

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Emma Baah Agyapong
<b>Project Title</b>	Community Forest and Riparian Ecosystem (CFRE) Conservation and Livelihood Improvement in the upstream portion of the Black Volta River Basin (BVRB) of Ghana
<b>Application ID</b>	32575-B
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£10,000
<b>Email Address</b>	akosuaagyapomaa4000@gmail.com
<b>Date of this Report</b>	12/12/2021

**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
Formation of localized institutions- Community Resource Management Committees (CRMC), CREMA Executives Committees (CEC) and Forest Monitoring and Patrol Teams (FMPT) for managing Community Forests and Riparian Ecosystem (CFRE).				CRMCs comprising of 11 members were elected in each of the four communities as legalised bodies to oversee management operations. A CEC comprising of one elected person from CRMC from each community has been formed to oversee the operations of CRMC operations. Twenty people were also selected as Forest Monitoring and Patrol Teams.
Capacity building of CRMC, CEC and FMPT				Participants were trained on field monitoring and patrol methods, wildlife management, record keeping, conflict resolution and how to design management plans.
Demarcation and marking of CREMA areas and development of filed monitoring and patrol schedules				The boundary has been demarcated and marked with patrol schedules to guide the operations of FMPTs.
Securing the livelihood of households through innovative income generation activities.				Sixty locals (15 from each community) were selected and trained on bee keeping best practices, agroforestry practices and woodlot establishment and management. Beneficiaries were supported with 1000 agroforestry tree seedlings as well as 60 beehives to support honey production.
Planting of 29000 trees				25000 trees have been planted and doing well as at the time of reporting. The remaining 4000 will be used early next year.

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

Due to COVID 19 protocols that had to be put in place, training took longer time than anticipated which incurred much cost. Participants were divided into smaller groups for the training. The weather was extremely hot and dry this year and as a result caused fire outbreaks emanated from nearby communities. The project participants and members of the communities have been proactive in assisting in preventing wildfire outbreak in the project communities. Community members were encouraged to create a fire belt to prevent fire from nearby areas from entering the reserve.

Since community members have been encouraged to avoid illegal felling of trees for charcoal burning, attention has now been shifted to shea butter processing which also require fuelwood for processing which is also resulting to a demand for fuelwood. Community members were encouraged to establish wood lot to meet such demand.

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

1. The communities now have formal governance structure (CRMC, CEC and FMPT) who have been mandated to take management decisions and support management operations.
2. Capacity building of 60 community members in alternative livelihood development has improved their skill in bee keeping, agroforestry practices and how to establish a wood lot. Supporting them with resources such as bee kits and seedlings will improve their income level thereby reducing pressure on the resources as main source of livelihood.
3. An area of about 28 ha (CREMA core zones) is benefitting from restoration activities.

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

Communities were involved from the onset of the project thus during the design of the proposal, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. Their opinions were solicited and included in the implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation plan. Community members elected their own trusted executives whose capacities were built on effective management of their own resources. The CRMCS, CEC and FMPT members were actively involved in executing most of the activities, which motivated them to be fully involved. They were trained as trainers on alternative livelihood activities and also benefitting from generated livelihood activities.

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. there are plans to extend project to nearby communities since their activities can directly impact the area negatively. We intend to design a management plan to support management activities and establish green fire belt along the boundary as well as establishing woodlot to supplement fuelwood need.

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

The results will be shared via Environment and Agroforestry website, and printed copies will be distributed in schools, District Assemblies, Forest Services and Wildlife Divisions and project communities.

**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
Stakeholder consultation and sensitization	24	24		
Election of CRMCs and CEC and FPT members	321	321		
Capacity building of CRMCs, CEC and FMPT	59	100	+41	Environment and Agroforestry Foundation paid for the extra cost
Capacity building on livelihood activities	3056	3256	+200	We reduced the amount budgeted for Field Patrol Team
Equip beneficiaries with starter kits in beekeeping	3001	3001		
Demarcation and mapping of CREMA Areas	893	893		
Development of patrol schedules	1421	1421		
Provide support to Field Patrol Teams to initiate field patrol and monitoring	1129	929	-200	The amount was reduced to support capacity building in livelihood activities

Establish tree nursery	96	96		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10000</b>	<b>10041</b>	<b>+41</b>	

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

Community members want to develop the area as Community Resources Management Area (CREMA) after which they will be supported with incentives from the government to support effective management. However, before the area can be established as CREMA there must be a management plan, and major forms of disturbances must be avoided. This require the need to develop management plan for the area as well as establishment of green fire belt to prevent the spread of wildfire and establishment of woodlot to support charcoal producers and shea butter producers which are among the prevalent livelihood activities in the communities.

**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. During printing of banners for capacity building.

**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 sensitization activities. She was involved in the training and capacity building. Moreover, Emma assisted in report writing and final report and distribution to all stakeholders including Rufford Foundation.

**Nasirudeen Abdul Fatawu** – He assisted in mapping of the proposed CREMA, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation.

**Anaba Clement Issaka** - He assisted in community mobilization, education and capacity building and supported restoration and planting activities.

**Joana Dawson** - Joana assisted in community education, capacity building and restoration activities.

**Zingtani Mohamed** (Volunteer)- Assisted in community mobilization and tree planting and fire management.

**Nicholas Kpere** (Volunteer)- Assisted in field supervision and monitoring

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

**12. Any other comments?**

We would be very grateful if Rufford Small Grant 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 legalised 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.