging materials for the seedlings. This is not costly, except the effort involved in picking up the sachet water packs from homes and streets. This process will be followed up in the next phase of the project to enable communities raise their own seedlings. It is anticipated that once, communities raise seedlings and take a token fee in acquiring it or even selling to other organizations they will be able to raise enough revenue to sustain the process.
- b. The second challenge related the deployment of the training on the livelihoods activities for the community members. The basic training as was originally planned for in this project was not sufficient to put the participants on the path to sustainability or even making meaningful income from the venture. Therefore, the project team intends to continue with this aspect of

the project, to select promising participants and graduate them to the advanced and post advanced training to ensure that viable alternative businesses are created. This will also serve as incentive to other community members.

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

The most important outcomes of the project are as follows:

1. Through the technical support of the Forestry Commission and building on the success of the previous Rufford funded project in the four project communities, a forest buffer zone of approximately 52.8 ha of mixed tree seedlings have been created in the off-reserve around some parts of Atewa Range Forest Reserve relative to the project communities. The project raised and planted 2020 tree seedlings of mixed species by engaging over 166 farmers (100 males, 66 females) in the planting activities. The species are mahogany, Ofram, *Terminalia ivorensis* and *Khaya ivorensis*. As at June, 2016 when the project team undertook its survey of tree seedlings survival rate, it stood approximately 75%. This is highly satisfactory in silvicultural terms.
2. Coupled with the sensitisation and technical backstopping provided to the farmers in terms of taking care of the seedlings, it is expected that this action will provide a buffer zone for the Atewa Forest Reserve in the areas where it was planted. Also, through the support and collaboration of Forestry Commission, system has been put in place to enable the communities to raise their own seedlings through community nurseries to increase the forest buffer zones and also sell for income.
3. A strong multi-stakeholder support system for the project communities in the development of the ecotourism potential of Atewa has been put in place. Through the support of the Business Advisory Centre of the Municipal Assembly, the project has provided basic training for a total of 150 community members from the four project communities. The training organised in small groups of 25 was in areas farm based activities including fish farming, grasscutter rearing, poultry and beekeeping. Participants also received basic training in agro processing (cassava, oil palm) and leather works (including batik, tyre and dire). There was an initial pre-training which involved undertaking specific needs assessment of the trainees in order to design the training modules to suit their needs. The assessment also looked at

the gender distribution relative to the specific trainings that will be useful for them. In all the training was seen as useful in enlightening the participants on the different alternative livelihood options that is available to enhance their standard of living and improve their income levels. Majority of the participants have expressed strong interest in participating in advanced training to sharpen their skills and develop full businesses out of it. In addition, the project team has had engagements with the Municipal Assembly, AROHCA-Ghana on long term support for the communities to take full advantage of the potential for ecotourism that will result from elevating Atewa to a national park.

4. The project has increased its sensitisation drive in the project communities and targeted audience in the first cycle institutions in the municipality. The project has developed an awareness creation material and this has been printed and distributed to 10 first cycle institutions, covering the Kibi, Asiakwa and Protroase circuits of the Ghana Education Service in the municipality. The material has also been used for educating the students on the benefits and significance of the reserve and what they can do to protect it. The science teacher in each of the schools has been selected by the project as the focal person for awareness creation exercises in the schools and provided with training on how to use the material. The activity has been received with a lot of interest and enthusiasm.

Through the various community entry protocols, the project has sensitised the communities on the benefit of Atewa and how to protect it and benefit from potential ecotourism opportunities using the awareness creation material developed.

The project team has also contributed significantly in shaping the discourse of making Atewa a national park at the national level through engagement in validation workshop for the Atewa TEEB study (facilitated by AROCHA-Ghana) on 25th August 2016 at the Alisa Hotel in Accra, the Atewa Ecotourism study (also facilitated by AROCHA-Ghana) held on 5th April 2016 at the Forestry Commission Conference room. Through the advocacy effort, the National Implementation Committee for elevating Atewa to a national park has been formed and the Forestry Commission will soon submit a memo to the cabinet of Ghana for its approval and onward submission to Parliament. The project team will continue to provide any technical input into this process based to its knowledge of the area and the subject matter due to

the implementation of the Rufford-funded projects. It is also worth noted that as a result of the technical knowledge of the project team leader on the subject matter based on a previously Rufford-funded project in Atewa, he was part of a team of national and international consultants that prepared the Atewa TEED study report.

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

Local communities have been involved at various stages of the project implementation. The planting of the tree seedlings to create the buffer zone involved the local farmers. Awareness creation at the local level targeted the local communities as well as the skills training facilitated by the Business Advisory Centre (BAC). The process for the development of the community tree seedlings nurseries also substantially involved the local communities.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, the project team intends to continue with the work by focusing on three main areas. The first is the development, packaging and deployment of the awareness creation material through mass media platforms that would target more audience than has been achieved so far. This is intended for scale up purposes and to render the awareness material in a local format and use it on community radios, etc. reach more people to have a significant impact on the conservation values of the people. The second is using quiz competitions at the first cycle institutions to whip up more interest in the awareness creation for the conservation of Atewa. The idea is to conscientise the future leaders (the youth) by engaging in more interactive and fun venture while putting across the message of conservation. This will be discussed further with the Ghana Education Service on how to sustain such an activity and to get the institutional buy in. This action will use the teacher focal points to facilitate the process. The third is to expand and deepen the skills training to advanced and post-advanced training by building on the skills developed in the basic training to provide more direct support to potentially viable entrepreneurs at the community level to improve their livelihoods and increase their income.

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

The project team intends to serialize the outcomes of the project and post it on their blog. This will capture the key learning outcomes, the challenges and policy recommendations for policy makers.

The team will also print and distribute the project report to all relevant stakeholders including the Forestry Commission, Municipal Assembly, AROCHA-Ghana among others.

The project team will also take advantage of the Rufford Alumni conference for the West Africa Region that is expected to be organised in Accra in late October to showcase the results of the project. The team has already indicated to the organisers of the conference on their indication to participate in the conference.

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

The project implementation was 12 months and within the stipulated time frame anticipated for the project implementation.

**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
Cost of hiring vehicle for field trips (including entry meetings, sensitization meetings, etc.) @ Ghc 200/day for total of 35 days	1064	1064	nil	
Cost of fuel (250 gallons) for communities outreach engagements @ Ghc 15/gallon	570	620	50	This was largely due to the sharp inflation and depreciation of the local currency to the GBP and other major trading currencies faced by

				the country during especially the first two quarters of 2016. As a result, it was expensive to buy fuel for the trips than originally planned. The difference was augmented by the in-kind contribution of the project team.
Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for two project team members for 28 days at Ghc 120/day/person	1021	1021	nil	
Tree seedlings for community forest buffer planting @ average of Ghc 1.50 per seedling for 2000 seedlings	456	456	nil	
Transport cost for moving seedlings to site of community farms for planting	380	400	20	Same reason as for the cost of fuel for transportation (above)
Cost of design and printing outreach and education materials (at least 200 copies of flyers to schools, communities)	684	684	nil	
Cost of using community based outreach channels	182	182	nil	
Cost of stationery and other materials for developing and distributing project reports to stakeholders	395	395	nil	
Contingency (5% of total budget)	238	238	nil	
<b>TOTAL</b>	4990	<b>5060</b>	70	



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

There are a number of important next steps. The first is to print and distribute copies of the project report to all relevant stakeholders to create awareness on the achievements of the project and recommendations for policy actions. The second is to continue to engage the various the first cycle institutions on the awareness creation material and fully develop the quiz competition programme and discuss ways of sustaining it with the Ghana Education Service (GES). Finally, it is important to continue to engage Forestry Commission, AROCHA-Ghana and the other stakeholders to provide technical input into the process of elevating the status of Atewa to a national park.

**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?**

The RSGF was used in the awareness creation material produced. Apart from the logo being used on the front page of the material (a copy which is attached to this report), the Foundation was also acknowledged in text for the contribution to the production of the material.

RSGF also received significant publicity during the entire period of the project implementation. The project team consciously mentioned the Foundation as the funder in all our engagements including the community outreach meetings, discussions with stakeholders, and other relevant national level engagements.

**11. Any other comments?**

The Rufford Foundation has provided resources that has contributed immensely to the significant progress being made in finally elevating the status of Atewa Range Forest Reserve to a national park to enhance conservation values and increase environmental and economic co-benefits to fringe communities. The continued support through Small Grants 1 and 2 has enabled significant capacity to be built at individual and community levels to contribute to the conservation of Atewa. The research I conducted with the first Rufford grant and my continued engagement with the process and the communities with the second Rufford grant has allowed me to be a valuable human resource to the process. A feat which could not have been achieved without the support of Rufford Foundation, UK.

Seedling Distribution list and assessment sheet

Project title/ID: 18162-2: Collaborative management of the Atewa Range Forest Reserve in Ghana for co-benefits of conservation and enhancement of livelihoods

Community	Number of Farmers		Size of farm (hectares)	Seedling species	Number of seedlings	% survival rate (as at June, 2016)
	Male	Female				
Sagyimase	8	4	12.6	Mahogany	120	60%
	7	3		Ofram	70	70%
	8	8		<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	250	80%
	10	2		<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>	100	75%
Akwadum	4	2	15	Ofram	80	70%
	6	5		Mahogany	110	65%
	7	4		<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	150	78%
	2	3		<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>	90	85%
Apapam	10	6	13.2	Mahogany	200	80%
	2	3		Ofram	70	75%
	5	4		<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	120	70%
	12	8		<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>	220	85%
Banso	7	5	12	Mahogany	160	80%
	5	4		Ofram	110	75%
	3	3		<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>	90	80%
	4	2		<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>	80	75%
TOTAL/AVERAGE	100	66	52.8		2020	75.19%