

Project Update: April 2019

Introduction

This project aims to put hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) in the conservation spotlight in Ghana by raising significant awareness for its long-term viability. The project will further aim to reduce hippo-human conflicts through conservation education, while generating ecological data for conservation management decisions.

The most important population of hippopotamus occurs at Bui Conservation Area in Ghana. However, recent hydroelectric dam construction on the Black Volta River within the park, makes the long-term conservation of the species uncertain. Hippo populations in the park are at highest risks level due to fragmented distribution, unregulated hunting and high frequency of hippo-human conflicts.

Activities carried out so far

Ecological survey

The project has undertaken hippo population and distribution survey within the Bui National Park. This was to help identify areas where the Hippos currently reside within the park and to assess their threat levels.

Community stakeholder Consultative meeting

The project has successfully held stakeholder consultative meetings with local community leaders, chiefs and traditional authorities, management and staff of Bui National Park as well as leaders of fishermen and farmers associations. The meeting discussed some strategies to reduce threats to hippos and other biodiversity within the area.

Project Next steps

In the coming months, we will embark on conservation education in local communities, schools and campuses. The project will also draw nationwide attention to the species through social media platforms as well as through electronic and print media.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to the Rufford Foundation for funding the project. We are also grateful to the staff and management of Bui National Park.

