

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Salha Hassan Alban
<b>Project title</b>	Conservation of coral reef in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia (KK Reef Watch)
<b>RSG reference</b>	Ref: 09.11.07
<b>Reporting period</b>	Final report
<b>Amount of grant</b>	5,000
<b>Your email address</b>	kkreefwatch@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	26 May 2009

**1. Please 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
Instilling a sense of awareness on the condition of the marine habitat along the coastal water of Sabah to the students			X	Sri Insan school established a Nature Club in the effort to help protect the marine ecosystem in Sabah.
Developing students' interest in marine conservation			X	Students were enthusiastic in asking questions about the marine life and its threats due to pressure from human activities. The students and teachers also asked for an extension for the I see, I care, I save marine education program.
Getting students participation in global effort to save the marine ecosystem – introducing reef monitoring surveys, removal of Crown of Thorns and etc.		X		Due to the program have to be shortened from 4 days to one day of field program, students didn't get enough training to do simple reef survey. Instead we give talks and seminars in schools on how reef survey and monitoring is being done all around the world to a wider audience. The establishment of Nature Club in Sri Insan school also indicates their effort to participate in conservation.
Developing network with other environmental conservation bodies that is active with environmental awareness activities.		X		KK Reef Watch is working with SEEN (Sabah Environmental Education Network) in reaching out to government schools. In the near future we will work closely with Reefcheck Malaysia to execute marine education activities in Sabah. Members of SEEN are the Rainforest Discovery Centre, KK city BIRD Sanctuary, WWF-Malaysia, Sabah Education Department, Sabah Wildlife Department, HUTAN, Sabah Forestry Department.
Develop a module for marine education in Sabah.			X	Current module of the I see, I care, I save Marine Education Program is focused on marine field activity. The new model will have more program in schools and less activity in the field. This is to increase participation from students and teachers.

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

There was difficulty in getting cooperation and support from local government schools. Application to involve students of government/public schools was denied due to the concern on safety issues when taking students out for field trips that involves going into the sea. The program centres on giving hands-on marine experience to students to introduce marine environment to them. Our application to involve government and public schools were denied by the Education Department. For that reason, we have decided to start the program with a private school in Kota Kinabalu, Seri Insan School. The idea is to demonstrate to other school the benefits of the program and also to show that safety of students are our main priority. Even working with this private school, we had to reduce the number of days of activities in the sea.

We divided the program into field activities and in-school activities. We conducted the program twice, once for students of the Borneo Marine Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and another for Seri Insan School. The UMS participants eventually become facilitators during the Seri Insan School program.

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

- i. More active environmental education movement in Sabah. The Sabah Environmental Education Network (SEEN) is a new network of societies that consists of NGOs such as HUTAN (French NGO) and WWF-Malaysia and government agencies such as the Sabah Forestry Department, Education Department, Sabah Environment Protection Department and Sabah Wildlife Department. However, all members of SEEN are currently concentrating on issues of environment on land. There are little awareness programs on marine topics. Since the state of Sabah lies within the Coral Triangle and are surrounded by coral reefs, it is important to highlight marine environment issues. Therefore, the addition of marine education program within SEEN is essential and complimentary.
- ii. Students participated in the 'I see, I care, I save' were able to convey conservation messages convincingly to their peers, teachers and parents. Another important outcome of the project is that the students of Seri Insan School has seen the importance of protecting our marine resources and were able to understand that they are part of the community that are responsible to care for the environment. As a result, the students have decided to form the Seri Insan School Nature Club.
- iii. The current program the 'I see, I care, I save' marine education program is an all field program. We are now aware that this raises the issue of safety about bringing high school student into the sea. As a result, we have decided to restructure the program. The new module will consist of series of activities which will reduce the time in the field and more time doing activities in the school. The new module will be developed with help from Reef Check Malaysia, WWF-Malayisa and other members of SEEN.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project (if relevant).**

The schools within Kota Kinabalu are part of the local community. The program helped increase awareness among the students of Seri Insan School. We believe students are the future leaders and must be aware of their environment when making any decisions in the future. The Ecosystem Approach is one management type that is sustainable and good for the environment. Therefore, it is

important that they know of their marine environment especially since Kota Kinabalu is a coastal city and is developing very rapidly.

Involving university students in the program also help in building their capacity. They gain experience in conveying conservation messages to others with no biology or marine science background. They also become role models for the younger students from participating high school and this gave them the chance to develop their leadership skills.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. We are currently developing a new module for the 'I see, I care, I save' Marine Education Program with help from Reef Check Malaysia, WWF-Malaysia and SEEN. The new module will consist of series of activities in schools such as exhibition, seminars, talks, video presentation and games that introduce and promotes issues concerning marine environment. On top of that, it will also include one trip to the island with activities in the sea, to show students the coral reef ecosystem. Even though Kota Kinabalu is a coastal city, surprisingly, most students have never seen the coral reef. The activities will be carried out over a 12 months period because Experience has shown that repeat visits like this are a very effective way to enhance learning. Therefore, it is still important to give students firsthand experience seeing the coral reef. There are 15 high schools in Kota Kinabalu and we plan to carry out the 'I see, I care, I save' Marine Education Program with them in the future.

Primary school students (aged 7 – 12 yrs old) should not be forgotten also. A module for them should be developed to fit their age and level of understanding. Plans to include primary school students also must be considered to increase their level of environmental awareness. Reef Check Malaysia already developed a module for primary school students in Peninsula Malaysia. This existing module can be utilized here in Sabah for our primary school students in Kota Kinabalu.

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

We are in the process to become a member of SEEN (Sabah Environmental Education Network), this is a government supported organization which consists of a number of NGOs doing environmental education in Sabah. The members hold meetings from time to time to share experiences on their activities. We are also working closely with SPCA (Society of Protection against Cruelty to Animals) in holding exhibitions in schools. We are currently working with Reef Check Malaysia, which is based in Peninsula Malaysia, in developing the new marine education module and then executing marine education activities for high school students in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Apart from these we will organize talks and exhibitions in schools that we have done a program with. The students who went for the program will be required to share their experiences and lessons learnt from the program with their friends in school. We also update our blog after every activity at [www.kkreefwatch.blogspot.com](http://www.kkreefwatch.blogspot.com).

#### **7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

RSG was used as seed funding in developing a marine education module for high school students in Sabah. The project period was extended from 12 months to 16 months. The program started later than planned because difficulty in getting approval to conduct the program with government schools.

The 4 continuous days of field program had to be divided into series of activities of 1 day field

program and 4 days of school program (not continuous) which eventually increased the length of the marine education program.

**8. Budget: Please 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.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Administration fee	520	650	-130	200 were deducted from the grant during bank transfer.
Masks, snorkels & fins	550	700	-150	
Boat rental	1,000	700	300	
Boat fuel	600	700	-100	Price of fuel in country increased unexpectedly.
First aid kit	100	50	50	
Transect tape	50	50	0	
Quadrats	200	150	50	
Bouys	200	150	50	
Marine reference books	400	600	-200	Bought the same copies of same book for the students to share.
Maps	30	10	20	
Slates	100	100	0	
Paper (waterproof, glossy & normal A4)	250	150	100	Budget here is used to buy more reference books.
Stationeries	50	50	0	
Printer ink	200	200	0	
Web and Logo design	150	150	0	
Brochure	300	200	100	
Poster	300	200	100	
T-shirt	0	200	-200	Not budgeted before but used extra budget from printing of posters and brochures.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5010</b>	<b>-10</b>	

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

The next step is to develop a new module for the marine education program that is more acceptable for the Sabah Education Department, this means making sure safety of students are top priority. Additionally, working with other NGOs and government agencies such as Reef Check Malaysia, WWF-Malaysia, Sabah Environmental Education Network, Rainforest Discovery Centre, KK City Bird Sanctuary Centre, Malaysian Nature Society is also important. Most of these society and agencies have an existing environmental education program. It is essential for us to have close relationship with them as we can share experiences and knowledge. Also, as to not waste limited resources, working together is a better option. The existing environmental programs that these societies does have approval from the Education Department and aligning ourselves with them might help us in our application to involve government and public school students in our marine education program.

In order for the program to be sustainable, it is important for us to acquire more funding from local companies. The seed fund from RSG has enable us to run our pilot program and it was advantageous and beneficial for us in order to obtain more fund in the future.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

T-shirts and posters carrying environmental awareness messages were printed with RSGF logo (Refer attachments). All activities utilizing money from the RSGF grant carried RSGF banner. Apart from that an English and Chinese newspapers highlighted the marine education program with Sri Insan School and RSG was mentioned as the funder of the project.