

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Tommy Melo
Project title	Improving Conservation status for sea turtles <i>Caretta caretta</i> in Santa Luzia Island (Cabo Verde).
RSG reference	17615-B
Reporting period	June - October 2015
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	tommymelo@hotmail.com
Date of this report	21/12/2015

**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
Save the nests that are at significant risk positions.		X		We have moved 41 nests that are in risk areas for the hatchery. These were safe, but Cape Verde this year for the first time received a hurricane and some nests we thought being away from the sea (in normal years) were swallowed by the waves. So, we lost 16 nests in the wild.
Protecting female against illegal hunters and help them in case of disorientation.			X	No adult turtle was killed by fishermen, and we saved seven animals that were disoriented at the middle of the island.
Fishermen communities (men and women) more and more participative and involved in the preservation of the ecosystem		X		Each passing year, the fishing communities that use marine reserve have more respect for the life of these animals and the turtle gradually takes its place as a national symbol. Fishermen this year participated voluntarily in the assembly of the hatchery.
Enrichment of the national database on nesting sea turtles, collecting new scientific data as DNA samples, biometry of the pups and placing PITT devices in females.			X	A detailed scientific report with all data was sent to the Government of Cape Verde, as well as much of the data are being analysed together with the University of Queen Mary to produce elements that help in the conservation of the species.
Production of scientific paper from previous works published in specialised journals (Chelonian Conservation and Biology)		X		The paper has already been accepted by the journal and has passed the process of editorial review and is currently in the printing process.
Preparation of the Conservation plan for the sea turtles <i>Caretta caretta</i> in the Partial Reserve of Santa Luzia.			X	The methodology developed and improved by the Biosfera over the years of work in the reserve was already inserted in the official management plan for the marine reserve. The Biosfera team was highlighted by the government to manage the part of environmental conservation and monitoring of the largest marine reserve of Cape Verde, not only the marine turtles but the whole ecosystem.

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

We have our first hurricane in Cape Verde and because we develop our work in a desert island it was a bit scared but we follow our protocol for this kind of situation and everything went well with no human and material lost. Unfortunately, we lost some wild turtle nests that at beginning we thought they are in a safe position, but we were wrong. In the future we have to be aware of climate change and imagine the worst scenarios to better protect the nests.

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

1. Have a conservation plan for sea turtles of the marine reserve.
2. Have saved over 3000 young turtles from certain death (the nests were translocated would have been destroyed if remained in its original location).
3. Have involved more than 40 national and international volunteers in field work, which is a great way to spread environmental awareness.

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

In addition to having had as volunteers: fishermen and young people from fishing communities, who took greater environmental conscience, some of them have come to understand the value of the marine reserve since these turtles can be a great source of income in the near future with the opening of marine reserve for controlled and supervised ecotourism activities. During the project we also rented a few times the traditional boats, which served as sure as another source of income for these communities.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Now that the conservation plan for turtles from the marine reserve was approved, the work will continue indefinitely as another management tool for the marine reserve. The NGO Biosfera had been responsible for managing the part of environmental conservation and scientific research together with the University of Cape Verde.

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

The Biosfera participates at the World Congress for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in the National Congress for Sea Turtles and every year writes a report that is delivered to the national authorities. Furthermore, it is working jointly with the University of Queen Mary in the preparation of scientific publications with data collected during the campaigns. Another scientific paper of our own authorship was already accepted and is currently being printed.

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

From July to December and we follow the exact schedule.

**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.**

**1£ = 151 ECV (<http://www.xe.com/>) 20/12/2015**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Fees Coordinator	960	0	960	
Gratification volunteer	564	-159	723	We use money from other partners to fill this gap.
Fuel	191	0	191	
Food	2177	0	2177	
Net for nests	88	0	88	
Field supplies	340	0	340	
Telecommunication	23	0	23	
Paper publication	65	65	0	The paper was accepted but not printed yet.
Miscellaneous	277	-57	334	We use money from other partners to fill this gap.
Management fees	315	0	315	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>-151</b>	<b>5151</b>	We have all the originals receipts scanned, if you want, we can send by email, or original by mail.

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

The implementation of the management plan, especially the part of surveillance, as the reserve has a rich ecosystem and important endemic species but fragile and threatened. The role of the Biosfera will be to implement the adequate management tools and continue looking for funding because the government lacks funds and the Reserve to become self-sustaining even led some years.

**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, all volunteers will receive a certificate which was present the logo of the Rufford Foundation, his name is present in the report delivered to the Cape Verde authorities and was referred to whenever we were asked some interview to advance the state of the ground activities. The Biosfera this year also wrote its new strategic plan until 2018 and the Partner name this obviously present.

**11. Any other comments?**

Again, we want to thank the confidence and the availability of funds, expect this partnership does not stop here and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If they want more pictures, please access our page of FaceBook: Biosfera I