

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. 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	Emile Pemberton
Project title	Nevis Sea Turtle Conservation Project
RSG reference	27.12.09
Reporting period	23.04.10 to 23.04.11
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	mugabe@hotmail.com
Date of this report	27.04.11

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
Public education and awareness			Yes	Had great coverage on radio, tv, newspapers, facebook. Also persons reported logging on to our website
Production of 2010 and 2011 calendars			Yes	Had to make additional orders for 2010 calendars because of the great demand. Had enough for 2011.
Updating of Nevis Turtle Group flyer			Yes	Updated and distributed.
Beach cleanup			Yes	Was done in September rather than May since ground swells had removed 95% of garbage from the beaches in May.
Sea Turtle Summer Camp			Yes	Was extremely successful. Georgia Sea Turtle Centre sent four volunteers instead of two.
Student volunteer programme.			Yes	Started with three and ended up with five. They were able to do much of the work on their own with minimal supervision. Were also able to train other volunteers.
Beach monitoring		Yes		Able to fully monitor index beach but still lack resources to fully monitor other nesting beaches in regards to night patrols. Conducted morning and a few night patrols on these other beaches when we had larger numbers on the beach.
Quiz competitions			yes	We can have more of these since they are popular with the school children
Debates	Yes			Difficult to arrange these with schools. Much easier to do quizzes.
Foraging sea turtle population survey		yes		Unfavourable weather conditions during the period made it difficult to operate. Have identified hotspot areas though that will make it easier to continue the programme in the future.

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

There was an extremely active hurricane season in 2010 and a high frequency of ground swells in the latter part of the year as well as so far in 2011. This has made in water surveys of the sea turtle population almost impossible. The schools calendar appeared to be fuller than normal making it difficult – in fact impossible -to arrange debates. We arranged to concentrate on quizzes instead.

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

(a) Recruitment and training of student volunteers. This ensured that there was a high frequency of patrols on the index beach and frequent morning patrols of the other main nesting beaches. It also meant that we were able to tag the largest number of new nesters (20) on the beach in years and encounter the second largest number (31) of turtles ever on the beach.

(b) Sea turtle camp 2010. We were able to get the message of sea turtle conservation out to many children and to parents as well. Through this programme we were also able to get much publicity in the local media.

(c) Getting members of the public, especially schoolchildren and youth groups, out to the beaches to observe sea turtle conservation work in progress. This has helped spread the conservation message throughout the island. As friends tell friends we get more and more persons involved in our conservation efforts.

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

Student volunteers are selected from the local community and they are gainfully occupied during their holidays as well as weekends. The small stipends help them supplement family income. In the few foraging sea turtle population surveys that we conducted fishers were able to have their fuel subsidised as they went on normal coastal fishing trips. They were grateful for that and are willing to continue assisting us in these efforts.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes we have and are indeed continuing this work. Former student volunteers have agreed to continue to work with us even though no stipend will be available this year. We plan to increase the in water surveys weather permitting.

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

The information on monitoring for 2010 has already been shared with the local television audience and has been shared online via the Nevis Newscast. Some of it will be available online at www.nevisturtlegroup.org. The information is also shared with the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle network and other conservation organizations in the region. This information is also shared with our local and regional radio audiences.

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

The RSG was used from late April 2010 to 23rd April 2011. The project is ongoing so this RSG covers 1 year.

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
Transportation to beaches for youth groups	£200	£600	£400	The great interest in visiting the nesting beaches meant that we made more trips than planned.
Public Education	£400	£400		
Quiz and debates	£1800	£800	£1000	Difficulty in arranging debates. We concentrated on quizzes and shifted funds to other areas such as student volunteers and transport to nesting beaches.
Sea Turtle Calendar	£600	£600		
Stipend for student volunteers	£1800	£2400	£600	There was great enthusiasm and interest from volunteers meaning that we were able to do more patrols and have more encounters with turtles and generally do more monitoring and conservation work than originally anticipated. Increase in commodity/food prices Unfavourable weather conditions restricted the number of surveys that could be conducted
Summer camp	£800	£1000	£200	
Foraging sea turtle population survey	£400	£200	£200	
Total	£6000	£6000		Thankfully, we were able to shift resources to areas where they were needed without any problems. The conservation programme is flexible in that the targeted persons can be served in one way or the other depending on the situation on the ground.

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

1. Continue nesting beach monitoring involving even more persons.
2. Tagging of the foraging sea turtle population.

3. Continuation of public education programme.
4. Working with property developers, beachfront property owners and hoteliers to lessen the impacts of beachfront development on sea turtle nesting.
5. Involving more young persons in sea turtle conservation.

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?

Yes the RSGF logo would have featured on all our calendars and we have publicised widely that we have now received two grants from the RSGF. We would have done this in all our media campaigns regarding sea turtle conservation.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the RSGF for its support for sea turtle conservation on Nevis. We are hoping that this would lead to greater efforts in regards to marine conservation on our island. The project will continue and the grants have assisted us so far in building a cadre of young conservationists that can continue the conservation work into the future. We look forward to continued assistance from the RSGF in the future as we continue to build on the foundation that we have constructed so far. We have tagged the third highest number of hawksbill turtles in the eastern Caribbean after Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda that are under the aegis of the East Caribbean Sea turtle tagging programme that is based in Barbados. We are now seen return nesters from as far back as 2004. Previously a number of nesters would have been taken off the beach. The programme has thus had a positive impact. We look forward to continuing to help the sea turtles of Nevis to survive.