

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

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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**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Luca Budello
<b>Project title</b>	Building institutional capacity towards the development of a community-led coral reef management programme in the Koh Sdach archipelago, Cambodia.
<b>RSG reference</b>	10677-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2014 – March 2015
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6,000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:tangaroaluka@gmail.com">tangaroaluka@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	25.03.2015

**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
<i>To conduct a complete baseline assessment of the socio-economics of the archipelago</i>		✓		We started two projects in this area. A full socio-economic assessment, which we failed to finish due to lack of funding; and a second assessment done by a Master's student in Environmental Sciences from the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), as part of his thesis.
<i>To continue monitoring the coral reef ecosystem in order to build our dataset toward a long-term monitoring programme</i>			✓	We created a survey-monitoring plan for 26 locations within the boundary of the proposed Koh Sdach Fishery Community and establish permanent transects, which we visited three times between March 2013 and November 2014. A paper in the Cambodian Journal of Natural History (Savage <i>et al.</i> 2014) has been published, as part of this effort. However, only data from the first survey was included as for a baseline study.
<i>Completion of phase one of the CFO committee's training programme</i>			✓	As for the initial proposal, we delivered 10 training sessions to the CFi committee. Sessions were mostly organised by SW with the participation of guest speakers from several organisations including FFI, FiA, MLUP, WCC (for acronyms see grant application).
<i>Creation of the CFOs management plan.</i>			✓	A management plan was finalised by the CFi and packaged together with other documentation in order to be sent to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to formally recognise the "Koh Sdach Community Fishery Area".
<i>Networking and visiting two other community-led natural resource management programmes in the region.</i>			✓	We organised two 2-day trips to CFi, which have already been established with differing degrees of success. This was useful for the full CFi committee to understand issues related to building a successful programme.
<i>Declaration of Koh Sdach Fishery Community by the Ministry of Environment.</i>			✓	In February 2015 the MoE declared the Koh Sdach Fishery Area.
<i>Creation of an Environmental Club for local students.</i>			✓	In March 2014, working in collaboration with the local secondary school, we helped to establish "The Green Protectors" (GP), a group of local children with an interest in marine conservation. The group

				was mentored to produce social marketing materials, trained in natural resource management, organised beach and village clean ups and even taken on scuba diving trips.
<i>Organisation of one awareness-raising event led by the Environmental Club.</i>		✓		We created an event in the school, which saw the students watching a movie written and produced by the GP as well as the distribution of t-shirts and reusable shopping bags. We did not manage to organise a bigger event within the community as part of the inauguration of the CFi Area, as the latter has not been done yet due to lack of funding.
<i>Designing, printing and distribution of social marketing materials.</i>			✓	GP members were mentored in designing their logo and group identity while also producing t-shirts, reusable bags and a comic book, which we co-produced with FFI. This comic book was distributed in Koh Sdach but also in Koh Rong when Prince Albert of Monaco visited Preah Svay.

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

Despite an increase in marketing effort and co-operation with other organisation working in the voluntourism sector, Shallow Waters experienced a lack of volunteer bookings, which caused a worsening of our cash flow. We were neither able to recruit new staff nor keep running the volunteer programme. Thus, we decided to scale back in order to keep the community project going. We kept staff at base until December 2014 when we had to close down completely. We continued our work by supporting WCC and MLUP to finish off the job started. Particularly, looking after the declaration of the KS CFi Area.

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

1. The KS CFi Area has now been officially signed off by the MoE. This was fundamental aspect of building institutional capacity for the CFi committee to take charge over the management of it.
2. The CFi committee has been trained to take the project to the next level.
3. The Green Protectors comic book has been a great hit within Koh Sdach and outside the community boundary. The comic book has in fact been distributed to other fishing communities in coastal Cambodia.

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

CFi committee regularly participated in training activities including a 2-day fieldtrip to visit other communities. They benefitted from the training by building a deeper understanding of issues related to managing natural resources, raising funds, working as a team, and networking. They have been empowered by this process and are ready to follow up on it.

The younger members of the community were able to join the Green Protectors (GP) and by doing so they developed a lot of new skills including managing social media, producing print media,

filmmaking, understanding local and wider environmental issues, organising events and even scuba diving.

The general members of the community have also been the recipients of several activities including a large village-wide clean up. In this occasion, the district governor and other leading figures of the community joined Shallow Waters, the GP and the CFI committee members in promoting waste management.

All in all, the main benefit accrued by the community is a sense of empowerment for realising community aspirations.

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

Yes, there are plans to continue the work. However, the delivery of the project will be done differently. As mentioned earlier, Shallow Waters has had to restructure its activities and no longer provides volunteer based opportunities. However, in order to provide continuity to the project we have successfully found a commercial operator working in the voluntourism sector - Projects Abroad- who has taken over volunteer activities in Koh Sdach. This has allowed me to free up my time to increase the focus of project delivery, while leaving Projects Abroad to deliver daily activities. Section nine proposes potential areas of project development, which takes into account previously drawn out plans and recommendations from recently published reports.

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

We have used social media extensively throughout the process to engage our 1,600 strong Facebook and Twitter community. Furthermore, we have produced a report for the fishery administration, two short communications and one article for the special issue of the Cambodian Journal of Natural History.

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

We requested the funding for 1-year in order to continue the work initiated during the pilot project. Considering that between the first and second RSG there was a gap of 1 year and some of the work (i.e. data collection) was commenced prior to receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG, I would say that the grant has been used over a 10-months period and this phase of the project lasted 18 months.

#### **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
Round-trip to Cambodia	£2,600	£3,200	£600	Flights were more expensive
Personnel	£14,000	£17,800	£3,800	This costs includes personnel expenses not only wages. Trips and subsistence has been more expensive than originally thought.
Visas & Insurance	£850	£850	£-	

Operational Cost	£6,000	£8,600	£2,600	Compressor broke down and we had to get a new one. Also we had several problems with Boat mechanics.
Training	£4,000	£4,000	£-	
Research & Monitoring	£3,000	£4,000	£1,000	
Capacity Building	£2,500	£3,000	£500	
Social Marketing	£3,400	£2,500	-£900	We save some money by co-producing the comic book with FFI
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£36,350</b>	<b>£43,950</b>	<b>£7,600</b>	

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

In a recent report by FFI (West 2015; available on request), the Koh Sdach archipelago has been highly recommended for inclusion into the Protected Area Network due to the higher level of coral cover and diversity, the low levels of sedimentation, and the presence of a CFI committee that can engage in its development. However, in light of the current land use changes that are taking place in the nearby mainland, the threat level to this site is high; and this may jeopardise the current conservation effort to manage the coral reef sustainably. West (2015) highlights some of the issues that Shallow Waters has been addressing during the project and provides recommendations that will help the newly formed CFI Area to scale up from the level of community to a national priority site. In particular, I view the following issues as priority steps:

1. To continue the capacity building programme leading to the empowerment of the CFI committee. Particularly, help the community to engage more frequently with the FiA cantonment and increase the level of environmental education.
2. If this site is to be considered for the network of MPA, an Environmental Impact Assessment needs to be executed in order to understand the potential threats relative to the international port construction and housing development in the close by mainland, as it is critical to informing marine spatial planning.
3. To address community concerns, a waste management initiative needs to provide islanders with the tools to dispose of garbage efficiently (i.e. plastics) and treat raw sewage.
4. As island economy is highly dependent on the fishing industry, opportunity for diversification of livelihoods needs to be explored to increase community resilience to socio-economic shocks and long-term climatic fluctuations.

### 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 did. Particularly we produced the following:

- Comic book (printed in 1000 units).
- T-shirts.
- Reusable Shopping bags.
- Three billboards announcing the CFI Area.

#### **11. Any other comments?**

The Koh Sdach community is at a critical time for the development of coastal management plans in Cambodia. We recognise that the recently published report by FFI is highly influential amongst Cambodia's governing bodies, and if the issues that have been raised are not properly addressed the most abundant and diverse coral reef site in Cambodia may not be included in the planned MPA networks. This would be a great blow for the local community, which has risen to some expectations, and the marine environment as a whole. Further funding is needed for more focused action, primarily by engaging the developers in the area, by investigating the current and future threats to coral reefs and island livelihoods posed by coastal development, and understand mechanisms for their mitigation.