

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. 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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Marina Fastigi
Project title	Critically Endangered Leatherback and Hawksbill Nesting Turtles Conservation and Advanced Youth Environmental Education in the island of Carriacou, Grenada, W. I.
RSG reference	15153-B
Reporting period	July 14, 2014 – July 14,2015
Amount of grant	£11,995
Your email address	marina.fastigi@gmail.com
Date of this report	August 15,2015

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
Conservation of Nesting Sea Turtles			Yes	525 nesting activities of Critically Endangered Hawksbills and Leatherback turtles were recorded between March 1st 2014 and July 14th 2015. Three main nesting beaches were monitored full time (Petit Carenage night time and Anse La Roche and Sparrow bay early morning). Inaccessible by other means Big Field was monitored by kayak. Nests which occurred in other locations were observed and reported to us by caring island people who, as instructed, disguised nests and tracks. Five local guides received subsistence salaries for their tireless efforts of patrolling the beaches all night and early mornings. We recorded two egg poaching incidents we could not prevent due to daytime and location of nesting, thus confirming that the presence on the beaches of KIDO turtle monitoring teams makes a meaningful difference in deterring poaching activities: when we are present poachers do not interfere with our conservation work, so hundreds of endangered sea turtles safely nest and their nests hatch. The conservation cycle is unbroken.
Nature Guide Training			Yes	Siblings Antonia (21) and Antonio Peters (19) completed the training of Nature Guide Level 1, passing the test respectively with a 96% and 95% score. Antonia and Antonio were also trained in nesting turtle monitoring and Antonia in turtle monitoring field research assistant, in charge of field data collection. Antonia, who also was trained as KIDO representative in Bird Watching by BirdSleuth Caribbean in the Bahamas, is now part of the Nature Guide Staff of Carriacou eco-tourism enterprise 'Isle of Reef Tours'.
Youth Environmental Education			Yes	Two groups of Kids with cameras (a senior aged 12-16 and a junior aged 8-11) actively participated in KIDO educational eco-game. A total of 44 kids were engaged in solving the games serious challenges, which had a direct correspondence with local reality

				<p>encountered during field trips. Sixteen classroom sessions were held at KIDO Youth Environmental Centre and 15 field trips in various ecological island hot spots. Utilising internet search as a library tool and discussions among the four teams, the students discovered the Recycle, Reuse and Reduce principle to tackle the huge problem of waste pollution (mostly plastics) badly affecting their island, wildlife and the ocean. By producing prototypes of recycled cloth grocery bags as alternative solution to the common use of plastic bags and by constructing a 10 ft catamaran entirely made of recycled material and engineered to float on discarded plastic bottles, the island youths send their message to the island community and to the world that, with ingenuity, determination and care, reducing solid waste pollution can be achieved, benefiting people, wildlife and the environment. KwC signed to be part of KIDO Youth Eco-Club and created their logo 'Wi Kraft' to brand these two hands-on first projects.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

During the 2015 turtle nesting season, the unprecedented massive invasion of east coastline of the Caribbean basin by Sargassum sea weed affected also Petit Carenage, the main Carriacou nesting turtle beach (North-East). Parts of the beach became a no-go zone for turtles and even turtle patrollers, reducing the available nesting areas. New born hatchlings were affected too, getting entangled in the dry seaweed maze when emerging from their nest to reach the ocean. Kids with cameras embarked in the very first clean-up expedition in Carriacou, removing Sargassum from critical hatching areas. The removal operations had to be repeated as tides and trade winds pushed more Sargassum onto the nesting areas. The clearing of Sargassum excess also benefited the local population who praised the project results.

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

Nesting turtles came to nest in spite of the Sargassum and we were able to protect them employing a network of five local trained guides from an extended period of time (March 1st- December 31st 2014 / March 1st – July 14th 2015). During the 2014 nesting season we recorded more than 20% increase in nesting activities from the previous year.

Two young Carriacouans became part of KIDO turtle monitoring team and one, Antonia Peters, was very instrumental as KwC classroom and field trip facilitator. Same eclectic Antonia was also very helpful as field research assistant, helping turtle guide Solomon Stafford during the nightly beach

monitoring, tagging and data collection. Moreover Antonia became officially the first female Nature Guide for hiking and Bird Watching in the island, part of 'Isle of Reef Tour', a local eco-tourism enterprise <http://www.isleofreefstours.com/team.html>

The two groups of 44 Kids with Cameras participating in KIDO Eco-Game were very keen and focused in solving the game and reality challenges unfolding under their eyes. They showed increasing capacity to comprehend and relate to the inter-connection between local environmental problems and global issues. During online searches for solutions to reduce solid waste and fossil fuel consumption, they realised that the adult world had not really come up with any effective answer, so kids figured that the best they could do was to be the example for others to follow. Without fully realising it, they applied the principle: 'Think Globally and Act Locally'. This is how the first two projects of KIDO Youth Eco Club, branded 'Wi Kraft', came about: creating alternative solutions to begin reducing the scourge of plastic bags and bottles pollution in their bio-diverse island.

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

The project contributed to boost Carriacou eco-tourism through turtle watching and hiking tours with KIDO trained and certified guides, who now have the opportunity to be employed by the local eco-tourism enterprise 'Isle of Reef Tours'.

The families of Kids with Cameras are very supportive and happy about this project, because it amplified the self-learning capabilities of each child and engaged them in hand-on projects (bags production and boat building, following the Carriacou tradition of boat builders) to keep Carriacou clean, green and respectful of wildlife.

Moreover, the KIDO discourse and documentation about protecting and caring for our wildlife and biodiversity has now reached the extended families of Kids with Cameras in a powerful cultural form, and their kids' hands-on participation in public rescues and care of wildlife and their habitats now generate agreement of older community members to support such practices. School teachers and headmasters also visit our conservation sites and bring school classes to KIDO. This trend shows signs of increasing.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

KIDO Nesting Sea Turtle monitoring programme, employing local guides assisted by volunteers, has been ongoing since 2002 and we plan to continue and expand its operation according to availability of funds.

KIDO environmental education programmes involving senior, junior and new Kids with Cameras plan to carry on and expand, combining IT learning from the most updated documentation on global environmental issues with practical projects benefitting the local community.

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

KIDO Sea Turtle Conservation data and activities are shared locally, regionally and internationally through the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAS) and via regional and local newspapers. KIDO shares its conservation activities also through YWF-KIDO Foundation Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/YWF-KIDO-FOUNDATION/202554109127?fref=ts>
and KIDO Planet website <http://kidoplanet.com/category/conservation/>.

KIDO Foundation (Dr Marina Fastigi) contributed with other WIDECAST researchers to write a scientific paper on the nesting hawksbill migration in the Caribbean, published by the Chelonian Research Foundation in 2011 and a second paper on Caribbean nesting leatherbacks is due for publication shortly.

- KIDO Environmental Education program shares its activities through Kids with Cameras Carriacou Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KidsWithCamerasCarriacou>
- Youtube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2ImM33ZhAs>
- KIDO Planet website <http://kidoplanet.com/category/education/>
- Caribbean Compass Magazine and local TV stations

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

We were able to use the RSG over a period of 16.5 months because we included the payment of subsistence salaries for nesting turtle monitoring guides work from March 1st to July 14th 2014.

The payment was done after we received the 1-year RSG on July 14, 2014, but the monitoring work included the extra 4.5 month period.

Similarly, since turtles still nest, our conservation work has to continue until December 31st 2015.

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 five local turtle guides	5,760.00	7,924.14	2,164.14	We covered in total 14.5 months of turtle monitoring instead of 10 months
Food for turtle field research assistant	1,031.00	1,008.39	-22.61	Approximately 4 days less than budgeted
Transport	2,800.00	1,160.20	-1,639.80	For KwC 30 bus rides to/from KIDO and field trip areas, instead of 80 as budgeted. Plus a boat trip to White island
Headlamps and rechargeable batteries	90.00	105.04	15.04	Costs of items bought via internet may change from time to time
Smart TV WiFi	1,042.00	801.40	-240.60	A WiFi HD Benq projector was purchased rather than a Smart TV, because it is more efficient and less susceptible to failure in the tropics. Excellent tool.
Two iPads	243.00	355.22	112.22	Underestimation of iPads cost

WiFi access point	269.00	187.11	- 81.89	Costs of items bought via internet may change from time to time
Stationary/Materials for Eco Game	100.00	132.19	32.19	We needed more materials for building the Planetarium table than budgeted
Subsistence payment for facilitator	660.00	342.49	-317.51	We had 31 classroom and field trip days instead of 33 as budgeted and approximately 4 or 5 hours each time
TOTAL	11,995.00	12,016.18	21.18	

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

1 - To continue the monitoring and protection of critically endangered nesting sea turtles and their nests from poaching and natural hazards, such as Sargassum seaweed excess build up on the nesting beaches.

2 - To work toward the establishment of the effective protection of the turtle nesting habitat through the promotion of guided ecotourism activities in the area (Turtle Watching and Bird Watching).

3 -To continue KIDO environmental education and conservation activities involving more students, expanding KIDO Youth Environmental Centre programs and supporting new hands-on projects of KIDO Youth Eco Club.

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 logo appears in Kids with Cameras Carriacou Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/KidsWithCamerasCarriacou>

on KIDO Planet website
<http://kidoplanet.com/category/education/>
<http://kidoplanet.com/category/conservation/>

on the recent Youtube video we produced about KIDO environmental education program 2014-2015
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2lmM33ZhAs>

on the Nature Guide certificates and personal ID cards received by Antonio and Antonia Peters and on the 10 ft catamaran built during the project and shown and photographed extensively at the Carriacou Regatta Festival 2015. The KWC sailing catamaran is planned to take part in relevant public events around the island from this month, exhibiting the RSGF logo.

RSGF will receive publicity on two articles to be published by monthly Caribbean Compass Magazine and a Grenadian weekly newspaper.

11. Any other comments?

We are thankful to The Rufford Foundation for the support we received and we are looking forward to continue KIDO and RSGF joint effort for the conservation of critically endangered nesting sea turtles and their nest and the involvement of increasing numbers of Kids with Cameras in KIDO conservation activities and educational programmes.