

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Website

We successfully launched a free educational website dedicated to vultures, with a focus on species found in Ghana: <https://conservingvultures.netlify.app/>. The site also 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 (aged 10–17 years) and 67 teachers. 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. However, schools' competition will be concentrated in Accra to ensure they also benefit. Pre- and post-education questionnaires were conducted in five out of the ten 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. We also played two educational videos on vultures. 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. We distributed branded materials to serve as a reminder even after the day of education is concluded.

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 at the Department of Conservation Biology and Entomology at the University of Cape Coast. We also distributed vulture branded materials to them.



Figure 5: University students from the University of Cape Coast

Larger stakeholder Education

We targeted the larger Ghanaian audience with radio stations (3) and TV (1).

We were present on the Breakfast Show of Ghana's official and premier television where we were interviewed. We also went on Starr Fm's drive show. Lastly, we went to Radio Central, the first station of the Central Region. Due to arriving in Cape Coast on 5th September 2025 we only engaged some staff at Cape Fm and we were not interviewed as it was the day of a major carnival the Orange Friday in Cape Coast.

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

Outline			
Media house	Letter status	Status	Date of visit
Star FM	Sent	Completed	4th September
GTV	Sent	Completed	4th September
Cape Fm	Sent	Completed	Not Interviewed
Radio central	Sent	Completed	5th September

Links to interviews

Media house	Facebook/Google drive link
GTV - Nationwide	https://drive.google.com/file/d/18P9Z2O_cuwlyHHi8FHPJtPD28mXsTCqC/view?usp=sharing
Starr FM – EIB Accra	https://drive.google.com/file/d/14YYE_xnsMCCd7QyS2BiaRhVQBdWklhex/view?usp=sharing
Radio Central – Cape Coast	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e0HYOSi2zbwblI0emsST_J4EP5iyQuTG/view?usp=sharing
Asaase Radio - Accra	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mSYq0zTdS9cUoiXqdAdn_vAg37ljwqL-/view?usp=sharing

All sessions were entertaining and we believe the purpose for which we wanted to do this massive education campaign was achieved. In the Radio Central session, we had up to 10 callers allowed to ask questions. One particular caller tried to reinforce that vultures have spiritual powers but at the end he implicated himself by saying “we no longer see them” using all the platforms we were given we stressed on the “theory of change” and pleaded that people contribute significantly to the conservation. GTV further published the story on their website:

https://www.gbcghanaonline.com/general/vultures-ghana/2025/?fbclid=IwdGRjcAMqWOhleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHiDxpXaKXzFH3XV4lyfQ1kbhS2wmXE7xOTI0qgzLBEFiXPyrE_LRDEt8772J_aem_8P3TnVxfRGq-npyWesMORA



Figure 6: Project members with Foster Aggor and Ami Shikah after a radio session at Starr FM



Figure 7: Two project members in after the session with GBC Radio Centrals staff in Cape Coast



Figure 8: Shot of the Cape Coast paramount chief Nana Kwesi Attah during the durbar

Challenges:

- Questionnaires: Despite printing copies, we were not able to conduct pre and post questionnaires in five out of the ten schools due to the number of students at some school and the time allocated. 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 in Accra 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 appreciated against all currencies since May 2025 just before we started the education. Before that 1 Pound and 1 Euro were 17 and 15 cedis but fell to 13 and 11 cedis respectively. This significantly affected cedi equivalent and our subsequent purchasing power.

Find below some more pictures from schools' education.



Figure 9: Students from Kwaprow M A school



Figure 10: Kwaprow M A school



Figure 11: UJHS students at the training



Figure 12: Samuel educating UJHS



Figure 13: Samuel at Imani JHS in Cape Coast



Figure 14: Bridge a team member at UCC primary



Figure 15: Flick projector purchased for the project



*Figure 16: Laptop donated by **Idea Wild** in use for the Rufford project*



Figure 17: Bridge at Imani JHS



Figure 18: Students and a teacher at Apewosika M A in Cape Coast



Figure 19: Vultures soaring in the sky at Radio Central which is a roost, breeding and feeding site



Figure 23: Joseph and Samuel at the durbar grounds after the procession through the streets.

Next steps

The school's competition is yet to be completed; we have allowed until September 30th for kids to bring in entries. Once that is completed letters to the presidency and authorities will be sent to take action and help enforce laws against exploitation of vultures.

In partnership with Andrew a team member who works for Ghana Wildlife Society we have agreed to plan a webinar on vultures. We also donated a number of shirts to GWS. Also, following the successes of the media outreach another radio station, Asaase radio personally contacted us to do an interview on vultures and wildlife, which is a great thing.

Follow up monitoring to schools will commence in October where we would visit a few of the schools we educated.