

## 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>	Marina Fastigi
<b>Project title</b>	Critically Endangered leatherback and hawksbill turtles conservation through nesting monitoring and raising awareness of biodiversity and small island ecosystems, Carriacou, Grenada, W.I.
<b>RSG reference</b>	125802
<b>Reporting period</b>	December 7, 2012 – December 7, 2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5,999
<b>Your email address</b>	marina.fastigi@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	January 6, 2014

**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
Conservation of nesting sea turtles			yes	293 sea turtle nesting activities were recorded in 2013, an increase of activities of 10% compared to the 2012 nesting season. Three main nesting beaches were monitored full time (Petit Carenage all night/every night and Anse La Roche and Sparrow Bay every early morning) and occasionally a fourth beach, Big Field. The presence and conservation work by KIDO turtle monitoring teams on these beaches have deterred poaching activities, therefore extending the protection of Critically Endangered nesting sea turtles to a wider beach area in Carriacou.
Second Level Nature Guide Training			yes	Mr Solomon Stafford completed the training of Nature Guide Level 2, passing the test with a 92% score. Mr Stafford continues to be our Turtle Monitoring Guide and became one of the two official Nature Guides of the newly established local Ecotourism enterprise in Carriacou.
Youth Eco-Club Activities			yes	Most of the youths of the Eco-club, created during the first KIDO Rufford project, participated to Kids with Cameras Carriacou program, which was a great success in terms of: number of kids; - consistent active participation; - increased awareness of the importance of protecting the island's biodiversity; - conservation activities carried out; - number and quality of eco-photographs taken by KwC. (See Kids with Camera Carriacou Facebook).

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

No unforeseen difficulties arose during the project. The illegal sand mining problem with the consequential shrinking of part of the main sea turtle nesting beach of Petit Carenage was already known and tackled, as usual, with the relocation of nests to safer areas from sea water inundation and other threats.

The huge demand to participate in Kids with Cameras Carriacou kept us focused on basic eco-photography training and environmental awareness. During field trips kids practiced also filming with digital cameras and iPads, but, in order to expose as many children as possible to the biodiversity of the island and to nurture their appreciation for the beauty and ecological role of the endemic flora and fauna of Carriacou, we chose to postpone the in-depth teaching of video making technique to a later date, possibly in 2014.

We had planned to hold the final gathering of Kids with Cameras III in December 2013 at the Multipurpose Computer Centre, to deliver Certificates of Participation and printed photos with Mr Tyrone Buckmire as facilitator, but unforeseen family matters prevented him to travel from Grenada to Carriacou in December. Mr Buckmire's ferry ticket had already been purchased; we therefore decided to postpone the Certificate delivery event to January 2014.

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

KIDO Foundation successfully protected all Critically Endangered nesting sea turtles and nests on the three main nesting beaches in Carriacou, all part of (and adjacent to) the proposed national park of High North. In 2013, we recorded a 10% increase of nesting activities from the previous year and no turtle or egg poaching incidents, except for one intercepted attempt to poach a leatherback turtle nest in Anse La Roche beach. Three men from a foreign fishing vessel at anchor were caught in the act of digging a fresh leatherback nest. The nest had not been disrupted yet and the poachers were chased away fast by KIDO team (part of the 2013 team was a former police officer and marathon runner from Finland!).

KIDO Foundation trained Mr Solomon Stafford for the second level of Nature Guide (he had passed the first basic level of Nature Guide training during the first year KIDO Rufford project). Mr Stafford continues to be KIDO's main turtle monitoring guide, leading volunteers on patrols in the nesting beaches. Solomon is also now one of the two official Nature Guides (Nigel Stewart, trained by KIDO in the 2011-2012 Rufford project, is the second) featured by the newly established local Ecotourism Company "Isle of Reefs" (<http://www.isleofreefstours.com/team.html>). Both Solomon and Nigel take visiting ecotourists to hike the nature trails of High North Park and the mangroves and bird sanctuary of Petit Carenage. High North and Petit Carenage are part of the proposed National Park of High North.

Kids with Cameras Carriacou brought together three groups for a total of 48 primary and secondary school children (age mainly 9 – 12), merging members of the 2011-2012 Eco Club, formed in the first year of the KIDO-Rufford project. During weekend field trips of eco-photo safaris in the nature 'hot spots' of Carriacou, KwC discovered the beauty of their island, the role of its precious biodiversity and the existing environmental problems. Kids also got involved in effective conservation activities, such as participating to the rescue of sea turtles from slaughter, planting mangroves in key restoration areas and beach clean-ups; their photographic work also documented many historic landmarks and landscapes hitherto forgotten. KwC became a valuable cultural and educational experience, appreciated also by their families and the rest of the island population and what their eyes have seen was transferred into the shooting and editing of hundreds of good quality photos. They covered the traditional cultural event of the Carriacou Sailing Regatta, and three of their photos were selected for publication in the regionally and internationally distributed *Caribbean Compass Magazine* (September 2013 issue). KwC and their families expressed in several occasions their desire to continue the learning experience with KIDO and some kids already proudly announced their intent to pursue a career as professional photographer (see Kids with Cameras Carriacou Facebook).

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

The ongoing Kido Nature Guide training opened up opportunities at community level to earn a living as ecotourism Nature Guides in Carriacou. In 2013, for the first time, a local Ecotourism private enterprise was established in Carriacou utilising the expertise of KIDO's trained Nature Guides (<http://www.isleofreefstours.com/team.html>) and offering a variety of eco-tours, including nesting sea turtle watching. Groups of tourists have already employed some of our Guides for paid hiking tours, also generating further revenues for other community service providers (taxi drivers, local restaurants, etc.)

The children participating to KwC and their families understood that the training in eco-photography would later benefit the kids in exploring possible future professions as photographers and in related media areas, thus widening the avenue for income generating opportunities.

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

Certainly. Kido Foundation Team of local guides and volunteers have monitored the beaches in northern Carriacou protecting nesting sea turtles and their nests since 2002 and plan to continue and expand its operations according to funds availability.

The educational aspect of small island ecosystem and wildlife conservation is also an ongoing project, targeting new primary school students as well as empowering further the brightest and keenest students who participated to KwC programme. The use of digital technology as an aid for the exploration and study of natural habitats involving a youth groups in self-learning programs (aimed at finding solutions to persisting issues affecting the island) are planned for 2014. Training of Nature Guides will continue as demanded by the development of the local ecotourism enterprises.

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

Our Sea Turtle Conservation activities are shared internationally through YWF-Kido Foundation Facebook and KIDO Planet Website (<http://kidoplanet.com/>). We network regionally and locally through the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), regional newspapers (Caribbean Compass Magazine), local newspapers, FM radio stations and local TV.

Our Kids with Cameras Carriacou programme has its own Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KidsWithCamerasCarriacou> and KwC was already featured several times in Caribbean Compass Magazine. A local FM station VIBES 101.3 broadcast the interview with some of our KwC.

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

The RSG was used during the entire period of one year of the project

**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
Subsistence payment for local guides	4,600	4,718.87	118.87	Nesting Sea Turtle monitoring required more hours of patrolling this year. Monitoring of early morning hatchlings and nesting turtles required more time than budgeted
Fuel and transport	1,320	1,320.00		
One headlamp and 6 rechargeable batteries	39	36.54	-2.46	Costs of items bought via internet change slightly from time to time
Ferry ticket	40	37.83	-2.17	The calculation for ferry ticket was based on the rate exchange EC\$ 4.22 = GBP 1. When we received the total sum (minus bank charges) we calculated an actual rate exchange of 4.23 EC\$ = 1 GBP, thus the difference in the total amount
				Rate exchange 1GBP=4.23EC\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,999</b>	<b>6,113.24</b>	<b>114.24</b>	

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

To continue monitoring to protect nesting sea turtles and their nests from poachers and from natural hazards that may prevent the eggs to successfully hatch (Ex: relocation of nests in safer areas).

To petition the Grenada Government to legislate a complete moratorium of all sea turtle hunting, thus further protecting the foraging sea turtle population (our collection of signatures in favour of this petition will be closed in March of this year – more than 78,000 signatures have been collected so far). The government ban would thus save the hundreds of nesting turtles caught in coastal nets each year before the start of the closed hunting season (May 1<sup>st</sup>) and after the closing of the protected season (August 31<sup>st</sup>).

To continue to carry out education and conservation activities with local children and teenage youths, with the aim of fostering the next generation of conservationists among the local population.

**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?**

RSGF appears in Kids with Cameras Carriacou Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KidsWithCamerasCarriacou>, on KIDO Planet website <http://kidoplanet.com/> on the new Nature Guide Level 2 certificate and personal ID card received by Nature Guide Solomon Stafford and on Kids with Cameras Certificates of Participation.



RSGF received publicity in an article published on the Caribbean Compass Magazine (photo attached)

**11. Any other comments?**

We are looking forward to continue to work with The Rufford Foundation. Your assistance has been of great significance for Kido Foundation, for our Sea Turtle Monitoring Guides, for our Kids with Cameras and most especially for the project's conservation achievements.