

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Emile Pemberton
Project title	Nevis Sea Turtle Conservation Project
RSG reference	13264-B
Reporting period	July 2013-July 2014
Amount of grant	£12000
Your email address	mugabe@hotmail.com
Date of this report	27 th July 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
Public awareness			×	Had good coverage in local electronic and print media.
Training of student volunteers			×	More persons volunteered than was anticipated
Transportation of children, volunteers etc. to nesting beaches		×		We experienced a little difficulty in getting buses to make late night run to the beaches but made alternative arrangements via private vehicles
Welcome back sea turtles beach cleanup			×	We did this in September in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy's Coastal Cleanup Programme
Survey of foraging sea turtle population		×		This continues to be a learning process. Unfavourable weather and the availability of fishers continue to be issues in this programme. Also the fisheries officer we were relying on to help in this programme went off to college just as the study was getting off the ground. We have resolved to take advantage of any good weather in the future and to carry out more surveys on the less rough, leeward side of the island.
Sea Turtle Camp 2014			×	There was a record large number of persons attending this camp
Quiz competitions			×	

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

N/A

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

- (a) Encountering and tagging the largest number of sea turtles ever in one year in the history of the Nevis Turtle Group. A total of 66 turtles were encountered. Of these 56 were new turtles that had never been tagged before. Of these 49 were the most critically endangered sea turtle that is the hawksbill sea turtle and seven were green turtles.
- (b) The training of 15 student volunteers. Most of these were new persons while a few had some training before. They were not only trained in sea turtle biology and conservation but also underwent tour guide training and training in customer relations. This bodes well for the sustainability of the programme as marketing the sea turtle nesting monitoring programme to tourists is one way in which the programme can pay for itself.

(c) Survey of the foraging sea turtle population was not as successful as we hoped it would be. However, it did raise our profile in the local press and involved fishers that were never before involved in the programme. The basis has thus been built for a more successful programme in the future with greater awareness been raised among fishers and greater potential for their cooperation in the future.

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

N/A

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. This work will continue. We have been doing sea turtle monitoring here on Nevis for the past 13 years and plan to continue. Our tagging programme is 1 year old and we plan to continue to tag these sea creatures.

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

The results of the project will be shared in the local media (radio, television, print). The results of the 2013 tagging programme has already been sent to the Regional Tagging Centre in Barbados from where that information will be shared internationally with organizations such as the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAS).

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

The RSG was used from July 2013 to July 2014. This is the approximate length of time the project was expected to take.

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.

£1.00 is equal to EC\$4.00

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Public Awareness	£1000.00	£1000.00	0.00	
Training of student volunteers	£2000.00	£3000.00	£1000.00	More student volunteers than anticipated became involved in the programme. We actually had to turn down the requests of a few to be involved. We wanted to take hold of the opportunity to train as many persons as possible.
Transportation	£1600.00	£2000.00	£400	It was difficult to get bus transport for late night visits to the beaches. Alternative transport via private,

				smaller capacity vehicles proved a bit more expensive with longer and more trips having to be made.
Stipend for student volunteers	£4000.00	£6800.00	£2800.00	More volunteers were interested in the programme than originally anticipated. Also, rather than just been involved in the summer programme of beach monitoring they continued to be involved throughout the year. It was decided to keep them involved in the programme over the whole year thus resulting in this additional cost. Towards the end stipends would have been reduced to been non-existent but they still kept coming.
Welcome back the sea turtles beach cleanup	£400.00	£300.00	£100.00	Other organisations were able to conduct the cleanup of the other two main nesting beaches thus reducing the workload of the Nevis Turtle Group. Additionally, storms swept the beaches clean of some of the garbage that would normally be there.
Survey of foraging sea turtle population	£3000.00	£2000.00	£1000.00	Unfavourable weather, the unavailability of fishers at key times and fisheries officer coordinating programme with fishers going on study leave all curtailed the programme. However, there were still some successes here with new fishers becoming a part of the programme.
Sea Turtle Camp 2013 and 2014	£3000.00	£100.00	£2900.00	We were happy that the Four Seasons Hotel on Nevis was able to host the camp in both years thus greatly reducing costs to the Nevis Turtle Group. Funds were thus directed to other areas such as training of the student volunteers and providing a stipend for more volunteers. This enabled us to get the best coverage of the nesting turtle population that we have ever had. The volunteers did a marvellous job.
Quiz Competitions	£1000.00	£1000.00	0.00	
Materials such as paper and ink	£600.00	£600.00	0.00	
Total	£16,600.00	£16,800.00	£200.00	

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

The next important steps are to continue the sea turtle nesting beach monitoring efforts as we continue to see a large number of new nesters each year. The foraging sea turtle population survey also needs to continue as all indications are that we have barely scratched the surface in this area. Public awareness needs to continue especially as regards developers and the general public since coastal development and beach lighting will possibly have a greater negative impact on sea turtle nesting habitat.

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

The Rufford logo has been used on our sea turtle calendar for 2014 and Rufford was given publicity in all the media interviews that we did. The Rufford logo was also printed on our schedule for our first ever sea turtle workshop 2013.

11. Any other comments?

We are indeed thankful to the RSG Foundation for providing us with this Booster Grant. It has helped tremendously with sea turtle monitoring and conservation on Nevis and has helped to provide a nucleus of volunteers that can continue the work into the future. We were able to tag and encounter more turtles on Nevis than in other previous year. In fact we almost doubled the numbers we have had in our best year previously. Thank you Rufford Small Grants Foundation for making a difference.