

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Emmanuel Amoah
Project Title	Saving the Vulnerable West African Dwarf Crocodile from Local Extinction: A Community Approach in Awniafutuu, Ghana
Application ID	29292-2
Grant Amount	£6000
Email Address	emmanuelamoah610@gmail.com
Date of this Report	10 th March 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
Dwarf crocodile population surveys in Anwiafutu forest				We surveyed a total of 32 km of the forest. Of this, 17 km were areas covered in the first phase that was revisited while 15 km were additional areas covered in the second phase of the project. We recorded 28 individuals with a mean encounter rate of 0.88 crocodiles/km. The 28 individuals comprised three adults, eight juveniles, six hatchlings, and 11 unclassified (eye shines).
Assess threat status of dwarf crocodiles in the Anwiafutu forest				Despite our earlier conservation awareness campaigns, human-induced threats were still common in the forest although the encounter rates have slightly reduced. We recorded 23 wire snares during the 32 km survey (0.72 snares/km) compared to 15 that were recorded along 17.3km (0.87 snares/km) in the first phase. Illegal logging encounters also reduced from 0.47/km in the first phase to 0.34/km in the second phase. While we wish the threats had significantly reduced, we do understand that such changes are gradual and will take a longer period to achieve the desired result.
Local capacity building.				We successfully trained 12 volunteers in various aspects of crocodile conservation.
Local community's awareness campaigns				We reached out to over 300 locals using video shows, PowerPoint presentations, and one-on-one interactions. Unfortunately, we were unable to visit local schools because all schools were closed down due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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

Our project activity timelines were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Part of our activities was put on hold for a couple of months due to health concerns, a ban on public gatherings, and lockdown restriction. We could also not undertake our awareness activities in schools because there is still a ban on outreach programmes in schools. We addressed this challenge by strictly adhering to all the Covid-19 protocols during fieldwork and community awareness campaigns.

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

First, this work enabled our team to revisit transects surveyed in the first phase of the project to assess changes in crocodile abundance as well as threat indices in the forest. Through this, we were able to establish that although human-induced threats remain a challenge, the threat indices (hunting and illegal logging) have slightly reduced since our last surveys. However, the mean encounter rate at previous survey transects reduced from 1.8 individuals/km to 1.1 individuals/km. Furthermore, this project allowed us to expand our survey effort to cover an additional 15 km which has provided our team with a better understanding of the population status of the species in the forest.

Secondly, through this project, we have enhanced the capacity of 12 local volunteers who are now well-positioned to advance dwarf crocodile conservation in Anwafutu. This training was crucial as it offers a long-term dwarf crocodile conservation legacy in Anwafutu. Since the commencement of this project, local volunteers have played a key role in reducing threats of the species as well as providing our project team regular updates on issues on the ground.

Lastly, we reached out to over 300 locals through awareness campaigns. We see this as an important outcome because, in communities such as Anwafutu where the species is heavily hunted for food, there is the need to continuously engage locals to affect a positive attitude. Our post-awareness evaluation suggests the willingness of locals to support dwarf crocodile conservation has increased from 49.3% in the first phase to 56.7%. Increasing local awareness is a fundamental step for reducing human-induced threats.

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

We actively involved locals at all stages of the project. During field surveys, we ensured we had one or two locals as part of our team. Locals who were part of our survey team earned income through the field allowances we paid them. We also included locals in the organisation of the community awareness campaigns. More importantly, we organised a 2-day workshop for a 12-member community volunteer group to equip them with skills needed to perform their roles as local ambassadors for the species' conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We plan to continue this work to promote the protection of the species.

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

We plan to share our results with all stakeholders including the Ghana Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Range Management, and local conservation NGOs working in the area. We will strive to publish our research findings in Conservation Evidence for maximum utilisation by the larger conservation community

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

We anticipated to use 12 months (January-December 2020), but we used 14 months due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which delayed some of our field activities.

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
Awareness Campaigns, Capacity Building and Evaluation: food for 12 volunteers during workshop @ £5 / person for 2 days	£120	£120		
Awareness Campaigns, Capacity Building and Evaluation: DSA for 4 team members during Conservation education outreach programmes @ £8 /person /day for 40days	£1280	£960	-320	We reduce the number of days for the outreach programme from 40 days to 30 days due to the Covid-19 restrictions
Awareness Campaigns, Capacity Building and Evaluation: Fuel Cost of 10gals/return trip for 3 trips conservation education at	£90	£120	+\$30	There were fuel price increments during the project period.

local community @ £3/gal				
Awareness Campaigns, Capacity Building and Evaluation: Vehicle maintenance fee@ £15/day for 40 days	£600	£450	-£150	The difference is a result of the reduced number of days for outreach programmes.
Awareness Campaigns, Capacity Building and Evaluation: Cost of printing 30 RSG project T-shirts@ £5/T-shirt	£150	£210	+£60	Price of printing shot up due to shortages of supplies because of Covid-19 and international travel bans
Awareness Campaigns, Capacity Building and Evaluation: cost of developing and printing questionnaires, posters, flyers and project banner@ £120	£120	£250	+£130	Printing costs increased during the project period.
Fieldwork Component: DSA for 4 team member @ £8/person/day for 60 days	£1920	£1920		
Fieldwork Component: fuel cost of 3 gal/day for 60 days @ £3/gal	£540	£720	+£180	There were fuel price increments during the project period
Fieldwork Component: Vehicle maintenance fee@ £15/day for 60 days	£900	£900		
Reconnaissance survey: DSA for 4 team member @ £8/person/ day for 5 days	£160	£160		
Reconnaissance survey: fuel cost of 3 gal/day for 5 days @ £3/gal	£45	£60	+£15	There was a fuel price increment.
Reconnaissance survey: Vehicle maintenance fee@ £15/day for 5 days	£75	£75		
Totals	£6000	£5945	£55	The exchange rate at the time grant was received was £1: GHS 7.3. DSA: Daily Subsistence Allowance

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

Looking ahead, the following are the next important steps:

- There is the need to continue with field surveys to cover other areas and also monitor the population of previously surveyed areas.
- There is a need to continue awareness campaigns in the local community.
- There is the need to continue building the capacity of local volunteers to better perform their advocacy role

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?

We used The Rufford Foundation logo on the project t-shirts and PowerPoint presentations. We also used The Rufford Foundation logo on our NGO's (Threatened Species Conservation Alliance) website: www.threscoal.org to acknowledge grant support for the project.

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

Mr Emmanuel Amoah (Team Leader)

I spearheaded the full execution of the project including fieldwork, awareness campaigns and report writing.

Miss Lydia Obeng Senior

Lydia played an active role in field data collection and outreach programmes

Mr Moses Elleason

He was in charge of the development of distributional maps and other GIS aspects of this project as well as the analyses of questionnaires.

Local Assistants

We selected locals who have knowledge about the forest as well ecology of O. tetraspis and command respect in the community to assist us throughout the project.

12. Any other comments?

Our team is extremely grateful to the Rufford Foundation for supporting this work.



Top to bottom, left to right: Adult West African dwarf crocodile encountered during night survey at Anwiafutu; Close up shot of West African dwarf crocodiles at Anwiafutu; Emmanuel Amoah educating locals on West African dwarf crocodile conservation & Locals listening to PowerPoint presentation on dwarf crocodile conservation.



Team leader Emmanuel Amoah interacting with community volunteers at Anwiafutu