

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	Nadia T. Rubio-Cisneros
Project title	Fisher's perceptions of long-term coastal exploitation in the North coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico
RSG reference	17468-1
Reporting period	September 2015-September 2016
Amount of grant	£4964
Your email address	Rubio.nadiat@gmail.com
Date of this report	October 24 th 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
Generate taxonomic information on the diversity of inshore fishery resources exploited by humans through a very wide temporal scale.			X	
Promote the integration of research and policy schemes that include fishers' perceptions and traditional knowledge to enhance understanding on how human culture has influenced the ways in which social groups exploit coastal resources		X		This objective will be fully achieved with the publication of our scientific paper. However, I am currently collaborating with the Too Big to Ignore, small-scale fisheries initiative. There I am collaborating with a diverse group of scientists to integrate global study cases related to small-scale fisheries that can help understand how the integration of social and cultural traits of these fisheries matter for conservation strategies.
Provide a long-term description of fishing practices in Chiquilá and Isla Holbox.			X	
To develop local capacity by making awareness on fishers' sense of empowerment towards resource preservation and through active collaboration with the communities of Chiquilá and Isla Holbox.			X	
To disseminate our science through scientific and popular		X		I have published a popular science paper and diverse

science publications in order to increase the use of our information by all sectors involved in the design of activities and policies towards fishery resource conservation and management				blogs. But this objective will be fully achieved when the scientific publication is finished and when the fishers' webpage is published.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Once I arrived on the island one of the main difficulties was to find a place to rent for months as several people from the community told me. It was not possible to find a place to rent for April to June 2015 and September to October 2015 when the research was supposed to take place. However, I decided to change the strategy and visit the place every month or month and a half for a shorter period of time and pay for a hotel. In total I did seven field season of 10 days each, except for the field season in April which lasted 20 days. I believe the strategy worked better in the sense of developing community ties. Since the people from Holbox continuously saw me for a year. I believe these allowed me to gain their confidence and I was able to work in a friendly environment and obtain the necessary information for my research.

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

- a) We have collected unique spatial and socio-historic information about small-scale fisheries and traditional fishers' knowledge about the future of fisheries at Holbox Island. This novel information is proving to be helpful in understanding the current and historical spatial-temporal distribution of fishing activities in Holbox.
- b) I have collaborated on diverse community events at Holbox Island and through the dissemination of our results I have contributed to reinforce the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of fisheries at the Island. By doing this I have also developed collaborative and friendship bonds with key people (see attachment) of the island that can allow my future research to continue in collaboration with them.
- c) I have already disseminated some of our results through popular science publications and I will contribute to disseminate our scientific results in novel papers that show the historical exploitation of the fishery resources of the island.

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

The community was highly involved since I was actively working with the fishers to obtain information. I participated in four outreach events which allowed me to disseminate my work more broadly at the island. The older generations of fishers' claim they wanted this historical information to be documented and disseminated since the Island is changing so fast and their traditions are being lost.

In a broader scale the spatial information generated for this research will help the Holbox fishing community in terms of showing the historical importance of their fishing sites to the government and other non-profit organisations which are currently working on the preservation of ecosystem services in the region. Currently many of these fishing sites are experiencing strong anthropogenic impacts. The information generated for this study is novel and can help managers to develop strategies that are focused on both the sustainable use of fishery resources and the future welfare of coastal communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I am interested in continuing with my work at Holbox Island. I was able to develop a strong bond with diverse community members which include fishers, people from non-profit organisations, and people from the government working in cultural aspects of the region, education, and the environment. I believe these bonds can help me to continue my work at the island. However, I am interested in waiting a couple of months before I request further support from the Rufford Foundation since I want to produce at least one of the scientific publications with the results of this year study and I want to finish the fishers' webpage proposed for this study which is still under construction.

My future view for the continuation of this study will be to look at how the whale shark watching tourism has changed many social (younger local fishers are now doing more tourism activities for obtaining an income than fishing) and cultural aspects of the island. These changes towards a more touristic economy are negatively afflicting the ecological environment, and these events such as mangrove loss and pollution (large amounts of trash by tourism), are already evident but are being little documented.

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

Through the popular science publication (attached), scientific publications, participation in future community events that will develop at Holbox, and by publishing our results in the hoboxfish.org website.

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

Over one year September 2015 to September 2016, the grant was used over the actual length of the 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.

I used the exchange rate I has when I submitted the grant. Which was 1.5 £ sterling per dollar.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Round flight Monterrey – Mexico to Cancun Mexico (2x)	300	200	100	I used the remaining amount to pay for housing.
Round flight Boston Massachusetts to Cancun Mexico (1x)	800	800		
Car rental for 43 days (25 dls per day) the car will be used for visiting regional historical archives and universities to obtain the historical and archaeological data	716.66	333.33	383.33	After the second season I was able to get a personal vehicle after the second field season. Since I moved to the city of Merida which is 4 hours from the Island. I used the money of the car rental to pay for housing at the island. Since I was not able to rent a house for a long period of time and

				had to stay at a hotel instead. I mention this problem in question 2 of the report.
Accommodation First field season April 15 to June 15 (house rent at Isla Holbox 350/month)	466.66	466.66		The total amount for housing was 1183.33
Accommodation Second field season September 15 to October 15 (house rent at Isla Holbox 350/month)	233.33	233.33		
Meals for Nadia Rubio first field season (60 days)	1200	1200		
Meals for Marcia Moreno first field season (15 days)	520	520		
Meals for Nadia Rubio second field season September 15 to October 15 (30 days)	600	600		
Fisher's surveys printing and copies,(paper, boards, pencils, erasers)	100	100		
GPS batteries	26.66	26.66		
Total	4963.33	4480	483.33	I used the 483.33 for housing

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

The publication and dissemination of the data. I consider we had a very successful field experience and we have collected a considerable amount of data that has to be published in a diversity of ways. I am eager to work on that in the coming months. My other interest is to continue with the collaborations I have established at

the Island with people that are interested in conservation. I would like to continue collaborating with them in the near future and I am interested in further applying for a Rufford grant.

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 acknowledged in:

- Personal blogs.
- The projects' Facebook page: mar sustentable .
- At the presentation of our results at the International Marine Conservation Conference at St. John's New Foundland, Canada.
- At the presentation of our study case in the International workshop on "Stewardship of small-scale fisheries", organised by the Too Big to Ignore small-scale fisheries initiative at Memorial University, Newfoundland.
- At a popular science paper (see attachments).
- At diverse community events where we disseminated our results at Holbox Island.

11. Any other comments?

I am very grateful for the opportunity The Rufford Foundation has given me in order to initiate this project, and hopefully continue with it. At the beginning many people did not believe in the project and thought that collecting the spatial and traditional fishers' knowledge data was something really challenging to do at Holbox. However, I am very happy things worked pretty well thanks to the economic support of the Rufford's Small Grants Programme since I was able to achieve both my scientific and community outreach goals. Holbox Island social and ecological environments are rapidly changing by globalisation processes that target large-scale tourism. However, little information exists about socio-ecological changes and exploitation patterns in barrier reef islands. For this reason, I believe that funding this kind of interdisciplinary projects are a must for the future conservation of Holbox Island and other Barrier Islands that are globally facing negative outcomes of uncontrolled human activities towards their socio-ecological environments.