

## 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	
<b>Your name</b>	Trokon Saykpa
<b>Project title</b>	Continued Development of Marine Turtle Monitoring and Conservation Education along the Liberian Bassa Coastline
<b>RSG reference</b>	18837-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2016 – February 2017
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£10,000
<b>Your email address</b>	trokonsaykpa@seaturtlewatchlr.org
<b>Date of this report</b>	8 March, 2017

**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. to protect sea turtles and their nests around the year and inspect local fisheries for bycatch				The monitors participated in the regular training workshop at the beginning of the project. They continued the beach patrols and inspected the local fisheries throughout the length of the project implementation.
2. to improve the quality and availability of educational materials in local schools within the area				The local teachers and law enforcement officers in the region were all involved in a conservation education and consultative workshop. The enforcement officers are all supporting the turtle programme whereas the teachers will start up nature classes in the coming school year. We will print out nature booklets and educational posters as additional tools to support the process. Also, additional meetings have been scheduled with the school authorities and District Education Officers (DEOs) in the region
3. to contribute to small-scale community development and livelihood projects serving as benefit for the coastal community inhabitants living within the target area.				Each household within Little Bassa, Samuel Brown, and Duo communities received energy saving lights and solar power charger. About 79 small lights and 10 bigger lights with solar chargers were distributed. The light distributions were initially targeting two communities but we extended the distribution to Duo Town. Also, the project contributed materials for the Sand Farm community development

				project which is still ongoing and will be completed before the end of 2017.
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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 major unforeseen difficulties during the project except that the duration of the project was extended for one month at no cost, to create time for the teachers training workshop which was rescheduled due to unforeseen school events and schedules.

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

During our project implementation, we:

- I. Managed to develop two new nature booklets in close collaboration with the school teachers which will serve as additional education tools when they commence the conservation education programme in the local schools in the next school year. These new booklets are anticipated to be printed out before the commencement of the conservation education program during the next school year.
  
- II. Increased the number of community members on the monitoring team during the peak of the nesting season which boost the effectiveness and efficiency of the beach patrolling. Additional monitors were recruited from other communities that are not closer to the beach and are yet to benefit from the conservation project.
  
- III. Managed to protect the beach without report of nest poaching from the monitoring team during the entire season.

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

Basically, our project has formed a partnership with local people to protect endangered sea turtles in the region. The locals have been directly involved with the beach patrols and have received energy saving lights, chargers and construction materials contributions as benefits. Most importantly, community members were trained and hired to identify, track, excavate nests and record sea turtle data through the project implementation.

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

Yes, the team will continue to work with the locals to monitor the beaches for nesting sea turtles and inspect local fisheries for incidental capture turtles. Also, we have plans to work with the local trained school teachers and the school authorities to begin the conservation education programme in five schools as well as printing out additional education materials to support the process.

The Sea Turtle Watch, Liberia have plans to create a community conserve area within the forest land near the beaches within the area in collaboration with the communities, and other local and international partners.

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

This project is the development of an ongoing community based marine turtle conservation in the communities along the Liberian Bassa coastline. Results of the project will be placed on the organisation's website as well as share with other relevant stakeholders including the EPA, National Bureau of Fisheries and the NGO Coalition members.

Also, all relevant results and information about the project will be available on the organisation's social media pages and on the Rufford Small Grants Foundation 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?**

The RSG was used through January 2016 to February 2017. The RSG helped the project team to carry out essential activities during 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.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
RSG contribution to personnel costs	2,644	2,644	0	
Training and education	1,714	1,714	0	

workshop costs				
Meetings	500	500	0	
Printing services	1,234	1,234	0	Printing of additional sea turtle brochures. Some of the brochures were given to SAMFU for the local schools in the Borgor Point and Pillar of Fire communities in Rivercess County.
Supplies**	2,690	2,400	290	Lights and additional solar charging units were distributed to the communities in Little Bassa, Samuel Brown including Duo Town. The indicated cost also included supplies of batteries, small digital cameras and phone cards for project staff
Fuel for vehicle	682	682	0	
Assorted office stationeries	536	536	0	
Costs for wire transfer received and other monthly bank charges	0	290	0	**Part of actual costs intended for some supplies. This cost was not initially included in the budgeted amount
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£10,000</b>		

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

We feel that it is important to continuously train the local monitors who are carrying out the sea turtle monitoring within the area around the year:

- It is also important to increase support to the school authorities and local teachers to effectively carry out the conservation education programme within the local schools;
- The project staff feel that teaming up with the school nature club's members to get more involve into nature activities is also important;
- Finally, we think that increasing the involvement of local community members especially during the peak of the nesting season which last for about four to

five successive months, is important to the survival of the sea turtles in the region.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, we used the RSGF logo on our website, awareness billboards and it is also placed on the additional copies of sea turtle booklets. RSGF was also mentioned to key stakeholders during our field work and will be acknowledged in every publication and meetings in the future.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**12. Any other comments?**

I am most grateful to the RSGF for having supported our project financially. During the period, the RSG enabled us to complete our many field activities in the region. The grant also played a key role in reprinting the sea turtle facts booklet and developing additional new nature booklets for public awareness, which I am sure, will contribute to increasing awareness amongst local school children and the communities as well as working towards the realisation of the biodiversity strategic action plan for Liberia.

It remains our vision for our territorial waters and beaches to be an important foraging habitat and nesting grounds for sea turtles; therefore, we are hoping that the cooperation/support from the RSGF will continue to improve our awareness raising, beach/bycatch monitoring and research activities in Liberia.