

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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Tammy Davies
Project title	Conserving one of the last coastal rainforests
RSG reference	11022-1
Reporting period	9 th January 2012 – 16 th January 2013
Amount of grant	£5928
Your email address	ted6@st-andrews.ac.uk
Date of this report	16/1/13

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
Collect baseline biodiversity data		✓		Data has successfully been collected for birds and bats across 5 different land use types. Data was not collected for frogs (due to daily time constraints and abundance of cane toads) and butterflies (butterflies did not take to the traps/bait available)
Collect information on use of natural resources			✓	Collected from 75 households, across 9 communities from a 6 month period.
Train 5 local people			✓	6 local people trained in biodiversity survey methods in addition to generic research skills. One now is undertaking Certificate in Environment at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education, and two others applying for a place for this coming academic year
Run 3 cross community workshops			✓	4 workshops held, including large final workshop which was attended by the Premier of Makira-Ulawa Province.
Produce local photographic bird guide in local language			✓	A huge success! Distributed to all schools in Makira-Ulawa Province. PDF available online.

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

There were numerous unforeseen difficulties that were encountered during the project, including:

Weather – this year was unusually wet, with extended periods of heavy rain on Makira. This limited mist-netting opportunities, the positioning of the bat detector and also hindered/delayed travel between study sites. Line transects proved a good method to collect data, even in between rain storms. We adopted a flexible approach to data collection and this ensured that all essential data was collected.

Collection of frog data: this was aborted early on in the project, due to the abundance of cane toads (and lack of other species), and extreme workload (very early starts for birds, did not work well with night surveys for frogs).

Collection of butterfly data: butterflies did not take to the bait of fermenting bananas (although this is recommended for the traps in tropical forests). Other baits were trialled, but these were not

possible to obtain in the forest areas and we did not want to compromise research integrity by transporting baits, e.g. hibiscus flowers, to areas where they weren't found.

Desire for cash – there is an ever growing desire for money across the Solomon Islands (McDonald, 2003) which is causing a breakdown in community cohesion (Fazey *et al.*, 2011). At the start of the project we were denied access to one village and their monoculture cocoa areas, unless we paid the chief money. However, it had already been agreed with local grassroots organisation the Kahua Association, that no money would be paid to access areas, and so working with the Kahua Association we identified other communities to work with and areas to survey.

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

1) Birds of Makira – this was unveiled at our final cross-community workshop and was a huge success with adults and children alike! After the workshop, people spread out on the grass outside and poured over the photos. Word spread quickly, and the next day the first person arrived to see the book at 06:50 (he had walked for 1.5 hours!) People were proud to have a book that was just on Makira. Originally intended to be distributed to schools within the study region, the Premier of Makira-Ulawa province was so impressed, he asked to distribute copies to all primary and secondary schools (71) in the province, vastly increasing our intended outreach of this work.

After the overwhelmingly positive community response and increase in understanding of bird fauna, Dr Rohan Clarke plans to make a similar book as part of his work on in the Torres Straits. We have made the PDF available online so others are also able to benefit from this work: <http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/files/Birds%20of%20Makira.pdf>

2) Data - the Solomon Islands, particularly Makira, are so desperately understudied that any data is of great importance, especially in light of the current rapid environmental and social change (Garonna *et al.*, 2009). We now have data of bird species richness and relative abundance across different land use types, in addition to the first data on household wealth and resource use in the Solomon Islands. The data we collected will be used to inform conservation strategies in the region, (analysis is still on-going).

3) Change in attitudes – after the final workshop, there was an overwhelming positive response to conservation and action. Local people were previously unaware of their endemic bird species (or what this meant), but post-workshop feedback showed that there was an understanding and sense of pride in, and desire to look after their 13 endemic birds. This change in attitude towards conservation, coupled with an increase in knowledge on why the area is important is an essential first step for conservation activities in the area.

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

This project was built on a participatory framework and therefore involvement and participation of communities was essential to the project design and data collection. Four participatory workshops were held which covered the aims of this project and encouraged communities to think about their natural environment and how it's changing. Participants all reported to have learnt new things, including the endemic species found on Makira and a renewed appreciation for the value of resources provided to them by their environment.

Six individuals from villages in the study area were trained and employed as research assistants on the project, building capacity in local communities. This has already resulted in additional benefits for the research assistants, with one currently completing Certificate in Environment, and two others keen to start the two-year course next year at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education.

We also supported the Kahua Association throughout this project through encouraging meetings, attendance at workshops and plans for the future. The Kahua Association also managed the distribution of *Birds of Makira*. This support helped to build the capacity of the Association and also increased its presence in local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. Local people are now keen for conservation action, so we plan to build upon this work through developing an appropriate management solution for the area. We have started discussions with the Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership, regarding future work and establishing a permanent in-country presence to ensure our future endeavours are sustainable.

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

Preliminary results have already been shared at the local level – through cross-community workshops and production of *Birds of Makira*. The final cross-community workshop was well attended with over 60 participants from across the region and also included an advisor for UNDP and the Premier of Makira-Ulawa province. *Birds of Makira* has also been shared with National Government, including the Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo, Minister for Education and Minister for Environment.

Information will also be made available to the wider scientific community through publications (anticipated over the next 12 months). Results from this research will also be presented at two international conferences this year. Information will also be made available on the internet, such as through the IUCN Red List, our project and T. Davies' personal webpage. We will also make use of social media, including Twitter to promote this project and reach a wider audience. All outputs will be shared with the National and Provincial Governments in the Solomon Islands, the Kahua Association, the British High Commission in the Solomon Islands and European Commission Delegation for the Pacific.

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

The actual timescale has remained true to the anticipated timescale: with all data collection completed by 27th July 2012. *Birds of Makira* was finished ahead of schedule and was distributed in July 2012 – coinciding with the final workshop (as requested by the Kahua Association). Data analysis and report writing are still on-going (as anticipated in proposal).

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
In-country travel	160	160	0	
In-country food	1600	1650	+50	On advice from the Kahua Association, food was provided for all participants at final cross-community workshop at the cost of \$50 (difference covered by Davies' NERC funds)
In-country accommodation	150	350	+150	More nights required in Honiara due to delays with arrival of Birds of Makira from Australia, (T Davies paid the difference herself)
Venue hire for workshops	60	100	+40	Increase in prices, since 2011
Equipment	2158	2333	+175	Photocopying of surveys was more expensive than in 2012 (all bar one photocopier had broken in Kirakira, pushing up prices), (difference covered by Davies' NERC funds)
Bird book: <i>Birds of Makira</i>	1800	1800	0	500 copies, printed by Darkhorse publishing (Australia)
Total	5928	6393	+465	

Exchange rate: £1 = 10 Solomon Dollars

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

In order to build on the enthusiasm for conservation developed through this project, we believe activities in the area need to be scaled up. This includes a locally appropriate conservation strategy sustained through in-country support. To achieve this, we believe the important next steps are to:

1. Establish who is most dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods to develop an appropriate conservation management strategy (information from this project)
2. Establish a consortium of people or groups interested in becoming involved in the project on Makira. Meet physically to discuss ideas, aims, and skill-sets present and/ needed and how to go about this.
3. Identify and apply for funds to enable the consortium to meet.

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?

Yes – we have included the RSGF logo in all our outputs so far, including:

- A presentation at the IUCN Pacific Islands Species Forum, Honiara, April 2012
- Cover and inside of *Birds of Makira*
- An article marking the launch of *Birds of Makira*, printed in the Solomon Star (national newspaper of the Solomon Islands)

- A blog hosted on ZSL website: <http://www.zslblogs.org/2012/09/28/surviving-the-solomon-islands>
- T. Davies' personal webpage links to the RSGF project: <https://www.zsl.org/tammydavies>
- Our project webpage has the RSGF logo and link to RSGF project webpage: <https://www.zsl.org/science/research-projects/solomonproject,1668,AR.html>

RSGF acknowledgement and logo will also be used in all future outputs (including all scientific publications) and presentations, including:

- Student Conference for Conservation Science, Cambridge, March 2013
- International Congress for Conservation Science, Baltimore, July 2013
- International Ecological Congress, London, August 2013

11. Any other comments?

Analysis and report writing, including scientific publications, is still on-going. All future publications will acknowledge support from RSGF, with the PDF made available online.

References:

- Fazey, I., Pettorelli, N., Kenter, J., Wagatora, D. & Schuett, D. 2011. Maladaptive trajectories of change in Makira, Solomon Islands. *Global Environmental Change*.
- Garonna, I., Fazey, I., Brown, M. E. & Pettorelli, N. 2009. Rapid primary productivity changes in one of the last coastal rainforests: the case of Kahua, Solomon Islands. *Environmental Conservation*, 36, 253-260.
- Mcdonald, R. 2003. *Money makes you crazy: custom and change in the Solomon Islands*, University of Otago Press.