

Sankofa Technical Report

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PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project title: Developing Paga Crocodile Pond (DPC)

Project Leader: Zulkalayne Nuhu Bapio

Geographical location: Paga, Kassenan Nankana West of Ghana

Number and type of beneficiaries reached (directly and indirectly)

Project commencement date: July, 2020

Duration (in months): 5 Months

Total cost of the project: GH¢ 35,655

Estimated amount of the NGO's contribution: GH¢ 600

Embassy of France support amount (FSPI SANKOFA): GH¢ 35,055

TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE N°1: To Harmonise the cultural heritage inventory of the crocodile pond in Paga of the Kassena Nanakana West District.

Activity 1.1. Inception meetings with key stakeholders. Document the cultural and historical background of the Paga crocodile Pond (Chief Pond).

On the 10th September, 2020, LINK Ghana organized an inception meeting with key stakeholders. In all, fifteen (14m/1f) stakeholders, comprising (the chiefs representative, Chief pond guards, Zenga pond guards, Nabiina radio station, assembly members of the catchment of the chief pond, cultural troupes leader, "tindaners", tourism management committee, transport management committee and restaurant/guest house operators union heads attended the meeting. The meeting introduced the project to them and also galvanized support and commitment in the implementation of the project activities. In addition, to this, Mr. Henry Yeledour, the Upper East Regional Tourism Director gave an overview of the tourism potential and the need to develop the Paga Crocodile and other sites. The Chief of Paga also gave a brief cultural and historical background of the West African Paga crocodiles and cultural significance (Chief Pond). All stakeholders appreciated the efforts the Sankofa-French Embassy had given to the development of the crocodile pond and assured their support in rolling out the project activities.

Activity 1.2. Hold a validation workshop on the documented cultural and heritage inventory of the crocodile ponds

Following the inception workshop which was held at Paga in July 2020, some historical information about the crocodiles and the chief pond were taken. Following this, a validation workshop was conducted with key stakeholders including 2 pond management, a chief, community elder, Ghana Tourism Board and 2 tour guards. This validation to not help firm up the history of the pond and crocodiles but also provided additional information that enriched the documentation process. The validated information as a key output is used to develop high quality brochures and the video documentary about the pond. Also it is also summarised and displayed at the information board at the pond site for visitors to readily have access to as and when need be.



Fig 1: Inception Meeting with Key Stakeholders

Activity 1.3. Develop video documentary + photographs on the crocodiles and cultural significance

To ensure the historical and cultural relevance of the chief crocodile pond remains consistent, two video documentaries have been developed within the period October to December, 2020 with each video being 5 minutes long. The first video basically provides the historical and cultural background of the Paga crocodiles as well as the chief’s crocodile pond. The documentary tells the story of why and how the crocodiles are revered among the people of Paga with a chronological history dating to their founder. The second video also provides key support services provided by the France Embassy in Ghana and LINK Ghana. All the videos have been uploaded onto the official website of the chief pond which was also created under the project. In addition to the videos, pictures were also taken and gallery provided on the website for viewing. Some pictures were laminated and displayed the project site.

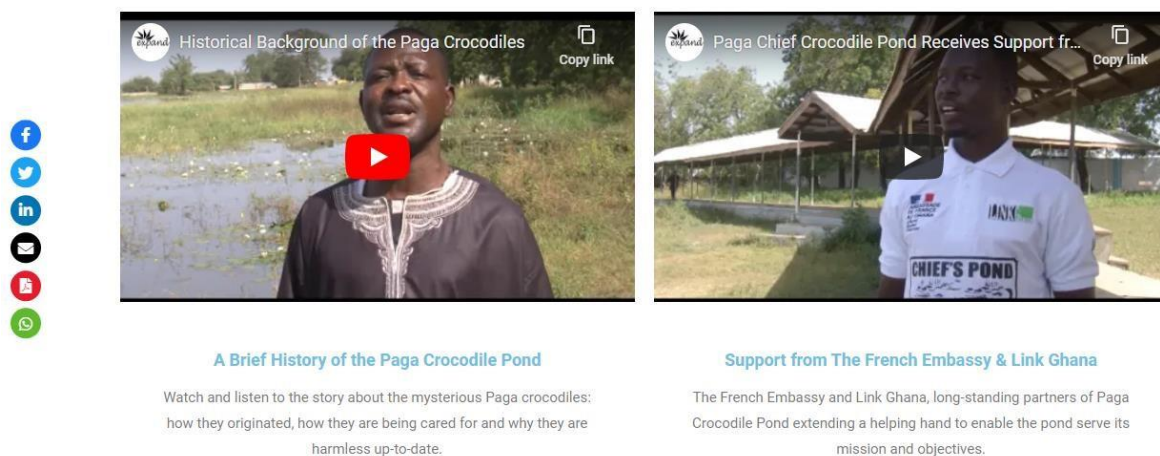


Fig 2: Videos uploaded onto the Pond Website

Activity 1.4. Develop and Print high quality pictures of the crocodiles for exhibition at the pond

Within the reporting period, various pictures on the crocodile pond were taken, printed and laminated

which is being used for exhibition at the visitors shed. Among the artefacts laminated included the historical and cultural documentation of the chief crocodile pond and the Paga crocodiles in general. Price list, chieftaincy transition, crocodile, chief palace and other information that are key in preserving and promotion were developed and exhibited at the pond site.



Fig 3: Open Shed with Team Presenting information Board under it

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE N°2: To Increase awareness at all levels (local especially among the young, regional, national and international) on the value of the cultural and natural heritage of the Paga crocodiles

Activity 2.1. Develop and install various cultural boards (information board with class frame and Build Boards)

Information board (6x4 feet) with glass frame has been developed and positioned at the visitors shed.



Fig 4: Information Board Presented to the Paga Chief Crocodile Pond (LINK Gh Staff on the Left)

On the board are pictures of the tourist site. The information board provides security to the pictures.

Also three (3) build boards (8x6 feet per board) have also been completed and erected at advantage points. One board is located from Navrongo heading towards Paga. As you are entering Paga you are being welcomed and as you exit you are being good bye. The second Board is also located at the front of the Pond which indicates this is the pond welcoming visitors. The third Board is located as you are entering from Burkina Faso.



Fig 5: Signage erected at Advantage Points

Activity 2.2 Produce 1500 brochures and 15 T-shirts that can support in the visibility and cultural heritage of the site

In addition to the 15 T-shirts that have been produced, within the reporting period, 1500 brochures were also produced and placed at the tourist site. It was observed that, the needed quantities to be placed at the tourist site was expected to be more 1,500. As a result, the pond management saw the need to keep the total 1500 brochures produced for further distribution to clients who visit the facility. They will also keep a few for reference points in future.



Fig 6: Presentation of T-Shirts and Pond Staff (Mr. Issahaku) Wearing T-Shirt to the Right

Activity 2.3. Train 20 (5 staff/15 stakeholders including the paga tourism committee) on cultural and heritage, opportunities for sustainable economic development and good eco-tourism management practices

LINK Ghana provided a participatory mentoring and coaching approach in reaching to the relevant management team. The team of 10 (2females/8males) comprised of the leadership of the pond, tour guards, community elders, chiefs and other staff where provided with some guard management skills, customer relation and care. Participants were also taken through the relevance of the Paga crocodiles as a tourist and cultural heritage and why it needs to be protected and promoted. In line with this, the cultural and heritage, opportunities for sustainable economic development and good eco-tourism management practices principles were emphasised in a more practical way that allows the management to appreciate the tourist facility in a more depth manner. The attended participants details are presented as follows:

Nº	Name	Position
1	Anthony Aduni Akogoh	Chief Representative
2	Mr. Issahaku Sulemana	Tour Guard
3	Apungu Tia	Elder
4	Abem Banah Auxwell	Sub Community Rep
5	Henry Yeledour	Ghana Tourism Board
6	Dan A. K. Awoligura	Sub Community Representative
7	Danlugu Banar	Community Representative
8	Mr. Akogoh Yorose	Assembly Representative
9	Tia Thomas Kwabena	Elder
10	Zulkalya Bapio	Representative

Activity 2.4. Development of social media platforms to promote cultural heritage of the crocodile pond (website & Instagram / or WhatsApp)

The project within the reporting period also designed the first of its kind, a website and a corresponding email that allows a global view of the facility. The website is populated with both videos and still pictures as well as information about the pond. The documentations about the historical background of the Paga and the chief's crocodile pond have all been uploaded onto the website.

The website is: <https://pagacrocodilepond.com/>

Enquiry email is: info@pagacrocodilepond.com

The screenshot displays the website's header and main content area. At the top, it features the text "With Support Of:" followed by logos for the Ghana Tourism Authority, LINK Ghana, a stylized bird logo, and the French Embassy in Ghana (Ambassade de France au Ghana). The main content area is divided into four columns:

- About US!**: A vertical stack of social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, YouTube, WhatsApp) is on the left. The text describes the pond as the most visited due to its strategic location between Navrongo and Burkina Faso, covering 2 square kilometres.
- Strategic Partners**: Lists the Ghana Tourism Authority, Ambassador De France Au Ghana, Link Ghana Organization, and Local Chiefs & Community Stakeholders. Includes a "visit Ghana" logo and a "Support Us: DONATE" button.
- Join Our Mailing List**: A call to action to receive updates and news, accompanied by a form with fields for "Name" and "Email" and a "Subscribe to Our Mailing List" button.
- Contact Us**: Provides location (Upper East Region, 44 km outside Bolgatanga), telephone number (+233 (0) 244189338 / 244691525), email (info@pagacrocodilepond.com), and website (www.pagacrocodilepond.com). Includes social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

An "Activate Windows" watermark is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.



Fig 7: Website Interface

Activity 2.5. Provide hand leg operated hand washing machine

The leg operated hand washing equipment which was procured in August was presented to the management of the Paga Chief’s Crocodile Pond. The objective for the provision of the equipment is to ensure health safety especially COVID-19 and other hygiene related diseases.



Fig 8: Leg Operated Hand Washing Machine Presented to Pond Management (Prince on the Right)

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE N°3: Project Management

Activity 3.1. Project Closure and Handing Over Meetings with key stakeholders and Community

A project closure meeting was held with the management of the Paga Chief’s Crocodile Pond. The meeting was made up of 10 (2females/8males) comprised of the leadership and management of the

pond, tour guards, community elders, chiefs and other staff as well as LINK Ghana staff. The meeting was to officially close the project and to also explain the commitment of LINK Ghana to constantly monitor and provide backstopping to the pond. The Management Team of the Pond represented by Mr. Isahaku also thanked LINK Ghana and the Embassy of France in Ghana for the support provided. They however expressed very critical concerns which they will like the project to support. This was the complete walling of the Pond was a request they will like the project to support in if there is any opportunity for a second phase. The management of the pond indicated how with time community is encroaching which is silting the dam. They also indicated the intrusion of animals which does not make it attractive for tourist. Building a complete wall for the site will therefore ensure the facility is well secured and attractive. The Second request is the enclosure of the shed which they feel was one of the key things they needed additional support to work on. The shed which received visitors is opened hence efforts to provide some ventilated windows to prevent animals and the harsh winds from destroying the information board and other activities in the pond is something management needed support on.

Activity 3.2. Painting and Artistic Work on the pond's wall

The project within the reporting period provided a face lift by painting the front view and the shed which receives visitors. Both inside and outside of the front wall was painted with artistic pictures at the outside wall. This will provide a very good view of the place and also create a lot of visibility and attraction to tourist.

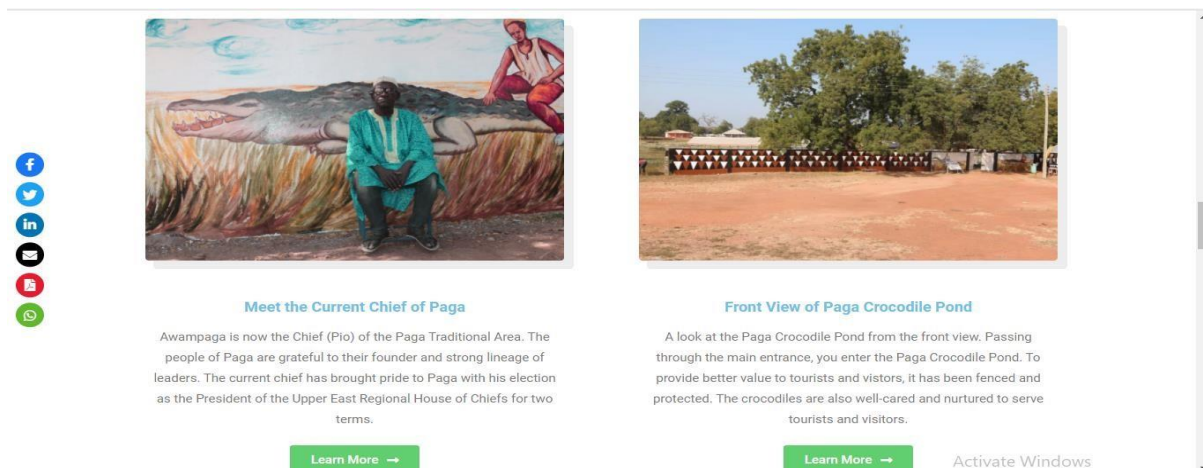


Fig 9: Painting and artistic work of the Paga Chief Crocodile Pond

Have the project objectives been achieved?

An assessment of the project objectives and planned activities revealed that the project achieved 100% of it's target. All planned activities were achieved with very significant results and participation by all stakeholders and beneficiaries.

What difficulties did you encounter? What were your solutions?

Within the implementation period, there were no much difficulties. There was only one issue that came up which was amicably resolved. The difficulty of planting trees as initially planned was quite a social and environmental challenge. The Pond management was quite worried that trees might not survive due to the soil and the invasion of cattle and donkeys. Though there were a number of discussions with pond management to see the possible approach that will yield the needed impact and value for money, it was quite challenging. It was

however resolved by converting the budget line on tree planting to painting and artistic work at the pond. This was duly communicated to French Embassy for which approval was given.

Has coordination/cooperation been established with other stakeholders for this project?

During the project inception, implementation and closure, LINK Ghana has constantly partnered effectively with some strategic partners. These partners included the Ghana Tourism Board, Paga Chief and Elders as well as the Management of the Pond. Ghana Tourism Board provided the community entry guidelines and engagement process. As part of the guidelines, the team was made to understand the pond is 100% managed by the community leadership which is quite sensitive. He also added the first engagement which is to meet the pond management and the chief was critical as there is a lot of spiritual significance attached to it. They also provided the background of the government efforts in promoting the cultural and tourism potential of the Paga area. The Paga Chief and Elders who are the custodians of the Chief Pond provided every information about the pond as well as the crocodiles. They also provided the needed participation in terms of mobilization and guidance in ensuring project is successfully implemented. Updates have also been given to Ghana Tourism Board.

PROJECT EVALUATION

1. Operational capability of the project

The project is operational in that all results are being used. Site is being visited with brochures on site being provided to tourist. Sign boards are also well placed at the advantage points which provides visibility and direction to the project site. Also the website is also broadcasted and being monitored by the management of the chief crocodile pond. The information board and pictures and information printed are also being used by the pond management team.

2. Sustainability of the project

Generally, the project results have been highly consolidated and have imparted the tourist site and the management team. All activities have been completed and will only require management and care by the management of the pond. Due to the participation of the communities and management, the care and management of the project results will be sustained. However, what is of critical demand that will require additional support is the complete walling of the Chief Pond. The chief pond currently has had the visibility and precondition to attract global attention. This is only achievable to a large extent when it is walled and the shed which receives visitors is enclosed. Currently, due to the open nature of the pond, animals encroach into the pond causing siltation and disturbance to tourist who come to the place. Also, the intrusion of animals which does not make it attractive for tourist. Building a complete wall for the site will therefore ensure the facility is well secured and attractive. The shed which received visitors is opened hence efforts to provide some ventilated windows to prevent animals and the harsh winds from destroying the information board and other activities in the pond is something management needed support on.

3. Insights from the project

The project solved the initial problem as identified and proposed to be solved. Visibility has been improved due to the various visibility actions which the project has put in place. Visibility actions such as sign boards, website, brochures, T-Shirts. In addition, the documentation of the historical and cultural significant of the Paga crocodiles and the chief pond has been highlighted hence preserving the heritage of the people.

LINK Ghana during the implementation period though short but had learnt some few lessons that can help in similar future projects. The community ownership and management of eco-tourism is one

critical thing that was learnt. Though Ghana Tourism Board oversees all these sectors, they are actually managed and controlled by the community and the Paga crocodile pond is not an exception.