

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	Trang Nguyen
Project title	Tackling the Illegal Trade of Ivory in Cambodia
RSG reference	17578-1
Reporting period	July 2015 – July 2016
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	Trang.nguyen90@gmail.com
Date of this report	27.7.16

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
Identify illegal ivory trade hotspot in Cambodia			X	The ivory black market in Cambodia seems to be heavily influenced by tourists in the regions, such as those from China, Vietnam and Japan. As such, the largest markets appeared to be in the tourist cities of Siem Reap and Phnom Penh
Investigating the size of the market			X	The number of retailers offering ivory, the number of ivory items being sold, the price of raw and processed ivory in Cambodia has been revealed. Again these factors influenced by the number of tourists (seasonal).
Investigating the original of ivory products		X		Partially achieved through observation and surveying shop helpers and owners. However we are planning to conduct DNA tests on some ivory samples from Cambodia to find out the original of these products
Identify the main consumers of the market		X		Partially achieved through observation and surveying shop helpers and owners. However we are running a social survey with Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese tourist groups to understand their motivation, preference, attitudes and behaviours towards the ivory trade/consumption and elephant conservation.
Inform authority, NGOs and other related parties			X	Co-working with a local NGO in Cambodia at the moment to investigating these identified shops. An article was published to the Khmer time

				to warn the public about the illegal trade and its impact on the elephant's population.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The most difficult we've met is that we required local people who can speak Chinese to conduct the social survey with Chinese tourists. Although we have contacted several tourist agencies, it proving to be difficult as these agencies seem to be worried to cooperate with us. As the understanding of policies in Cambodia is low, they afraid of upsetting the government if collaborate with NGOs (as there is a theory that rich and high up people in the government might involve in the trade or allow the trade to happen).

We had to hire volunteers from the local university, who were learning Chinese as their main subject and were already at their last year at the university. We also collaborated with some tourist agency from Vietnam to survey Vietnamese tourists who were visiting Cambodia during May – June 2016.

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

- The majority of the shops appeared to target Chinese, either tourists or immigrants, as the main ivory consumers. Therefore, there is a real risk that the increase in tourism from Chinese nationals could drive a major increase consumption of ivory in Cambodia
- 98% had Chinese writing on the shop sign-boards and Chinese-speaking staff. In fact, 40% of the vendors in Phnom Penh and 60% of the vendors in Siem Reap offering ivory items were Chinese owned. This might indicate that Chinese immigrants moved to Cambodia to open business and directly involved in smuggling and trading ivory across the countries.
- The scale of Cambodian illegal ivory trade might still be small, but the presence of a market shows an existing network of individuals linked to the global wildlife trade. Our findings show that although amount of shops offering ivory remain relatively small, shops might be operating at a much larger scale than before. New retail outlets were identified during the survey period while others closed down. Some Khmer owned souvenir shops did not offer ivory items in our previous survey started selling ivory in 2016.

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

Fauna and Flora International's local staff and members of the Cambodian Elephant Conservation Group benefited directly from this project. Although they have been working in elephant conservation for a long period of time, most of their work has been in the field with wild elephants. Thus, the training has enabled them to identify elephant ivory to other ivory, bones and resin. They also were trained to conduct social and market survey, which would be very useful to monitoring the illegal market of ivory in Cambodia in the future.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We are planning to conduct a larger scale survey, which would include Vietnam, Laos and Thailand to identify the pattern of this trade. We also hope to design a regional campaign, working directly with tourist agencies throughout Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and maybe China to raise awareness on the illegal trade of elephant ivory.

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

Our scientific article has been submitted to Conservation Biology for review. An article on the illegal trade of ivory in Cambodia had been published on the local newspaper, the Khmer Times to raise awareness to the public and others.

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

The RSG has been used in 3 periods: from June 2015 – August 2015; from December 2015 – February 2016 and from May 2016 – June 2016.

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
Local transportation	650	448	202	£1 = \$1.86 (June 2015)
DSA for local people and	3350	3350	0	

accommodation				
Stipend for local workers	900	900	0	
Workshop (identify ivory, market and social survey technique)		202		Budget from local transportation was transferred to conducting workshop to train local staff to identify elephant ivory, market and social survey techniques.
TOTAL	500	5000		

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

Effective enforcement must be made at border crossings to detect ivory smuggling as well as ivory items brought by tourists. The Cambodian Government needs to work with Chinese Government and Chinese authorities to tackle the illegal trade of ivory between these two countries. Conservation groups need to work closely with Cambodian and Chinese tourism ministry and tourism agencies to raise tourists' awareness on their impact to the local wildlife, as well as to the global biodiversity.

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?

On July 2016, I presented the result of this survey at the Conservation Asia conference in Singapore (ATBC – Association for Tropical Biology Conservation) with acknowledgements to the RSGF. Publications, such as the scientific articles and local newspaper also acknowledged funding and support from the RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to apply for the continuous grant provided by RSGF





