

## PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT – AUGUST 2025

<b>Project Title</b>	Illuminating the plight of vultures and advocating for conservation through stakeholder education and engagement
<b>Application ID</b>	44457-1

We successfully launched a free educational website dedicated to vultures, with a focus on species found in Ghana: <https://conservingvultures.netlify.app/>. The site documents our activities, provides information on vulture ecology and threats, and serves as an online resource for students, educators, and the public.

### School Engagements

From 30th May to 25th July 2025, we visited 10 schools in Cape Coast, reaching and educating 1,063 students and 67 teachers (aged 10–17 years). Permission was sought from the Metropolitan Assembly for both regions as public school needed that before they allowed entry. All selected schools were located near important vulture sites, such as roosts and feeding grounds identified in earlier projects. We initially sent letters to schools in Accra, but none confirmed dates for engagement, so activities were concentrated in Cape Coast. Pre- and post-education questionnaires were conducted in some schools to assess changes in knowledge and attitudes. At the University of Cape Coast Junior High School (UJHS) with 423 students, questionnaires were not administered due to time constraints.

At each school, we delivered a PowerPoint presentation covering what vultures are, the crucial role they play in our environment, and practical ways to help protect them. Each session concluded with a short quiz, where winners received extra educational materials as rewards. We distributed 10 vulture-branded t-shirts per school and left behind a combined total of 700 exercise books for students across the 10 schools. Due to its large student population, the University of Cape Coast Junior High School (UJHS) received 200 copies. In addition, we shared vulture-themed stickers, flyers, and placards to serve as constant reminders of the training and to reinforce the conservation message.

Initial analysis of questionnaires from some schools revealed a very low level of knowledge about vultures. Many students initially perceived vultures as evil, but by the end of the training, we were able to dispel this belief.

Find below some selected pictures from the training.

All rights to these pictures are property of the project and our sponsors the Rufford Foundation.



*Figure 1: Students from St. Augustine's JHS in Cape Coast*



*Figure 2: Students from Pere Plange JHS*





*Figure 3: Samuel a member of the team educating students in a classroom*



*Figure 4: A section of the 423 students from UJHS*

In addition to the above we engaged 45 students and a lecturer of the Department of Conservation Biology and Entomology at the University of Cape Coast.



Figure 5: University students from the University of Cape Coast

### Next steps:

We are about starting the larger Ghanaian audience with radio stations (3) and TV (1).

We will also celebrate the September 6th itself in Cape Coast with the walk and durbar.

Outline			
Media house	Letter status	Response	Date of visit
Star FM	Sent	Approved -	3rd September

<b>GTV</b>	<b>Sent</b>	<b>No response</b>	<b>4th September</b>
<b>Cape Fm</b>	<b>Sent</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>5th September</b>
<b>Radio central</b>	<b>Sent</b>	<b>Approved -</b>	<b>4th and 5th September</b>

### **Challenges:**

- Questionnaires: Despite printing copies, we have not been able to conduct pre and post questionnaires due to the number of students at a school and the time. We had a method of randomly selecting 20 students but when there are 423 students numbering all and selecting 20 wastes time so we abandoned it in schools above 60.
- Junior Graphic Competition: We found out that the Junior Graphic which used to be a hard copy paper has transitioned to only softcopy therefore we were not sure if all students will have access because kids normally don't have phones. To remedy this a member of my team suggested we print hard copy flyers to 50 schools. 25 each in Accra and Cape Coast and paste on their notice boards as this will be effective.
- IVAD Day celebration: Unfortunately, the school calendar has shifted in Ghana, hence students will be at home or just resuming hence the September 5 day education which was to invite 9 students and 1 teacher from 10 schools has been halted.
- Exchange rates: The project has also suffered from fluctuation in exchange rate. The Ghanaian cedi has surged against all currencies since May 2025. Before that 1 Euro = 16 cedis but at some point, fell to 11 cedis and currently at 12 cedis.

Find below some more pictures from schools education.





Figure 6: Students from Kwaprow M A school



Figure 7: Kwaprow M A school



Figure 8: UJHS students at the training



Figure 9: Samuel educating UJHS



*Figure 10: Samuel at Imani JHS in Cape Coast*



*Figure 11: Bridge a team member at UCC primary*



*Figure 12: Flick projector purchased for the project*



*Figure 13: Laptop donated by Idea Wild for the Rufford project*



*Figure 14: Bridge at Imani JHS*



*Figure 15: Students and a teacher at Apewosika M A in Cape Coast*