

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	Dr Lalith Ekanayake
Project title	Conduction of awareness programmes on sea turtles and coastal biodiversity conservation for the coastal communities in North-western coast of Sri Lanka
RSG reference	17447-2
Reporting period	1 st October 2015 to 31 st August 2016
Amount of grant	£4,815
Your email address	bcssl@yahoo.com
Date of this report	2 nd September 2016

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
Increase the education and awareness on sea turtle biology and conservation, legislation and law enforcement on sea turtles among the target group.			✓	The objective was successfully achieved. Both schoolchildren and adult community members very interested about the programme and they were actively participated for field conservation activities.
Increase the community knowledge on sustainable use of surrounding natural coastal resources.			✓	The objective was fully achieved and the people understood the importance of the protection of their surrounding in sustainable manner. Received good feedback from the community about the knowledge they gain from the programme.
Reduce the turtle bycatch which is the major threat to sea in the area.		✓		This is a long term objective and will take some time to get full effect from the programmes. However, the fishermen and schoolchildren understood about the threats and importance of conserving sea turtles.
Receive more active participation of coastal community members in sea turtle conservation activities.			✓	It is very happy to inform that school kids and also adult community members actively participated for the turtle and coastal biodiversity conservation activities. Further they are willing to continue these activities.
Receive more information on sea turtles from coastal community members such as tag recoveries.			✓	Many community members informed about turtle stranding.
Increase the availability of educational			✓	A poster was printed and distributed among participants. Many

materials and news paper articles on sea turtles and coastal ecosystem in Sri Lanka.				newspaper articles on sea turtles and coastal biodiversity conservation published.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There were no any unforeseen difficulties during the project period.

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

The coastal community such as fishermen and school kids attended the programmes. They are the people who depend on coastal resources and use these in a destructive manner. So their education and awareness level on sea turtles and coastal biodiversity increased and they understand the importance of conservation of their surroundings.

The active participation of coastal community (both adult and children) increased on coastal biodiversity conservation. We believe it as the major outcome and must continue more fieldwork with the community to get more active contribution from them.

Many newspaper articles were published in three local newspapers and approximately 400,000 copies of newspapers were distributed throughout the island with the news. So a larger group read the conservation message. Further, the community members were very happy to see publishing their field activities with their pictures. So the message has gone to a larger number of people.

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

The community members (both adults and school kids) actively participated in the field activities such as beach cleaning and mangrove replanting. They were highly enthusiastic to do the field activities (please see annexed photos end of the report). Most of the community members were very interested about the programme and got information on coastal biodiversity conservation. They understood how they get benefit from conservation of coastal biodiversity including sea turtles.

Cashew nut and pomegranate plants were distributed (with funding from other sources) among 200 families at Kandakkuliya village as a pilot project to motivate the community. It was very successful and now the plants are growing well.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, it is planning to conduct more awareness programmes in the Kalpitiya peninsula as it is a larger area. Further, using the experience from this project it is planning to conduct more field activities to get active involvement of the community for the sea turtle and coastal biodiversity conservation.

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

The results of the project will be included in the BCS web site (www.bcssl.org). Further the result will be summarised and published in local newspapers. Further, it is planning to present a poster paper at the forthcoming 37th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, Nevada, USA which will be held on April 2017.

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

It was planned to complete the project within 1 year from October 2015 to September 2016. However, it was managed to complete the programme little earlier than the original plan.

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
Programme officer (£ 60 per month x 11 months)	720.00	660.00	+60.00	The programmes were completed within 11 months.
Lecturer fee (£ 20 per programme x 38 programmes)	720.00	760.00	-40.00	Two more lectures were conducted.
Transport - (£ 30 per programme x 38 programmes)	1,080.00	1,140.00	-60.00	Two more lectures were conducted.
Refreshment (£10 per programme x 38 programmes)	360.00	380.00	-20.00	Two more lectures were conducted.
Media promotion in newspapers	500.00	500.00	0.00	
Printing an educational poster (£0.20 per poster x 5,000 posters)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	
Office rent (£ 10 per month x 11 months)	120.00	110.00	+10.00	The programmes were completed within 11 months.
Electricity and telephone bills (£	60.00	55.00	+5.00	The programmes were

5 per month x 11 months)				completed within 11 months.
Accountant payment (£ 15 per month x 11 months)	180.00	165.00	+15.00	The programmes were completed within 11 months.
Audit fee	75.00	75.00	0.00	
Total	4815.00	4845.00	-30.00	Additional funds provided by the BCS

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

The BCS will be keeping touch with the schools which conducted the programmes for future conservation activities. Especially we are planning to conduct more fieldwork with the selected school kids such as “Environmental Pioneer Brigade” members. This will lead the long term sustainability of the programme. Further, it is important to continue this programme for much more community members in the Kalpitiya peninsula as it is a highly important biodiversity area which includes sea turtles, marine mammals, sea grasses, corals reefs, sand dunes, lagoon and mangroves etc.

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, it was used in the printed poster distributed among the participants. Further a banner printed on flex material displayed during the programmes. Some video clips in preparation (editing) to upload to YouTube to publish and the RSGF logo included.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to acknowledge the Rufford Foundation Small Grant scheme for supporting this awareness programme and expecting to continue the programme.

Appendix I - Photos of the programmes & newspaper articles

Awareness programmes for the adults & school kids



Banner used at the awareness programmes

Beach cleaning with school kids



School cleaning & tree planting



Distribution of cashew nut & Pomegranate plants to the community at Kandakuliya



Mangrove re-plantation with adults & school kids



Newspaper articles & news



Mawbima – 2016/07/26
www.mawbima.lk



Ada – 2016/08/02
www.ada.lk

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