Project Update: September 2017

Amphibian Surveys and Monitoring

As part of our KNUST Wewe River Amphibian Project (K-WRAP), we conducted a total of 20 surveys, covering KNUST campus Wewe River stretch, three of its tributaries and associated wetlands. We combined visual and acoustic sampling techniques. We recorded 20 amphibian species, of which eight were new to the site. These include Tokba river frog *Phrynobatrachus tokba*, snouted grassland frog *Ptychadena longirostris,* Mascarene grass frog *P. mascareniensis*, white-lipped frog *Amnirana albolabris*, western clawed frog *Xenopus tropicalis*, rusty forest treefrog *Leptopelis viridis*, lime reed frog *Hyperolius fusciventris* and flat-backed toad *Sclerophrys maculata* and *Ptychadena mascareniensis* (Appendix 2).

Habitat Restoration

Together with 50 chapter members, we cleared degraded critical frog habitats of invasive weeds and planted 200 seedlings of two carefully selected tree species: the fungi and insect resistant Kusia (*Nauclea diderrichii*) and Militia (*Millettia thonningii*), recorded for its soil conservation and erosion control properties. We also used this exercise as an opportunity to train student members on best invasive weeds control and habitat restoration practices. This activity coincided with the 9th Annual Save The Frogs Day, the world's largest day for amphibian conservation events.

Fig 2: A participant planting a tree seedling in a previously (cleared) invasive weed infested area

Students Capacity Building

To ensure sustainability of K-WRAP, we also organised training for 50 undergraduate members of SAVE THE FROGS! KNUST. Executive members and previous interns of SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana (www.savethefrogs.com/ghana), Messrs Prince Adu-Tutu (Chapter President) and Victor Agyei (Chapter's Editor-in-Chief) led the training. They trained participants in the monitoring and identification of amphibians and how to properly communicate findings using modern technology such as social media. This is to enable members to effectively evaluate and report the impact of the restoration activities on local amphibian populations.

Fig. 1: Student trainees and volunteers of K-WRAP

Conservation Education

Approximately, l00 members embarked on one-on-one interactions with students and local people in surrounding communities to educate them on the need to protect amphibians and their habitats. We also reached out to other global followers through blogs and articles posted on SAVE THE FROGS! Webpages (Appendix 1). All these efforts have helped us reach and educate at least 1 million people. Some of the articles were published as part of SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana's Ghana Online Amphibian Literacy (GOAL) Project.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Online Articles on K-WRAP

Adu-Tutu P. (2017) Save the Frogs Day 2017 at KNUST in Kumasi, Ghana. Available at www.savethefrogs.com/countries/ghana/knust/save-the-frogs-day-2017-wewe-river-restoration/. Accessed on 15/08/2017.

Asamoah Boafo F. and Antwi-Baffour E. (2017) Meet Ghana's Beloved "Lady": The Night Spirit Frog. Available at www.savethefrogs.com/countries/ghana/amphibians-of-ghana/spirit-night-frog/. Accessed on 15/08/2017.

Owusu-Gyamfi S. (2017) Ghana KNUST Chapter Wins Grant to Monitor Endangered Frogs along the Wewe River. Available at www.savethefrogs.com/countries/ghana/knust-chapter-monitor-endangered-frogs-wewe-river/. Accessed on 04/08/2017.

Owusu-Gyamfi S. (2017) Amphibian Research Assistant Positions In Kumasi, Ghana. Available at www.savethefrogs.com/countries/ghana/research-position-kumasi/. Accessed on 04/08/2017.

SAVE THE FROGS! (2017) Pinterest. Available at it.pinterest.com/pin/175007135502289953/. Accessed on 15/08/2017.

Appendix 2: KNUST Wewe River Amphibian Checklist

Species	Detection History	Mode of Detection
Arthroleptis sp.	Previously recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Phrynobatrachus latifrons	Previously recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Phrynobatrachus alleni	Previously recorded	Visual
Phrynobatrachus calcaratus	Previously recorded	Visual
Phrynobatrachus gutturosus	Previously recorded	Visual
Phrynobatrachus plicatus	Previously recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Phrynobatrachus tokba	Newly recorded	Acoustic
Ptychadena bibroni	Previously recorded	Visual
Ptychadena longirostris	Newly recorded	Visual
Ptychadena mascareniensis	Newly recorded	Visual
Hoplobatrachus occipitalis	Previously recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Amnirana albolabris	Newly recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Silurana tropicalis	Newly recorded	Visual
Leptopelis spiritusnoctis	Previously recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Leptopelis viridis	Newly recorded	Acoustic
Hyperolius concolor	Newly recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Hyperolius fusciventris	Newly recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Afrixalus dorsalis	Previously recorded	Visual & Acoustic
Sclerophrys maculata	Previously recorded	Visual and Acoustic
Sclerophrys regularis	Previously recorded	Visual and Acoustic