

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	Linda North
Project title	Conservation of coastal marine eco-systems of Aceh Besar by supporting traditional fishing commanders to set up locally managed marine protected areas.
RSG reference	15512-2
Reporting period	July 2014 – July 2015
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	northlinda@gmail.com
Date of this report	5 th August 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
1) Addition of five locally managed marine protected areas (MPA) with identified habitats of endangered and vulnerable species (turtles, dugongs) in Aceh Besar,				<p>Fully Achieved and increased to eight sites. As a result of working closely with other stakeholders, we were able to support eight locally Managed Marine protected areas (MPAs). A team, officially approved by the Regent of Aceh Besar, with Lamjabat Foundation, WCS Marine Program Aceh, ODC Unsyiah, KUALA Network, Faculty of Marine and Fisheries Unsyiah and DKP (District Government for Ocean and Fisheries) Aceh Besar was created to facilitate the process in each location. Three additional MPA sites in Leupung and Lhoong.</p> <p>Identified rare and vulnerable species– all sites have turtles laying eggs in the turtle season and four species of turtles feeding all year round, however majority of fishing communities take the eggs and either sell or eat them despite this being illegal in Indonesia. Other vulnerable/endangered species documented are dugongs, whale sharks, seahorses, giant clams and manta rays.</p> <p>One MPA in South Pulau Breuh (Aceh islands) has participated in all meetings, capacity building and surveys but does not have a complete consensus from fishing community yet.</p>
2) Strengthened capacity of panglima laots to be able to manage their own coastal areas, with options for zoning the areas to improve conditions, monitor local compliance to the rules and regulations of the MPA and impose sanctions when necessary and				<p>Fully Achieved for 8 sites. With support from this project Panglima laots have led the process of discussions and decision-making within each of their locations and on zoning of their own coastlines. Panglima laots agreed that they can manage MPAs up to 2 miles from shore. This covers coastal ecosystems of mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass and beaches plus large areas for fishing and other potential income generating opportunities; e.g. tourism. Final decisions on the Customary (adat) Rule of Law have been proposed by and agreed by fishing communities in six locations. One area in Pulau Breuh (Aceh Island) wants to wait to</p>

<p>resolve conflicts between fishermen.</p>				<p>see the impact in other locations before committing to the full process. Lhoong area with two panglima laots are reviewing the adat laws and sanctions right now.</p> <p>There is compliance with customs, rules and regulations KKPDP / MPA and several arrests, boats taken into ports and confiscation of fishing gear in Breuh Island, Nasi Island and Leupueng for destructive fishing practices.</p>
<p>3) Legal identity of MPA's -Compliance with national and provincial regulations set by Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The legal identity is key to gaining access to provincial and national funds in the longer term to support initiatives in point 4 below.</p>				<p>Partially Achieved</p> <p>Documents and processes under 1 and 2 for eight sites supported by YL and team are complete. The next nine steps outlined under comments should be led by the district department maritime and fisheries.</p> <p>Administrative documents, results of meeting and surveys completed for eight sites :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All documents, minutes etc., relating to the proposed locations and who proposed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial plan map of District. Aceh Besar • Documents organised for submission to the Minister with a copy of Governors and Regents / Mayors approval. 2. Document identification and inventory of prospective locations-from field surveys and village based discussions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes/reports on the dissemination and public consultation of survey results with recommendations on areas for conservation. <p>There are nine more steps to be led by Aceh Besar district government before final legal identity can be approved by Jakarta Ministry for Maritime and Fisheries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new letter of authority from Regent for new sites. 2. A new MPA body/organisation with organogram to be set up with representatives from Government and Panglima Laots to manage and monitor all MPAs along the west coast of Aceh Besar. 3. Management Plan and Zoning MPA –to be developed by the new body following on from the matrixes (point 4 below) per MPA. 4. Provide new MPA body office building and office equipment. 5. Provide funding for the operational costs of this office. 6. Appoint/recruit the personnel required

				<p>under the organogram for the new MPA body.</p> <p>7. Provide support /funding for other facilities such as radios, boats, safety equipment and field post.</p> <p>8. Look for funding support and technical assistance from provincial and national government and other external parties such as academia, NGOs, and commercial organisations.</p> <p>9. Final formal agreement by Jakarta Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime on MPAs along the west coast of Aceh Besar.</p>
<p>4) Five MPA medium term management matrixes with detailed plans, procedures, costs, time schedule for monitoring and evaluation of the MPA and to identify alternative livelihood options for the local community to reduce stress on ecosystems with identified potential sources of funds /resources from government and non-government organisations who can contribute to the successful implementation of MPA.</p>				<p>Eight Panglima Laots with local adat and civil leaders have discussed and agreed a medium-term management matrix for successful and effective monitoring and evaluation of the MPAs and to identify potential alternative livelihood options for their local communities. This will form part of the documents submitted above and the base for discussions by the new MPA body as indicated in point 3 above.</p>

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

Prior to the start of this program YL consulted with Indonesia WCS Marine Director and he was a referee for this project. At this time WCS national staff had spent some time in Pulau Aceh on livelihood projects (Aceh Islands) but did not have any funding to continue their work. Halfway through the programme WCS informed us that they now had some funds and they wanted to be

involved in the MPAs especially with Pulau Breuh, Aceh islands. One of the WCS staff has considerable experience in the relevant and ever changing Indonesian laws and regulations to develop MPAs as he recently supported Pulau Wey (Sabang) Island to set up a MPA. This is a larger more developed island nearby that is a well-known tourist destination. WCS national staff had already committed to be part of the team that oversaw this process and in meetings with them and the Aceh Besar government it became clear that the local government department responsible for processing the administrative documents and the follow up with The Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries did not really understand their role and also did not have any relationship with coastal communities. WCS staff, whilst very knowledgeable on Indonesian law and adat (customary law), could not speak Acehnese to the fishing communities and many fishermen only speak Acehnese.

To address these issues, a team was created to continue to meet with the fishing villages in their locations to kickstart the community wide discussions. This team comprised of YL, KUALA, ODC-survey team, WCS and DKP (government representatives). This turned out to be much more productive way of working for all concerned and through this mechanism three more potential MPA sites were added with YL funding and WCS agreed to fund the items needed, e.g. bouys and sign boards, to mark the MPAs in Pulau Breuh. On the negative side it meant the project /community meetings took longer than anticipated as we had to synchronise all activities with all members of this team.

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

- a. The addition of seven locally managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) along Aceh Besar west coast. A further site in south Pulau Breuh should be added in by the end of September 2015. One sub-district Peukanbada, also in Aceh Besar, was set up in 2010 but this was only up to district level. The documents will be resubmitted with these other sites. So in the end there will be nine sites for MPAs being recommended to the Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia in September 2015.

In fact just this week we have had visits from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to look at the first MPA in Peukanbada and from another department within this ministry to identify how they can support this initiative. They have agreed to choose Peukanbada as a pilot site and will transfer funds directly to the Panglima laot for items agreed as essential for the monitoring of the MPA including continued assistance to strengthen the Panglima Laot and team to produce an organisation structure and more detailed SOPs for the administration of funds received and for regular coordination and communication with the fishermen in this district. This assistance will come directly from Jakarta and the Panglima Laot has been asked to open a bank account so he can receive funds.

- b. Consensus and participatory decision-making led by the Panglima Laots within their own fishing communities to set up the MPAs, identify zones to protect and take responsibility for the implementation of the adat (customary) rules and regulations also developed within each location. They were enthusiastic and recognised immediately the need to protect the vulnerable marine ecosystems. Through this process almost all coral reefs along the west coast of Aceh Besar province will be protected.
- c. Completion of all administrative processes and documents required that should be submitted to the district level government of Aceh Besar and to the Ministry of Maritime

Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia plus the good cooperation and understanding with the various stakeholders involved to get everything done within the limits of our budget and time line. See objectives table no 3 and items 1 & 2 for more detail.

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

The role of YL and other stakeholders was to facilitate the process and assist the communities with compliance with Indonesia laws and regulations and to document all the processes and compile administrative documents (minutes, reports. etc.). Panglima Laots role was to facilitate the discussions within their own communities according to the steps laid down as part of this process.

We found that attitudes towards projects has changed since the post-tsunami projects when everyone expected to be paid for any meeting they had. This was not the case with the village meetings held for this project. There is a great sense of ownership and responsibility for protecting their vulnerable eco-systems so that they can continue to fish into the future.

The MPAs are all initiated by the fishing communities and they were very involved in every step of the process. The Panglima's with the fishermen decide on the zones for protection and those for fishing or tourism. They decide on the adat (customary) law and sanctions to be imposed on those who don't comply. The panglima laots are committed to stamping out destructive fishing methods such as use of dynamite, poisons, trawls and in a short time, the Panglimas have gained confidence knowing that they have the authority to deal with fishermen or other boats that don't comply. There is now much more communication between the Panglimas and the fishermen and between the Panglimas across different locations.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

YL still plans to continue support to this project, at least until all the documents are submitted to the Ministry in Jakarta. The local government will still need support with the nine steps which they should lead on (see objective 3 for more detail). The Panglima Laots also still want to have the support of the MPA team (YL, KUALA, WCS) created with the local government because they are better able to understand the legal and administrative issues they have to follow.

YL will continue to carry out field surveys & discussions with fishermen on vulnerable & endangered marine species. In addition, YL may also assist the Panglima Laots and government on the eastern coast of Aceh Besar which has much less coral but a many more mangroves.

There is also a possibility of playing the same role for the neighbouring district of Aceh Jaya – also on the west coast as some of the Panglima Laots attended some of the stakeholder meetings and they are very keen to do the same thing in their area. The Aceh Jaya district government is also very keen but doesn't know how to proceed. We can support them through this process.

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

Results have been shared with other stakeholders through a number of networks. There have been public stakeholder meetings where neighbouring local leaders and with the district and provincial Panglima Laots who coordinate regularly with the provincial government. There has been a meeting

with all the heads of departments in Aceh Besar district level government and other government departments at national level including police, military, university lecturers from two Banda Aceh universities, members of the KUALA network, student organisations and other INGOs that still have marine programmes have been involved in the process as local experts or participants in meetings/discussions. Other adat (customary leaders called Mukim) at local level have also been included in this process. Each stakeholder that participated in this process has their own networks, websites etc., and they will share the results of this programme through those networks.

There will be a media event next month for general public, TV, internet, press, commercial tourist operators on the conservation zones and areas that can be fished or visited by tourists. The tourist areas are fairly limited at the moment but this could expand in the future.

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

We required extra month as additional sites were added in midway in this 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 Exchange rate £1= 20,000 rupiah	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
1.1 Stakeholder meetings to initiate collection of data	50	93	-43	A number of additional meetings with academia, INGOs, local NGOs provincial and district government took place.
1.2 Field surveys of coastal eco-systems	640	554	86	Some of the surveys to the furthest islands could not be carried out at this time but were done under Activity 3.3
1.3 Public consultation with stakeholders and public	500	563	-63	Addition of four sites in meetings
2.1 & 2.2 Stakeholder Consultation & discussion on MPA and proposed zoning	500	517	-17	As above
2.3 Public Consultation and feedback on final MPA area and zones	500	513	-13	As above
3.1 Capacity Building Panglima Laots to manage MPA	800	813	-13	As above
3.2 Community meetings per MPA with fishermen	400	405	-5	
3.3 Monitoring follow up of protected areas P.Laot document changes	640	655	-15	Surveys of Pulau Breuh carried out at this time

3.4 Monitoring and evaluation forums	400	329	71	Three sites under one sub district had joint meetings so costs reduced
4.1 Panglima meetings develop management matrix	100	100	0	
4.2 Finalise, print and distribute action plans to target stakeholders	100	100	0	
5.1 & 5.2 Preparation of signboards with zones and buoys	1070	1061	9	
Contribution to administration	300	300	0	
TOTAL	6000	6001	-1	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps? (For more detail see point 5 above)

To support to Panglima Laots and local government to continue this process. To continue field monitoring of ecosystems to document any changes and inform the relevant panglima laots. Continue to survey for evidence of vulnerable and endangered marine species with input from local fishermen and plan a strategy on how to reduce threats to these species.

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?

The logo was used at all stakeholder meetings and the materials for presentation throughout this project.

11. Any other comments?

A follow up review of the legal compliance, zones and adat set up in Peukanbada sub-district in 2010 (supported by Rufford) was included in this process as there is a new government and the Fishing and Ocean Ministry is predisposed to issue many new laws without proper regulations or any review of previous laws. This sub-district's documentation will be resubmitted by the district government to the ministry in Jakarta with all other sites on the west coast of Aceh Besar.