

## Final Evaluation Report

---

Your Details	
Full Name	Emma Baah Agyapong
Project Title	Conservation of community forest fragments and riparian ecosystems in the transitional zone of Ghana
Application ID	27594-2
Grant Amount	£5000
Email Address	<a href="mailto:akosuaagyapomaa4000@gmail.com">akosuaagyapomaa4000@gmail.com</a>
Date of this Report	16/06/2020

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
1. To promote the conservation of community riparian vegetation, forest patches and wildlife along the Black Volta Basin.				The project successfully promoted the conservation of community forest and riparian vegetation in all the three project communities (Kulmasa, Maluwe and Menji) in addition to other nearby communities within the Black Volta catchment area (Saan, Saanpina, Baccie, Kuur and Kpaala).
2. To embark on mass education and equip communities to manage and spread conservation messages.				The project was able to reach out to over 2000 inhabitants with information on protection and management of forest and wildlife species. The project trained 25 Environmental Management Clubs (EMCs) and Community Fire Management Advisory Groups (CFMAGs), 15 from Menji and 10 from Kulmasa, and provided them with safety cloths and tools for fire management.
3. To assist community members to review and amend local by-law on the protection of riparian ecosystem, forest patches and wildlife species.				The project assisted the Menji community to review and amend community by-law for the management of forest and crocodile species.
4. Embark on rehabilitation of degraded sites with indigenous trees.				The project assisted Menji and Kulmasa to plant 5000 (2500 each) indigenous seedlings. The project supported Kuur and Kpaala to plant 2,350 seedlings.

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

Upon seeing the successes and outcomes of the project in the project communities, the chiefs of Saan, Saanpina, Baccie, Kuur and Kpaala (which were not part of project communities) consulted us to extend our project activities to their communities. The landscape fringing these communities also support flora (such as *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (EN), *Vitellaria paradoxa* (VU), *Khaya ivorensis* (VU) and *Azadirachta indica* (LC), and fauna (such as the white colobus monkey (VU) and

crocodile species (e.g. West African dwarf crocodile *Osteolaemus tetraspis* (VU), Nile crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* (LC), slender-snouted (*Mecistops cataphractus* (CR), African buffalo *Cyncerus caffer* (LC), *Hippopotamus amphibious* (VU), *Alcelaphus buselaphus* (EN) and fishes such as the genera *Alestes*, *Protopterus* and *Hydrocynus*. There is a challenge of uncontrolled felling of trees and poaching of wildlife. Therefore, we extended sensitisation and education programme and replanted some degraded portions to serve as a model for them to replicate. Sensitisation and education in these nearby communities caused for a hiring of information service van (which ran through those communities with conservation messages for over 3 months) which increased the cost of community sensitisation and education as well as well as nursery establishment and tree planting exercises. However, we managed to cut down the cost of capacity building and the review and amendment of by-law to support this. Moreover, we had additional support from Lawra Forest Services Division in Upper West Region as well as Environment and Agroforestry Foundation (NGO operation in Upper West) to complete the project.

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

Firstly, awareness of community members on the need to conserve community forest and wildlife species. There has been an exponential change in attitude toward conservation in the project communities and nearby communities whereby they are now thinking of how to improve their forest and wildlife resources to generate tourist attraction and establish a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) for sustainable management. In Menji and Kulmasa communities have started receiving tourist attraction for seeing crocodiles.

Secondly, Menji community who had an obsolete by-law that now has an updated one to support the protection of crocodile and riparian forest. Upon the announcement of the by-law and its punitive measures, some have started refraining from illegal activities that used to endanger crocodile and forest in the community.

Lastly, the training and equipping of EMCs and CFMAGs in the communities is spreading conservation messages and helping in the protection and management forest and wildlife as well as fire management due to continuous monitoring in the area.

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

Local communities were fully involved from the onset of the project through to final evaluation, via community education and sensitisation, review and amendment of by-law and rehabilitation activities. Their views were solicited and included in the implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation plan. The EMC and CFMAG members played the leading role in executing most of the activities, which motivated them to be fully involved. The capacity of community members has been built on how to manage their own resources and also manage wildfire which was a

threat to their resources. The threat of bushfires to trees, wildlife, food crops and other properties has been greatly minimised since last year.

The presence of by-law in Menji has now halted most of the illegalities and now crocodiles and other wildlife species are now safe and is serving as a tourist attraction in the community which will generate income for the community in future.

Members who were involved in nursery establishment are now raising seedlings to plant their own lands and sell some to generate income.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes

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

We plan to share the results via Environment and Agroforestry website. Moreover, results will be distributed to Forest Services Division, Wildlife Division, the District Assemblies and Schools within the project areas.

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

It was used within the 12 months period as anticipated.

**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
Community education and sensitization	809	1205	+396	This was resulted from hiring of information van to support education and sensitisation in neighbouring communities
Training and Capacity building of EMC and CFMAG	1867	1657	-210	This was reduced to support sensitisation and education activities
Review and amendment of by-laws	931	760	-171	This was reduced to support nursery establishment and tree planting in neighbouring

				communities
Nursery establishment and tree planting	1330	1657	+327	This resulted from the raising and planting of additional 2,350 seedlings in the
Printing and distribution of final report	63	63		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5342</b>	<b>+342</b>	

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

There is a need to support communities to establish the entire area as Community Resources Management Area (CREMA) in order to get incentives from the government to support effective management. Moreover, the livelihoods of communities must be improved to reduce pressure put on the resources. For example, majority of community members are involved in charcoal burning and shea butter production which lead to the felling of trees to generate fuelwood for their processes.

**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. The logo was used in the simplified handouts, presentations and t-shirts used to educate people on the management of forests and riparian vegetation. They were updated on the progress of work and the final copy of the by-law produced during the project.

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

**Emma Baah Agyapong**- played the leading role in all the project activities. This included the mobilization of community members and stakeholders, which included Forestry and Wildlife department, Assembly Members, local leaders (Chiefs), Teachers, Students etc. during training and workshops. She was involved in the training and capacity building and review and amendment of by-law. Moreover, Emma assisted in report writing and final report and distribution to all stakeholders including Rufford Foundation.

**Abdul Nasirudeen Fatawu**- Assisted in the community mobilization involved in the training and capacity-building workshop as well as review and amendment of by-

**laws Fatawu**- assisted in the monitory and evaluation of the project and final report compilation.

**Martin Kusi** –Martin took part in education of community members and tree nursery and planting.

**Clement Anaba**- (Volunteer)- assisted in community mobilization and organization of workshops.

**Zingtani Mohamed**- (Volunteer)- Assisted in community mobilization and tree nursery and planting exercise.

**John Baptist**- Assisted in video recording taking of photographs and as a driver throughout the project.

## **12. Any other comments?**

We would be very grateful if Rufford will provide further final assistance to continue our project. We want to assist the community to establish the area as a CREMA (which is an official institution with legalized structures) to qualify for incentives from the government to support management activities and also improve the livelihoods of community members who have embraced the idea of conservation.