

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	Emma Gibbons
Project title	ReefDoctor Fano (marine turtle) project
RSG reference	14868-B
Reporting period	2014 - 2015
Amount of grant	£12,000
Your email address	gibbons.e.l@gmail.com
Date of this report	30th June 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
Deliver centralised access to information and diagnostic biological monitoring, essential in the management of marine resources.			Yes	Continuous data collection presented in Annex 1.1 provides an insight into the effectiveness of the marine turtle protection program
Improve capacity building for the conservation practices of the indigenous peoples and local community marine turtle management association FI.MPA.MI.FA.			Yes	The turtle fishermen's association, FI.MPA.MI.FA., has received continual training on "best practices" in implementing local laws created to manage the turtle fishery throughout the 13 villages of the BRB
Provide support and build a network linking the marine turtle protection teams based in the 13 communities of the Bay of Ranobe (BRB).			Yes	Providing collection points within the communities for fishers to bring turtles protected by the dina has forged a network of 'helpers' throughout the 13 villages of the BRB
Advocate the local indigenous law (Dina) protecting juvenile marine turtles under 70 cm with the full participation of communities to reduce the exploitation of marine turtles in the BRB			Yes	Annex 1.2 shows the effectiveness of the marine turtle tagging programme
Provide support and infrastructure for the community based tagging project in collaboration with international marine turtle observatory and research centre Kalona.			Yes	Kelonia marine turtle observatory in Reunion have contributed materials to the RD tagging programme – in turn RD has submitted tagging information, contributing towards the assessment of marine turtle hunting in the Indian Ocean
Improve education and awareness regarding the sustainable			Yes	Improving awareness has resulted in an agreement in Ifaty to stop the sale of turtle meat Annex 1.3

exploitation of marine turtles in the region				
Develop Reef Doctor's local, national, and international marine turtle network		Yes		A regional turtle meeting was held in December 2014, with all the important stakeholders present from Madagascar government, NGO's and fisher associations; ReefDoctor did not "host" the meeting but participated and provided important information towards the National protection of marine turtles
Provide a platform for marine turtle conservation in Madagascar		Yes		

Additional Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Minimum of 30% decline in turtle mortality associated with the targeted fishery by 2015, (baseline average of 655 marine turtles captured in the fishery per year – Fano project marine turtle fishery data 2012 and 2013)			Yes	31.5% decline in the turtle fishery by 2015. Graphs displayed in Annex 1.1: number of turtles caught by year and by month, the total number of turtles caught by year (calendar year) per village and combined, and the total number of turtles caught per year, per village.
30% of juvenile turtles landed in the fishery under 70cm Curve Carapace Length (CCL) protected by the indigenous law or Dina' will be tagged, and released by the community association FI.MPA. MI.FA by 2015 (baseline average of 126 turtles per year recorded with a CCL under 70cm data from – Fano project marine			Yes	98% of juvenile turtles captured in the fishery are tagged and released exceeding our planned estimates. Graphs in Annex 1.1 and 1.2 demonstrate the number of turtles tagged and released (n=243) per village.
90% of FI.PMA.MI.FA members from the 13 communities of the BRB will participate in a marine resource management workshop			Yes	100% of FI.PMA.MI.FA members from the 13 communities of the BRB participate in a marine resource management workshop – resulting in the Ifaty declaration (Annex 1.3)

<p>90-100% of NGOs and community marine organisations and associations of the 'Récif Complex de Toliara stretching from Androka to Belo-sur-Mer (of which the BRB is a sub-section) will be surveyed regarding the exploitation of marine turtles in the mission to develop a marine turtle conservation platform</p>			<p>Yes</p>	<p>A regional turtle meeting was held in December 2014, with all the important stakeholders present from Madagascar government, NGOs and fisher associations. Information regarding each party's involvement in turtle protection was recorded along with objectives for future work in this field.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world, with 92% of the population living on less than \$2 per day. In the semi-arid, drought prone region of Toliara, southwest Madagascar, and poverty is even more severe, as harsh living conditions drive more and more people towards the coast to eke out an existence from an already over exploited coastline. Increasing levels of poverty in the BRB are mainly attributed to a) decreasing catches in the fishery and a lack of alternative income sources, and b) country-wide economic instability, poor infrastructure, and non-existent fisheries surveillance and management.

ReefDoctor has received funding from the Darwin Initiative to implement village based aquaculture projects (sea cucumber and algae farms) to provide sustainable alternative livelihood choices.

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

ReefDoctor has had many successes over the 2014/2015---project year, the most important outcomes are

1. 31.5% reduction in the marine turtle fishery over the project year 2014/2015 (Annex 1.1). ReefDoctor achieved the project objective of 30% decline in the turtle fishery.
2. 98% of juveniles captured in the fishery tagged and released (n=243). Previous efforts to implement the tagging and release program resulted in only six juvenile turtles tagged and released over a 10-month period. ReefDoctor exceeded the project objectives '30% of juvenile turtles landed in the fishery under 70cm Curve Carapace Length (CCL) protected by the indigenous law or 'Dina' will be tagged and released by the community association FI.MPA.MI.FA by 2015'
3. Bay of Ranobe, Ifaty agreement to stop the sale of turtle meat: in brief, the "Ifaty Declaration" effectively bans all sales of turtle meat, in stating:

That the people of Ifaty recognise the importance of the previous Dina, the minimum size

restriction, and would like to go even further by prohibiting the intentional killing of any turtles of any size. However, if a turtle is found dead, it may be consumed by the person that found it but may not be sold. (Annex 1.3)

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

ReefDoctor believes sustainable conservation strategies must be community led in areas where surveillance and fisheries management is non-existent. Therefore, at every stage of this project ReefDoctor engage the communities of the BRB integrating conservation and turtle protection into everyday life.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we currently receive funding from the Darwin Initiative to implement alternative (aquaculture) projects for the local fishing communities of the BRB. The Darwin funding will provide poverty relief through the provision of sustainable alternative activities, reducing the competition for resources. One of the main objectives is to provide turtle hunters with an alternative to turtle hunting, providing the people who depend on the ocean for survival the resources and tools to conserve this unique ecosystem.

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

ReefDoctor submit all turtle tagging data to Kelonia marine turtle observatory, this information is used to assess turtle population in the Western Indian Ocean. Information on the marine turtle fishery is submitted to the Minister of Fisheries for southwest Madagascar and shared with NGOs and interested parties.

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

1 year (12 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
Project manager	1800	1800	0	
Local community supervisor and translator	1200	1200	0	
Local community data collectors	1080	1080	0	
Operating and administration	1000	1000	0	
2 nd annual marine turtle conference	1200	1200	0	The conference was split to village based meetings to reach more people as the national

				conference in which RD participated was held and sponsored by WWF
IH.SM University student internship	708	708	0	We also supported students from the main university in Antananarivo to conduct village assessments of turtle nets in Fitsitiky (report in progress)
Workshops and local training for FI.MPA.MI.FA	650	650	0	
Workshops and local training for FI.MPA.MI.FA Miaro Fano (turtle protection teams)	350	350	0	
Support for dissemination of information for FI.MPA.MI.FA	372	372	0	
International, national, and local network development	400	400	0	
Travel and subsistence	960	960	0	
Field expenditures	500	500	0	
T-shirts, printing etc.	800	800	0	
Pilot project Itampolo	980	980	0	
Total	1200	1200	0	

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

ReefDoctor has been working with the communities of the BRB since 2002 and is dedicated to the conservation of the marine environment and the development of the communities who rely on this ecosystem to survive. Continued support of community initiatives is vital to ensure sustainability of the project in the pursuit of marine turtle's protection in the area.

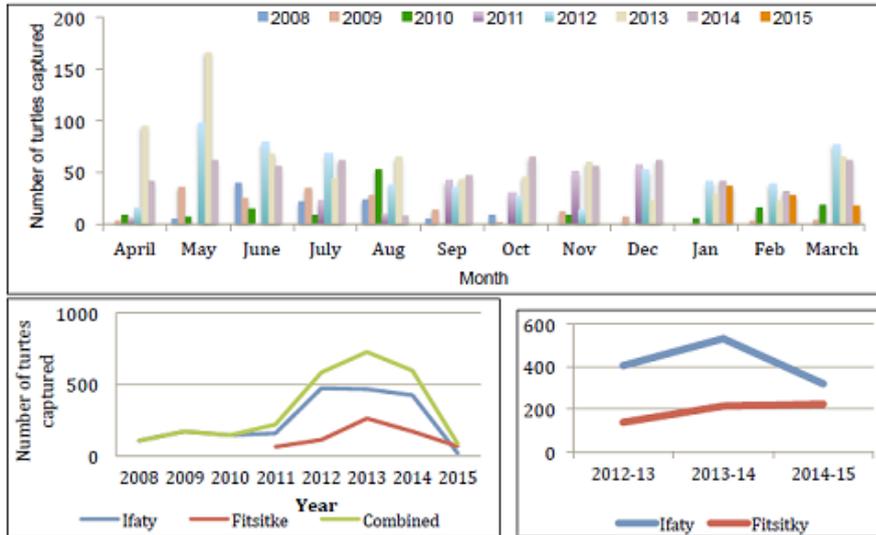
10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, in all publications and media/publicity generated by the project locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Rufford will be credited in all publications regarding the data collected during the project phase.

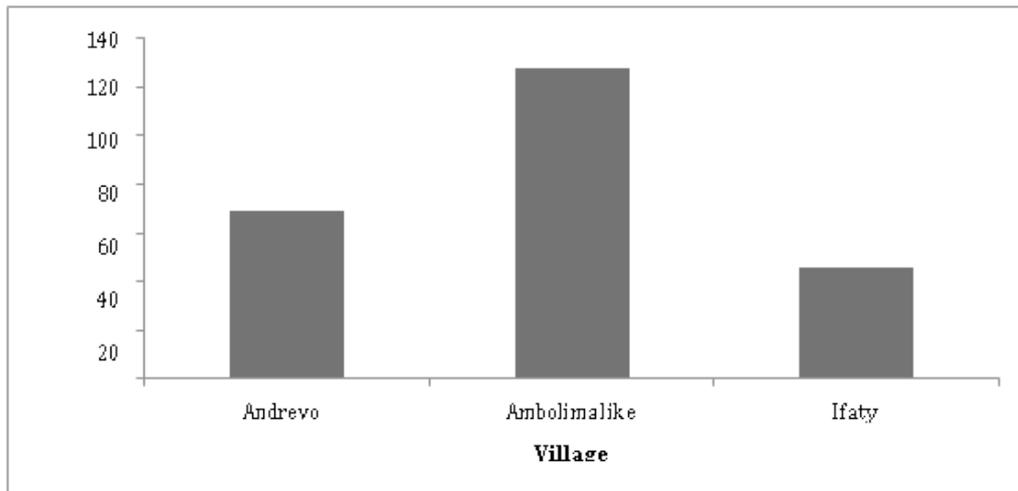
11. Any other comments?

ReefDoctor Fano project would like to thank the Rufford team for their continued support and assistance

Annex 1



Annex 1.1 Turtle fishery data: number of turtles caught by year and by month (top-row), the total number of turtles caught by year (calendar-year) per village and combined (bottom-left), and the total number of turtles caught per year, per village (bottom-right).



Annex 1.2 Numbers of turtles tagged and released per village since the start of the 2014 project year



Annex 1.3 The Ifaty Declaration stating that turtles will be protected in the village of Ifaty, dated 2 February 2015 (in Malagasy)