

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Stephen Ofori
Project title	Scaling Up Pangolin Conservation in Ghana
RSG reference	19126-1
Reporting period	Final (March 2016 - March 2017)
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	stephen35@gmail.com
Date of this report	27/02/2017

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
<p>Determine pangolin population and distribution in the Atewa Range Forest of Ghana</p>			90%	<p>To achieve our objective one, the population density and distribution of pangolins in Atewa forest were studied using line transects, opportunistic surveys, camera traps and hunters' knowledge. Pangolin populations were noted to be fragmented and had high population count in some areas in the forest with least disturbance having rotten logs and otherwise. Another interesting finding was that we recorded that pangolin population densities and distribution were relatively higher with increasing elevations in most of the forest areas we surveyed). For all pangolins sited we recorded higher count of the black-belled pangolin and followed by the white-belled pangolin.</p>
<p>Establish habitat characteristics essential for the existence of pangolins in the Atewa Forest of Ghana</p>			95%	<p>This objective was successfully achieved as followed and recorded all known habitat features along our transects and other identified areas where pangolins and/or signs of presence were sighted. Key habitat characteristics we recorded for all possible pangolin prevalence areas included canopy cover, tree height, DBH,</p>

				tree species, presence of ant mound and hills, water body, natal dens, elevation, and other human factors such logged areas and farm lands. Local hunters were also very instrumental with the identification of tree species and other related habitat variables we recorded.
Create grassroots awareness on the status of pangolins and the need to conserve them in Atewa Range Forest of Ghana			95%	Our objective of promoting and enhancing behaviour change and conservation of pangolins in target areas of Atewa was achieved. We have engaged eight local communities and schools fringing the Atewa range forest involved in pangolin hunting, sales and with awareness creation and conservation. Our awareness creation programs included community gatherings, talk shows and presentations on pangolins, their threats and the role of communities in their conservation. School programme included quiz and art competitions, supply of pangolin education materials etc. We have also embarked on house to house campaigns, engaging with community members directly to create awareness. The project has also engaged identifiable groups including local hunter's association, local traders and herbal medicine practitioners.

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

It was quite difficult to engage and educate the pangolin hunters and bushmeat traders in the communities at the initial stage of the project. They were afraid of being arrested because we were working with wildlife officers and therefore were reluctant to share their experiences with us. Also, the team had initial challenges with local hunters who poached illegally with guns in the forest during our research surveys. There were occasional gunshots from the illegal hunters, which actually scared the project team and felt unsecured in the forest.

Through series dialogues and strategic interventions from some key community leaders we were able to build trust with some of the hunters and traders in the communities. We identified and employed two local hunters to assist our research team to continue the surveys. By involving them in our project especially during the fieldwork and house-to-house campaign and community meetings we were able to reduce the challenges reasonably.

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

Population density and distribution of pangolins in Atewa have been recorded and this data is key to help inform pangolin future studies as well as their conservation decision in Ghana and globally. The data collected is be feature into the Atewa national park development plan by the Ghana wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission.

Important data on habitat variables of pangolins have been recorded. These identified habitat variables of the pangolins in the Atewa forest will be used in the Atewa National Park Development Plan to aid the prioritisation of key pangolin hotspots in the forest for close population monitoring and conservation.

Our tailored community conservation education activities were much recognised, received and patronised by the target stakeholders and community groups. We are excited to share that all our education materials such posters, pangolin documentary shows, radio programmes, and public presentations, house-to-house education were very impactful as feedback from the stakeholders and communities suggested. These interventions have been embraced by the local groups, and as such we are optimistic that they would in the long run translate into lasting knowledge and the right attitudes toward pangolin conservation in Atewa and Ghana. Also, the schools' education activities like pangolin quiz and art completion has helped to instil conservation values in the school children and the youth groups now and for posterity.

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

The project design and implementation employed community participatory approach and involved key communities in Atewa other fringing traditional communities. As a team we were cautious of the fact that the contribution of the local communities to the success of our project was not be over emphasised. Key thematic areas of the project executed collaboratively with the local people such planning of conservation education, dialogue with bushmeat traders. Using local community hunters was key to our field based works. Community leaders were also allowed to lead key community engagement activities such as dialogues on strategic community pangolin conservation planning. In fact, we worked directly with traditional leaders, community groups, district assembly and unit committee members within all the target communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work. First, we will like to strategically provide other useful conservation interventions to help sustain behaviour change processes in the local community by providing educative and capacity building training for target groups. Another key interest area will be to continue the stakeholder dialogue on pangolin trade and poaching in the area and law enforcement mechanism. These objectives will be pursued in subsequent projects. Other likely areas of pangolin populations will equally be studied and receive conservation attention.

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

I have so far shared some of the project results by representing the team and presenting at local and international scientific meetings including Kansas State University, Town Hall, USA. Also poster and project documentaries have been shared with schools and stakeholder groups. Plans are underway to publish a paper from project findings in an international peer-reviewed journal. In addition, technical reports on project outcomes would be submitted to all major stakeholders and social media platforms.

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

The project spanned 12 months as scheduled.

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
Equipment for pangolin field survey	1,325	1,450	-125	We spent £125 extra for 2 tents, 1 lamp and 6 packets of batteries for 2 local hunters were hired assist us with fieldwork in the forest.
Daily Sustenance Allowance for project team	900	1,200	-300	Team had to spend extra resource of £300 as DSA for local hunters who were hired to assist with field surveys.
Community engagement and Data collection with volunteers and hunters	600	700	-100	We extended our schools and community education programs and so we spent £100 extra on the education materials
Schools education program	1,150	1,150	0	
Transportation	750	925	-175	Due to inflation and vehicle running cost we spent extra £175 on hiring and maintenance in the last 4 months of the project.
Project administration and M&E	275	275	0	
TOTAL	5,000	5,700	-700	An overall extra fund of £700 was raised locally to meet the extra financial requirement of the project.

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

Important next steps in conserving this pangolin species, is to educate, train and build local capacities and target communities in pangolin conservation. This special interest areas and raining activities will focus on anti-pangolin poaching and trading watchdogs, behaviour change youth ambassadors and well-informed school children on pangolin conservation. We are optimistic that collaboratively we can enforce pangolin conservation laws as well as the critical Atewa forest.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

For all our programme activities and strategic interventions the Rufford Foundation's logo was used and highlighted in all educational materials produced (e.g. education banners, posters, t-shirts, schools' education participant awards, videos etc.). Also, all project presentations to stakeholders (including presentations in local/International meetings) and project technical reports we have acknowledged the Rufford Foundation's support. The Foundation's support will further be acknowledged a journal article that will come out of the project.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?

We are grateful to Rufford Foundation and all our project partners for the support and look forward to working with the Rufford Foundation and other partners in the next phase of the project.