

## 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	Chris Bone
Project title	Creating a sustainable livelihood in communities to take pressure off marine resources
RSG reference	19104-B
Reporting period	October 2017
Amount of grant	£10,000
Your email address	Julia@oceanswatch.org
Date of this report	27 October 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. Increasing awareness of marine conservation				<p>This elements went beyond the scope of what was set out in the proposal because we visited the communities in 2016 and 2017. School sessions were designed so that the information built on previous visits and after 3 years of engagement the children were developing a good understanding of marine conservation.</p> <p>The adult education sessions were also delivered in consecutive years which meant that we were able to deliver more complex ideas about marine protected area design – again going beyond the scope of what we set out to do.</p>
2. Mapping, monitoring: and registering CCAs:				<p>It became quite clear early on that registering Community Conservation Areas (CCA) was not the appropriate approach to take because the government only support applications when there is a breakdown in local governance. Because local governance and support for their tabu (protected area) was strong there was no need to register the area under the available national frameworks. However the communities needed assistance and support managing their local tabu areas where local governance would allow for the protection of their marine environments. Although the CCAs were not registered the tabu areas were mapped and locals were trained to monitor them.</p>
3. Training teams of Reef Guardians to				<p>This objective was met very well and because of having to go to</p>

care for and monitor their reefs				the project sites twice it meant that a follow up to ensure understanding was carried out. Five communities benefited from this which went beyond what we set out to achieve.
4. Assist the women in the creation of a women's co-op and to produce Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)				This was fully achieved with three of the communities but finances meant that we were not able to deliver this in the other two villages on Vanua Lava. We were able to hold a meeting and received a letter of support from the women to deliver the programme if we can generate more funds to go back.

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

The 2016 expedition had to be cut short because of a major accident involving the skipper of the expedition vessel. Attempts to carry out the programmes later on in the year were halted because of the unavailability of a local trainer at the last minute. This resulted in the delayed delivery of this project. It is important to us that we deliver our projects to the best possible standard to serve the communities we work with appropriately so an executive decision was made to deliver the remaining objectives that were not achieved in 2016 during August and September 2017. Although our overall delivery was delayed it did mean that we had an engagement with the communities in 2016 and 2017 which strengthened understanding and relationships.

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

- Trained marine monitors – building this capacity within the communities is really important so that any changes such coral bleaching, crown of thorns outbreaks or damage to the reef can be identified and addressed.
- Increased skills of the women and the strengthening of their cooperatives. Giving the women a new skill and a sustainable livelihood empowers them. Through this project local women no longer need to rely on unsustainable fishing methods, which helps to protect the reef. Additionally, another important outcome was that by producing their own coconut oil the communities will become less dependent on imported oil from unsustainable sources.
- Increased awareness and capacity within the communities to look after their reefs. Increasing local knowledge of what reefs need to be healthy and what practical steps community members can take will inform a whole generation to look after their reefs in a way that will ensure this important habitat and protein source remains.

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

This project directly involved the communities, as a key outcome is to increase their knowledge and capacity to take practical steps to protect their reef habitats. We set out to increase the capacity and resilience of a community and community feedback suggests that we have achieved that.

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

Yes, during this expedition we had additional requests from communities to deliver reef guardian training on Gaua and Mota Lava. This was in addition for requests to come and provide assistance in Marine protected area management and further marine education sessions focusing on the effects of climate change. We received a letter of request from the women's cooperatives on Vanua Lava to deliver the Virgin Coconut Oil Programme and a further request from communities on Mota Lava to assist with strengthening the co-operative for an existing coconut oil venture. This was in addition to a request to provide assistance in marine protected area management and support for markers of their tabu (marine protected) areas outside of this project area.

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

Our expedition report will be made available on our online platforms such as Facebook and our website. We work closely with the Fisheries Officer for Torba Province and have shared our work with the relevant authorities.

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

Spending of the grant started soon after it was received in 2016 and was used until successful completion of the project in mid-October 2017. The period the grant was used was longer than initially anticipated.

**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. 0.466798NZ to Sterling from XE.COM 16/03/2016**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Equipment	£4550	£4,360	-£190	We were able to save some money due to the generosity of local businesses giving a discount on the RRP or donating goods to the project.

Shipping	£1185	£1,250	£65	The quoted cost per pallet varied from the actual cost because the actual volume to ship was higher than estimated.
Human Resources	£2310	£2,850	£540	Due to the extended time required to carry out the project, more man hours were needed. This doesn't reflect the true cost as there were many volunteer hours that contributed to the successful completion of the project.
Contingency	£804	£1,600	£796	There were more unanticipated travel and logistical costs due to the accident and reorganising the second expedition.
Project Management	£804	£1,050	£246	The extended project time required more project management than anticipated
Marine	£0	£0	£0	No actual expenses were allocated to this element as it was paid for by other generous funding bodies and personal donations by the volunteers even though it was a key output of this project.

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

The most important steps are to follow up on the letters of request and try our best to secure future funding to deliver these. There is a particularly valuable area of reef close to Vanua Lava and Mota Lava which at the moment is serving as a major fishing ground that is at capacity. It is therefore of paramount importance that we deliver our reef guardian programs, education and awareness to these communities to allow informed local management decisions. Delivering these alongside the virgin coconut oil program will provide an option to reduce fishing pressure on the reef.

**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, the logo was used on all our PowerPoint presentations and during all community events the Rufford Foundation was thanked for their support. In our charity reports the logo is used and the Rufford Foundation is formally mentioned and thanked.

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

**Chris Bone** – 2016 and 2017 Director of OceansWatch and provided a key connection to local stakeholders. Chris provided delivery of the project drawing on past experience of implementing the coconut oil project in the Solomon Islands.

**Eryn Hooper** – 2016 and 2017 Environmental Scientist. Due to the unavailability of Glenn Edney, Eryn stepped in to provide delivery of the marine element of the project in Bislama. She also has experience delivering virgin coconut oil projects in the Solomon Islands so provided assistance with this.

**Risu Kalotiti** – 2017 Ni-Vanuatu local Virgin Coconut oil trainer. Provided training and translation.

**Sarah Lyn Wilson** – 2017 Marine assistant helping to deliver the marine objectives (volunteer)

**Chris Darby** – 2016 Skipper of the boat (Volunteer)

**Debbie Costello** – 2016 marine assistant helping to deliver marine objectives (Volunteer)

**Isabelle Jimenez** – 2016 PhD coral scientist providing technical assistance for the project in the field (Volunteer).

**12. Any other comments?**

Thank you for your continued support for this project. Due to the unforeseen circumstances in 2016 we thank you for your patience and allowing us the extra time to complete this project successfully providing the communities with what they need to protect their reefs and help towards a sustainable future.