

Final Evaluation Report

| Your Details | |
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| Full Name | Amaning Kwarteng David |
| Project Title | Imminent Action for Conservation of Endangered and Endemic Bobiri Reed Frog, Eastern Ghana |
| Application ID | 25897-D |
| Grant Amount | £10,000 |
| Email Address | davekwart@gmail.com |
| Date of this Report | 15 th April, 2021 |

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 |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Population Monitoring of Bobiri reed frog | | | | The population of <i>H. bobirensis</i> has increased within the Atewa Range Forest. This can be attributed to the reduction of disturbance within the species' core range. However, available data still suggest limited distribution in Ghana. This is because the species was still not recorded in its type locality in the Bobiri Forest Reserve. |
| Alternative livelihood initiatives | | | | The project has successfully trained about 500 community members within the fringe communities in alternative livelihood options and has provided them with the necessary resources to start their businesses. They were also trained in marketing and business evaluation skills in order to appropriately manage their businesses. |
| Behaviour change training | | | | Behaviour change activities such as drama and video outreach programmes were done to engage the mindsets of the major stakeholders of the reserve on amphibian conservation in general. The positive response from the locals has ensured limited resource exploitation at the core range of the species. |
| Conservation Awareness Campaign | | | | Immense efforts were employed to educate more locals of the fringe communities whose activities alter the habitat of the Bobiri reed frog. This education engaged women, youth groups, school children as well as adult males. Women and youth were especially targeted because they are the groups that mainly harvest non-timber products within the core habitat of the species in the reserve. Also, campaigns within previously unreachable communities were held to increase education. |

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

The project had some delays because the project leader had to change his organisation to a different organisation.

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

1. We are thrilled to report that the Bobiri reed frog has been downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. This follows the stable population the species have achieved over time. This is a great impact that gives a major boost to the conservation efforts of the species.
2. This project has helped generate reliable incomes for community members who successfully took up the alternative livelihood approaches. At least 100 households within the fringes of the Atewa Forest have successfully generated income from the sale of honey, mushrooms and snails. The increased in household incomes has generated renewed commitment of local communities towards *H. bobirensis* conservation.
3. Behaviour change was positive and this is crucial to the conservation of the species. Majority of the youths and women were involved in these activities, since they are the principal “exploiters” of non-timber products from the reserve. This approach has yielded an enormous reduction in activities of harvesting and resulted in significant gains for the species.

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

Management and staff from the Forestry Commission, traditional leaders, community group leaders, local government representatives, local CSOs and cooperatives were involved in stakeholder consultations and conservation education. This engagement has assisted in improving the relationship between local communities and forestry commission officials.

Also, 500 community members participated and benefitted from alternative livelihood training. They also received education on business management and marketing. Local community members have also benefited from start-up kits for their various nature-based enterprises. Finally, their ventures were monitored, and further assistance was provided to ensure productive businesses.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The project will further monitor the population of the species at Atewa Range Forest. There is also the need for further fieldwork on the other two type localities of the species. The project will further undertake fieldwork to conclude whether or not the species has been extirpated at Bobiri Forest Reserve.

There is also the need to further engage local communities and expand nature-based enterprises to benefit many more communities.

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

The results from the project have been disseminated to all stakeholders. Further work is needed on the ecological aspects of the work to make conclusive generalisations.

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

Funding was used between the periods of 2018 to 2020.

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 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Project monitoring and evaluation | | 700 | +700 | |
| Project Administration: office stationary and internet, and communication costs | | 700 | +700 | |
| Feeding and accommodation of team members | 1460 | 2400 | +940 | |
| Vehicle rental, fuel and lubricants | 4200 | 4200 | | |
| Training behaviour change champions | 1000 | 1000 | | |
| Gift items for community football competition | 500 | 750 | +250 | |
| Educational materials for schools and community conservation awareness | | 200 | +200 | |
| Branded T-shirts for awareness creation | 400 | 400 | | |
| Purchase of cages for cane rat rearing. | 500 | 900 | +400 | Price for cage construction was reduced due to the high number requested from the supplier |
| VIE Elastomers and gloves | 500 | 740 | +240 | |

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|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| for field sampling and alternative livelihood training. | | | | |
| Purchase of Beehives and honey extractors | 1440 | 1000 | -440 | Some of the Beehives were constructed by the locals and thus £200 was saved from the total allocated funds for their purchased |
| TOTAL | 10000 | 12990 | +2990 | |

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

More extensive surveys are required in Ankasa Conservation Area and Bobiri Forest to establish the population of the species. Previous surveys conducted by this project did not find the species at the Bobiri Forest. Only a handful of individuals were found at Ankasa. It is important to establish the true population in these reserves.

Also, there is the need to further engage the communities fringing the Atewa Forest to sustain the gains so far made. We aim to extend the nature-based livelihood approaches to other communities while monitoring the population at Atewa.

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?

All publicity materials (posters, and t-shirts) were embodied with the logo of the Rufford Foundation. Also, the Rufford logo was projected during all education and stakeholder dialogue forum presentations.

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

Mr. David Amaning Kwarteng: David was responsible for the overall implementation of the project. He was responsible for leading the team to plan, execute and report on the project. He was also responsible for leading the stakeholder fora of the project.

Miss Faustina Adu-Boahene: Yaa was responsible for leading the ecological surveys and other related fieldwork. She was also involved in the community education.

Mr. Benjamin Boabeng: Was responsible for leading all the community outreaches, schools and campuses campaign as well as alternative livelihood education. He was also responsible for leading the training on business management and branding.

12. Any other comments?

This project would not have been successful without the funding and support from the Rufford Foundation. We are also grateful to Herp Conservation Ghana, A Rocha Ghana and all local CSOs who contributed immensely to this project. Special thanks also go to the Forestry Commission of Ghana for allowing us to research in the Atewa

Forest. Importantly we are grateful to the traditional authorities who are the custodians of the land for their warm reception into their communities.