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## END OF YEAR REPORT

The year 2020 began like all other years for us, full of hope and optimism that we were going to make great strides in amphibian conservation in Ghana and beyond. Then COVID-19 hit and it did so with full force, disrupting our daily lives and still till now, taking hundreds of thousands of lives. Ghana recorded her first case in March and by the end of that month, the country was put under partial lockdown. It affected our planned activities mostly field ones, and funding, as donors were also equally hit. In spite of all these, we have managed to survive to initiate and complete important activities for 2020.

Highlighted Programmes and Achievements of 2020:

- Succeeded in rebranding the organisation and legally changing the institution name to Save Ghana Frogs from SAVE THE FROGS! Ghana
- Launched a new website, [www.saveghanafrogs.org](http://www.saveghanafrogs.org), where we independently control and frequently upload contents and updates on our work
- Produced a checklist of the fauna diversity of Sui River Forest Reserve which comprised of 446 species of amphibians, avian, butterfly, mammals and reptiles of which 16% are threatened ([www.saveghanafrogs.org/fauna-in-sui-river](http://www.saveghanafrogs.org/fauna-in-sui-river))
- The elusive Gaboon caecilian (*Geotrypetes seraphini*) recorded for the second time at Sui River Forest Reserve
- Kick-started “Sounds of Sui Forest Frogs”, featuring audio recordings of amphibians in different habitats of the forest
- Intensified searches for the elusive critically endangered Intermediate Puddle Frog (*Phrynobatrachus intermedius*) at Ankasa Resources Reserve after having gone missing for more than two decades
- Initiated engagements with local stakeholders including Forestry Commission of Ghana (FC), chiefs and local communities surrounding Sui River Forest Reserve for the upgrade of the forest into a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) for its better management

- Other NGOs experienced in community managed reserves, A Rocha Ghana, Civic Response and Ghana Wildlife Society are assisting with elements to be included in the CREMA draft
- Developed updated maps, some in 3-D, showing the exact locations of the Giant Squeaker Frog and associated threats
- Extended beekeeping operations including the supply of free apiary materials, beehives and suits, to 123 beneficiaries from three other local communities fringing Sui River Forest Reserve
- Produced over 100 litres of honey and 10kg of beeswax from pilot beekeeping site, Yawkrom, the first apiculture beneficiary fringe community of Sui River Forest Reserve
- Established a Community Development and Education Fund for three communities fringing Sui River Forest Reserve as a measure to reduce local illiteracy and unemployment
- Sustained financial support to six Young Scholars Program beneficiaries including, the first female from Yawkrom community admitted to the University, currently studying BSc. Communication and Media Studies
- Furnished Whitley Fund for Nature funded Sui Amphibian Conservation Education Centre (SACEC), with 85 copies of "Legal Frog" book authored by a volunteer children's writer, Mr. Isaac Armstrong
- Commissioned and equipped Community Forest Stewards to support the work of FC with regular monitoring as a measure to reduce illegal activities at Sui River Forest Reserve
- Raised and planted in degraded areas of Sui River Forest Reserve, approximately 20,000 native seedlings from local community nursery
- Raised nearly 5,000 seedlings of raffia palm and replanted in degraded areas of Ankasa Resources Reserve and surrounding private farmlands to improve habitat conditions and provide non-timber resources for local people to reduce pressure on the forest
- Initiated lobbying engagement with Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation to reconsider plans to mine bauxite at Atewa Forest Reserve
- Joined 20 other CSOs to sue the Government of Ghana for permitting prospecting activities at Atewa Forest Reserve without following legal and proper requirements for pre-mining assessments

- Reviewed the manifestos of Ghana's two main political parties, National Democratic Congress and National Patriotic Party, as it related to environmental and natural resources management ([www.saveghanafrogs.org/awards-projects-reports](http://www.saveghanafrogs.org/awards-projects-reports))
- Collaborated with Tropical Biology Association (TBA) to organise online capacity building workshops and mentoring for early-career conservationists especially in proposal writing and how to successfully run an organisation
- Subscribed to the membership of the Ghana Biodiversity Watch, a group of NGOs that monitor government's activities and commitment to ensuring protection of the country's biodiversity
- Empowered over 2,000 local people on the sustainable use of forest resources through educational materials and community engagements
- Revamped our social media presence with weekday postings to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to engage our +1,000 followers and broaden our reach
- Featured several frog species including the rare and critically endangered Intermediate Puddle Frog (*Phrynobatrachus intermedius*), on the newly launched website under our Ghana Online Amphibian Literacy (GOAL) Project, to throw more spotlight on individual frogs occurring in Ghana as a means of educating the public, [www.saveghanafrogs.org/blog-1](http://www.saveghanafrogs.org/blog-1)
- Featured as a special guest speaker on Facebook live on World Biodiversity Day hosted by A Rocha Ghana on the theme, "OUR SOLUTIONS ARE IN NATURE"

Thank you to our donors and friends for your support in 2020.

Follow along on our website and on social media to see the amazing things we have planned for 2021:

Website: <https://www.saveghanafrogs.org/>

Instagram: @saveghanafrogs

Twitter: @ghanafrogs

Facebook: @saveghanafrogs

