

Final Project Evaluation Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF 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 – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Complete the form in English and be as concise as you can. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Prosper Kwame Antwi
Project Title	Community-Based Approach to Marine and Coastal Resources Management in the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site, Ghana
Application ID	19471-B
Grant Amount	£10000
Email Address	antwicus@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	28 th August, 2017

1. 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
Key species and habitat survey				Two of the five species that nest on Ghanas' coastline were observed and encountered at MPRS nesting sites during the project. The most encountered species was olive ridley, wherein there were few encounters of leatherback. Habitats has been classified and zoned as core zones (priority zones of no use), buffer zone (zone of use with strict management protocols and regimes) and transition zone (zone of use with loose management regime).
Community self-organization				A 20 member community volunteer team has been constituted to oversee the management and conservation of the coastal resources. Importantly, the team has the full backing and support of the chiefs and elders as well as the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site Area Office to carry out their mandate. There is a representative of the Chief and Elders as well as Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site Office on the Committee.
Species and habitat restoration and rehabilitation program				Through Ecological Communities Analysis Approach, key habitats has been identified, described and mapped. Sea turtle nesting sites has been prioritised for management whereas degraded

				<p>mangrove sites has been prepared and replanted. A total of 20,400 seedlings were raised but only 17,450 seedlings were replanted. Some seedlings could not survive. Also, there has been a total of four different workshops organized for fishers, Volunteers, Wildlife Staff on by-catch handling of sea turtles</p>
<p>Conservation Education and Public awareness (CEPA) program</p>				<p>The projects advocacy, conservation education and public awareness creation has contributed to influencing behaviour change among community members towards coastal resources management. Also, it has (I) promoted a strategic vision for self-governance by women groups aimed towards economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction – as well as increased investment in environmental services (mangrove restoration) that address the needs of particular women groups and the larger community as a whole</p> <p>(II) Facilitated information sharing and lessons learned about good practice on sustainable fish business protocols and environmental mainstreaming both at individual and local community decision making;</p> <p>(III) Ensured effective participation by all stakeholders (including non-state actors and private sector) etc.</p>
<p>Small enterprise development and alternate livelihood</p>				<p>A total of 50 fish business women and men were recruited for training in fish processing, packaging and</p>

enhancement programs				<p>marketing. The training activities were tailor made, well structured, practical and carefully translated into the local Fante dialect as practically as possible to ensure thorough understanding and smooth running of the respective sessions.</p> <p>The project also trained 50 persons in beekeeping farming and subsequently supplied assorted equipment for start-ups to groups.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The project just like any other community level project, suffered some drawbacks. Notable among them were:

1. The 2016 presidential elections interfered with some of the project activity timelines. For instance, particular activities time coincided with political rallies in communities thereby prompting the need to reschedule and adjust the activity timelines.
2. Recruitment of farmers and fishers for training was very problematic. Most community members wanted to participate but the project could only train a restricted number. Accordingly, the project implementation team in consultation with the chiefs, elders and women group adopted a set of criteria (e.g. no two women, men and youth of the same family will be recruited, participation rate of an individual in mangrove restoration programs (planting), length of time an individual has been involved in the fish business, how long an individual has lived in the community etc.) for actor selection, recruitment and training. Some community members who were not selected were not happy but the large majority of members were happy with the approach adopted thereby increasing support for the project.
3. The erratic climatic condition also interfered with mangrove nursery and planting. The degraded mangrove areas replanting just ended. It is one of the main reasons for the project going beyond the required completion time.

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

Key Outcome One

Key sites described and focus maps developed thereby aiding long term monitoring efforts as well as critical conservation management by communities, Wildlife Officers of the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site. Demarcated areas described as core areas serving as refugium, spawning sites for fishes, nesting sites for Sea turtles and other Wetland related species. Importantly, other described areas (buffer and transition zones) giving opportunity for regularised use by community members thereby creating a state of belongingness, ownership and collective action for the resources- something that will contribute to conserving the resources for now and the future.

Key Outcome two

The project has promoted and piloted community adaptation activities that are enhancing food security and livelihood resilience in the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site Area. Farmers' capacities have been built in beekeeping farming, honey and honey by-product processing and marketing. Groups have been formed and core mangrove zones are being utilized for honey farming.

Also, fish mongers capacities have been built in fish processing, storage and marketing. Participants have acquired knowledge in small business enterprise protocols.

Key Outcome three

The project has nursed, supplied and planted a total of about 18,000 mangrove seedlings. Degraded mangrove sites have been redeemed and community members have acquired knowledge in seed nursery and management.

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

The project utilised local community governance systems and structures to enhance sustainable use and conservation of resources within the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site Area. In achieving its goals, the project adopted very unique approaches that increased community support, participation and collaboration, strengthened collective action of fishers, farmers and women among others.

Generally, the project has been successful as against the proposed goal and specific objectives. Activities were carried out as planned except rescheduling of implementation dates for some few activities to enable local community participation.

Considering the high level of cooperation and participation of communities, especially the women (who are the most vulnerable), a sense of ownership has

been created for the project and this gives positive signals for project sustainability and continuity particularly the newly established local structures put in place.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We linked the project with our university student club (at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) to get an institutional identity and we established a network with researchers from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. This network is important to implement continuous research, and conservation monitoring programme in the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site Area. The idea is also to create an agency-researchers-community partnership for sustained ecological integrity and human wellbeing

We plan to focus our efforts for monitoring for nesting and poaching by training additional coastal resources volunteers to patrol the beaches and expand to more remote and inaccessible beaches to the east, where nesting and poaching efforts are suspected to be high. We will do this with the assistance of community traditional authorities and Wildlife Division Staff. We would also like to continue education and outreach activities with local schools and community groups. Much work is still required to work with communities to develop their own ideas for sustainable alternative livelihoods. We are also working in the present nesting season (17/18) in two identified communities where we are exploring an ecotourism venture.

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

I recently made a presentation at an ecology field school on the plight of our coastal resources. Most outputs of this project were captured in the presentation. I am also preparing a peer reviewed article with information gathered during the course of this project. They are expected to be submitted for publication within the next few months.

Additionally, key outputs are already being shared through local radios in local dialects by the staff of Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site office on their weekly environment segment show. All partners of the project would have copies of the project report.

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

The project has taken longer than anticipated because we needed to readjust to erratic rains for mangrove nursery and planting. Additionally, it proved difficult to undertake some activities during last year's dramatic political elections in Ghana.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Key Species and Habitat Survey	770	810	40	The outfitter tent costed 240 instead of the budgeted 200
Community Self Organization	2050	2050	0	
Species and Habitat Restoration and Rehabilitation	3100	3100	0	
Supplies of basic tools to fishers	430	430	0	
DSA for team	400	400	0	
Conservation Education and Public Awareness Creation	1050	1050	0	
Small Enterprise and Alternative Livelihood Training and Support	1800	1800	0	
Transportation	400	400	0	
TOTAL	10000	10040		

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

Further work to strengthen relationship with local communities, particularly Woorabeba and Mankwadzi where nest poaching was a prominent problem in the past 2016/2017 nesting season.

Explore the potential of community owned ecotourism within Woarebeba and Nsuakyir

Continue advocacy, outreach and education activities in coastal communities mostly during the nesting season.

Continue seasonal efforts to monitor turtle nesting season and monitor for illegal take using established volunteers and students

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

Yes, all presentations made so far utilized the RSGF logo. Also, RSGF were duly recognized and acknowledged as main funders for the project.

Importantly, the logo was used on the info brochure that was developed for schools.

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?

The team would like to sincerely thank the Rufford Foundation for providing us with financial support for the project. RF are the primary financial supporter for our small grassroots sea turtle and mangrove conservation project and without this support our efforts would not have been possible. We are proud to be a grantee of the RF and part of the network of conservation projects they support globally. We would also like to highlight the tremendous value of the Rufford Grantees Ghana conference which provided fantastic opportunities for networking, information exchange and peer support from other conservationists working within the region and country.



