

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Tommy Arruda Nobre de Melo
<b>Project title</b>	Implementation of measures for Conservation of Sea Turtles on the Santa Luzia island
<b>RSG reference</b>	11848-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	20/06/2012 – 01/11/2012
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5817
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:tommymelo@hotmail.com">tommymelo@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	11/12/2012

**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
Provide security for sea turtle eggs during incubation and birth.		X		We build a hatchery to test the methodologies required for translocation of nests. For this hatchery were translocated 50 nests (those who were in a position completely irregular and would surely destroy by the tides). We had problems with crabs that crept underneath the fence. For next year we have to bury the fence until at least 80 cm deep. At least 30% of the hatchery nests were partially depredated.
Enrich the existing database on nesting turtles of Santa Luzia			X	In 2011 we had about 300 nests. This year was an incredible year for nesting turtles in Cape Verde and we surpassed the 2000 nests. Data from last year along with this year allowed for a very rough idea of the number of turtles nesting on the reserve, which were previously completely unknown.
Continue the process of awareness "in loco" of the fishermen who frequent the island, through informal conversations about the environment at the end of the day.			X	The Biosfera has achieved this goal as well as the fishermen included it in the body of directors of the National Federation for traditional fishermen.

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

2.1 - We had some difficulties with the incursion of crabs in the hatchery but the idea of the hatchery this year was just to evaluate the difficulties that in 2013 we can move forward with a larger hatchery and well calibrated.

2.2 - Given that in 2011 only had about 300 nests, the high number of nests this year (more than 2000), created some logistical and material difficulties (such as stakes for marking nests that we had

to buy many more). We had to change the system of rotation of volunteers and everyone had to work a little harder than initially anticipated.

2.3 - Due to the large volume of work our solar panel was overloaded and had some issues with the passage of data, but the data we draw on paper and then in office we had to transfer them to the computer.

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

1 - With the data we have obtained the Natural Reserve of Santa Luzia gained much more importance, becoming the third largest nesting spot in the country. That did streamline the approval process of the Management Plan which was rectified and is now approved in December.

2 - We made five trips to the Branco Island (part of the Reserve) because due to reports of fishermen many turtles seek this island despite having only about 250 m from beaches. The numbers were really surprising because we estimate about 400 nests during this season of 2012 which reveals to be one of the largest concentrations in the country. Has become a major priority in 2013 also have a camp this island (they also have a population of seabirds breeding unknown).

3 - The Biosfera team became very respected by fishermen using the Reserve and became part of the Directorate of the National Federation of traditional fishermen. This is a very important point not only for the turtles that use the Reserve but to manage the entire ecosystem.

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

The communities that use the reserve as spot fishing interacted a lot with the team of the biosfera on the ground when it comes to information exchange. The Biosfera, the only team working on the reserve, recognises the needs of fishermen and fought beside them to achieve greater benefits for the fishing community on the part of the management plan to be approved shortly.

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

These first 2 years have served to arouse curiosity and the importance of the Reserve in terms of nesting sea turtles, but we just ran marking nests and temperature control. For next year we will have a camp in Branco islet and also let's move to conduct night work to acquire biometric data of the females and begin to brand them with subcutaneous chips (as is done in the rest of the national territory) in order to monitor their movements between the islands of the archipelago of Cape Verde during the nesting season.

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

In addition to the reports that are sent to partners (this year are: Rufford and IUCN). The Biosfera is part of the national network for the conservation of Cape Verdean turtles (TAOLA) that has a scientific council that is in charge of analyzing and making available to anyone who has interest, all data related to National turtles.

Further data is available to the Directorate General for the Environment that promotes the socialisation of data in national and international journals.

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

The GSR was used within the period provided (during the activities of terrain in Santa Luzia) which ran from June 20 to November 1, 2012.

**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
Alimentation	2900	1248	1652	As for this project we had also funding the IUCN (£ 3,277), we were playing with these two budgets and many of the food expenses were removed from the project account IUCN.
miscellaneous	498	-275	773	Taking into account the number of nests that we had last year (about 300), this year with over 2000 nests, many of the initially planned expenditure were exceeded.
Fuel and maintenance the boat	609	-904	1513	The price of fuel has increased greatly, as well as engine oils. Apart from that we had some breakdowns in our boat and we had to fetch some parts of Portugal.
Allowance for Working team	1810	-19	1829	The salaries of field staff were covered by the project Rufford and also by the IUCN.
<b>Total</b>	<b>5817</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>5767</b>	We have on file all receipts. if necessary we can scan them and send them by email, or even the original by mail.

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

Given the importance of data taken so far and growing confidence by our team for the fishermen, this work must continue in order to achieve the main objective of which is the conservation of turtles during nesting season. Having identified this year that the Branco islet has an important turtle population, we must proceed with the monitoring of this population in order to have a real perception of the nesting population in the Natural Reserve.

In Santa Luzia, after 2 years of recognition and application of methodologies, we now continue with a project on a larger scale so that the hatchery has a positive influence in the safeguarding of juveniles. The beginning of the marking of adult females will also help to have a national vision and the distribution of their movements within the country, as well as the collection of biometric data to begin to get an idea about the health status of this population.

The management plan for the nature reserve will be approved later this month of December and we imagine that in 2014 we can already count on state funding to continue the process. So for 2013 we will compete for more funding from the Rufford Small Grants in order to be prepared for in 2014 terms all the basic information and thus build a monitoring plan feasible.

**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?**

Our work takes place in a desert island and so we do not elaborate material, but the Rufford is always mentioned as a key partner in all our communications in the organs of the media, both television and radio. This year we had a weekly radio show on live and we gave an interview via phone to report the major events of the week at camp. This programme was much followed on the National Level.

**11. Any other comments?**

The Biosfera has a great esteem by the Rufford assist us to accomplish this important task is the preservation of a species in danger of extinction and which Cape Verde has the third largest population in the world and first in the Atlantic threatened population.

Once again, we invite a representative of your institution to visit us this next year of activities (June-October) so that they can see the fruits of our work and that would be very difficult to achieve without your invaluable support.

# Our Camp



# Our Camp



# Fishermen awareness and cooperation



# Turtles track



# Natural Turtles Nest



## Saving lost turtles



# Saving lost turtles



# Saving lost turtles



## Saving trapped by nets



# Forming the hatchery



# Teaching techniques of nests translocation



**Identification of misplaced nests (surface) to be translocated.**



## Collecting eggs for translocation



## Monitoring of births in hatchery



## Monitoring of births in hatchery



## Small turtles



# Small turtles



# Hope



# The Mother



# The Mother



# Francisca Beach



# Branco Islet



# Branco Islet



# Branco Islet



# Beach on the Branco Islet, with sand completely churned by turtles



## Santa Luzia Island and the beaches we work in



## Some results

Beaches (Km)	Nº tracks	Nº Nests	observations
Palmo Tostão (3,5)	622	154	nests badly damaged by flooding
Francisca (4,6)	2153	987	many nests predated by crabs
Achados (2,1)	1431	543	Still problems with the trash