

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Fredrick Ekow Jonah
Project title	Sea turtle by-catch reduction and nesting habitat protection in Cape Coast, Ghana
RSG reference	20319-2
Reporting period	December 2016 – December 2017
Amount of grant	£4996
Your email address	auclerof101@gmail.com
Date of this report	26 th April, 2018

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
Produce coastal erosion documentaries				Three documentaries have been produced.
Organize monthly beach clean-up exercises in Cape Coast				Nine monthly beach clean-ups were carried out in Cape Coast. The programme was rained off in the other 3 months.
Train sixty fishermen on sea turtle bycatch training				Most fishermen were in agreement that the training was not critical in their communities. Rather, the suggested we helped them to directly combat beach sand mining which was rapidly destroying their sandy and sea turtle nesting beaches.

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

The sea turtle bycatch release training was intended to be carried out from April to July 2017. This period coincided with the rainy season of 2017. During this period, rain storms pelted coastal Ghana resulting in many coastal communities experiencing losses and flooding of homes and infrastructure along the beaches. While organising for the training, fishermen were apathetic to the concept of the training and reiterated their concern for the rapid loss and deterioration of their landing beaches. Furthermore, fishermen were convinced that beach sand miners were partly to blame for the problem and rather were more interested in tackling this phenomenon than anything else. In fact, several fishermen pledged that they would provide their unwavering support to the sea turtle conservation programme if we were to achieve success in stopping beach sand mining activities. To show their commitment, some fishermen at Ekon community in Cape Coast volunteered to report nesting and attempted poaching activities. In this regard, these volunteers (numbering five) helped us in releasing four captured sea turtles which were bound to be slaughtered. They also reported several nesting activities (mainly tracks) to us. We saw these as signs of commitment of the community and decided to closely work with them to tackle the beach sand mining problem.

So we refocused the objective of the bycatch training into directly tackling beach sand mining especially at Ekon community in Cape Coast. Therefore from May 2017, we began with meetings with various stakeholders within the Ekon community. We

received the full support of the Chief and his elders, the Chief Fisherman and the two Assemblymen in the community.

Right from the onset, many of sand miners, who were predominantly young men with little or no employment prospects, resisted our intervention for them to halt their sand mining activities. Their reasons for engaging in the activity were that they had no other economic activity. They were also very guarded and initially would not even allow us to engage them. We overcame this by having individual informal discussions with the identified leaders of these groups, finally convincing them to persuade their colleagues to meet with us. One of their major concerns was that they were aware that their activities were illegal and as such they did not want to be officially identified as being beach sand miners which they felt would put them at risk of being arrested. However, after the rains devastated several properties along their beaches in June 2017, the community began to put pressure on these youths to stop the sand mining activities.

Around this time, I had also built a good rapport with some key staff of the Cape Coast Metropolitan Assembly (CCMA) through my visits to their offices to get them to pay better attention to the coastal management issues of Cape Coast. The CCMA also made it clear that they would only support community efforts at stopping sand mining activities since previous efforts at curbing the activities had been met with resistance by the local communities.

In August 2017, the Ekon community elders, comprising heads of all the clans in the community, the Assemblymen and the local chief and the chief fisherman, began having discussions on how to stop the sand mining activities. I was chosen as an advisor to the elders. In late October 2017, the elders agreed to put in place a ban on all forms of beach sand mining activities with effect from 1st January 2018. The elders also agreed on some form of punishments to be given out to any person who infringes on these rules. November and December were used by elders to make announcements about the ban in the community.

Since 1st January 2018, there has not been any reported beach sand mining activity at Ekon, with some of the degraded beaches noticeably building up. This holds a great potential for the nesting habitat if we could scale-up the ban for the entire Cape Coast area.

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

This project had several important outcomes. The three most important outcomes are:

1. **The completion of two coastal environmental documentaries:** The initial plan was to complete four documentaries; however, three of the concepts that looked at coastal erosion management within three different coastal areas in Ghana were put together and developed into one comprehensive documentary with a national perspective. The second documentary looked at issues surrounding coastal erosion and sea turtle conservation in the

Central Region of Ghana. The second documentary which was recorded in a local dialect, has been transcribed into English (with an English voiceover and subtitles), and is currently being used as a tool for community education by the sea turtle and coastal conservation community in the Central and Western Regions of Ghana. We are negotiating with several national television stations to air the documentaries from May 2018. These documentaries have been described by some environmental educators as “a welcome tool for education and will enhance sea turtle education and coastal erosion management discussions in Ghana”.

2. **Success in working with community to place a ban on beach sand mining:**

Through our engagement with the Ekon community in Cape Coast, we have been successful in getting the community to place a ban on all forms of beach sand mining. This is geared towards protecting the remaining beach and will serve our interest of protecting nesting habitats which during the early part of 2017 had become mostly rocky. The entire community supports this ban and have ensured that no individual has taken sand from the beach for the past 3 months since 1st January 2018. We hope to continue with a series of activities that would ensure that this ban becomes permanent and scaled-up.

3. **Recognition and support by Cape Coast Metropolitan Assembly:**

During the project, we developed a very good relationship with the CCMA leading to several positive outcomes. Firstly, as a result of our continuous efforts in research, community engagement and education in the Cape Coast area over the last several years, we came to the notice of the CCMA. Our advocacy for better management of the beaches of Cape Coast saw the CCMA heeding to our advice and undertaking the demolishing of several unauthorised structures along the beaches of Cape Coast on Friday 30th November 2017 in order to protect the remaining beaches of Cape Coast. The CCMA also nominated me for participation in the 2017 United Nations Summer Academy on Sustainable Development titled “Localizing the 2030 Agenda” that took place in Bonn, Germany, from 21st to 25th August 2017. My participation was funded through by the City of Bonn, within the framework of the project partnership between the City of Bonn and the City of Cape Coast. Additionally, we are currently working on an agreement to see the transfer of the Environmental Education Centre (also known as Biodiversity Centre) of Cape Coast given to my NGO, Seafront Environmental from the CCMA. This transfer is expected to be effected by the middle of May 2018. This purpose of this facility is to undertake environmental education and research within Cape Coast and the surrounding towns. The Biodiversity Centre which will come under my management as Executive Director will ensure that we scale up our education efforts on sea turtle conservation and coastal management. Moreover, under this partnership with the CCMA, it will be easy undertaking conservation education with basic schools since the CCMA is bound by the agreement to give us access to all the schools within the metropolis.

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

Local communities have been critical in this project. They were involved in the project activities right from the start. We involved the Assemblymen and chief fishermen in both community beaches that we cleaned. They also brought some of the community members on board to support the clean-up exercises. At the end, community members at Ekon, decided to undertake their own beach clean-ups on daily basis rather than allowing volunteers from elsewhere to do it for them.

The Ekon community have been especially helpful in this project. This local community championed putting the ban on beach sand mining in their community. Various stakeholders within the community gathered for the first time during this project to deliberate on how to handle issues emanating from the beach sand mining activities. These gatherings culminated in a consensus to place a ban on beach sand mining activities and also for the initiation of a community-based resource management scheme close to the end of this project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. It is hoped that the additional activities will be carried out to sustain and even improve upon the outcomes of this project.

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

Several methods are currently being used to share the results of this project. These are explained below:

1. Social media and internet: Social media platforms have been crucial in sharing the activities carried out during this project. Facebook and Twitter especially have been useful in this regard. Going forward, these platforms will be used to share the reports, publications and the documentaries that this project has generated. Additionally, Youtube will be used to host the documentaries shared on seafrontenvironmental.com as well as on other social media platforms to draw the public's attention.
2. Conferences, seminars and workshops: Local workshops, seminars and workshops are very good opportunities to share the project's results and experiences with the public, scientific community and the sea turtle community. On 8th March 2018, I participated in and presented this project's results and experiences at the 1st Ghana Sea Turtle Conference, organised by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana at the University of Ghana, Accra. Going forward, I will take advantage of similar opportunities to participate in and share this project's results in any such public forum.
3. Public educational forums: The documentaries will mainly be used for awareness creation during educational forums in communities, various stakeholders and school kids. In order to ensure that the video achieves wide usage for public education, I have shared it with key stakeholders including the Wildlife Division and the newly formed "Ghana Sea Turtle Group". Several

members of the group have mentioned that they have begun using the videos for their community educational programmes and have commended it usefulness. The site manager of the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site, Andrews Agyekumhene, has also commended the usefulness of the documentary, stating that "it explains the issues in the words of the fishermen and community members, and this is really appreciated by local communities. Therefore, after showing the documentary, we do not have to say anything else to the community since everything is properly explained in the documentary.

4. Television: We are currently in talks with several national local televisions to get the documentaries shown to the general public. We have been successful in getting a community TV station in Cape Coast, Coastal TV, to show it on their channel. Getting it on national TV will broaden the public discussion that the documentary sought to obtain and ensure that as many Ghanaians as possible come to understand the consequences of beach sand mining and sea turtle poaching.
5. Publication: The data generated from this project will be analysed and developed into a research paper for publication by a reputable journal.

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 Rufford Foundation grant was used from 28th December 2016 to 30th March 2018. This is about three months more than the anticipated 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
Transportation for 2 Wildlife Division Officers @ £50 per training programme x 8	400	-		This amount was not used since the objective one of the objectives was changed.
Disposable gloves – 12 boxes @ £6 per box	72	66	+6	The actual expenditure was £6 less than the budgeted amount.
500 Trash bags	100	91	+9	The actual expenditure was £9 less than the budgeted amount.
Transportation for volunteers @ £23 per clean-up programme x 12	276	324	-48	The actual expenditure was £48 more than the budgeted amount. This was because there were local increase in transportation cost as a result of increases in fuel prices.
Additional equipment (GoPro camera @ £200 for taking pictures and video	200	205	-5	The actual expenditure was £5 more than the budgeted amount. The extra amount enabled the purchasing of

while in canoes with fishermen)				accessories that allows for taking videos under various conditions.
Travel, food and accommodation to visit communities to undertake interviews and take video footages for documentary (cost is for a three member team over 9 days)	180	560	- 360	The actual expenditure was £360 more than the budgeted amount. The additional budget allowed us to undertake additional days of field work including visiting communities to do interviews and take videos, going on sea turtle walks and visiting rapidly eroding communities during two rainstorms.
200 T-shirts for volunteers @ £3	600	-		This was not carried out since the objective it was meant to feed was changed. This amount was therefore used to address the new objective.
Editing and production fees (including final video cut and sound editing) @ £400 per documentary	1,600	1600		
Refreshment for 50 volunteers, including snacks and water @ £84 per clean-up x 12	1,008	1000	+8	The actual expenditure was £8 less than the budgeted amount.
Snacks for trainees during by-catch training @ £30 x 8	240	-		This was not carried out since the objective it was meant to feed was changed. This amount was therefore used to address the new objective.
Allowance for 2 Wildlife Division Officers @ £20 each (£40 per training programme x 8)	320	-		This was not carried out since the objective it was meant to feed was changed. This amount was therefore used to address the new objective.
Incentives to community elders (used for snacks during their meetings)		300		This amount was used as motivation for community leaders during their meetings. It was used to buy snacks and water for their meetings.
Announcements		100		This amounts was used to cater for additional cost of announcements at the Ekon community.
Sea turtle monitoring in communities		300		This budget was dedicated to monitoring sea turtle poaching and bycatch reporting. Parts of this budget was also used as motivation (phone credits and snacks) for some of the volunteers who showed committed at reporting sea turtle activities in their communities.
Documentary voice over costs @ £150 each		450		This amount was used to cover the cost of studio recording of voice overs for the documentaries and the cost of translation of English script to local dialect.

The local exchange used was £1 = GHC 4.9

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

Several activities need to be carried out to consolidate the gains made in this project. The critical next steps include:

1. Development of a community-based coastal resources management scheme to manage beach sand mining and sea turtles in Ekon Community in Cape Coast. This will ensure that we increase education and awareness about coastal resources and their management and also identify sustainable employment opportunities for community members. This will also ensure that the ban on beach sand mining is sustained and youths do not go back to engaging in beach sand mining activities.
2. Increase community education on beach sand mining and sea turtle protection in the Central Region. This step is critical to the survival of sea turtles in Ghana, as beach sand mining and habitat degradation is still widely practiced along the entire Region's coast. Our video documentaries will be an important tool in undertaking these education campaigns with partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana.
3. Another important step going forward is to do a national awareness creation on beach sand mining, coastal erosion management and sea turtle conservation. This will be done by showing documentaries on national television stations and starting a national discussion on the subject.

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, the Rufford Foundation logo was used to acknowledge funding support by The Rufford Foundation in the end credits of the documentaries. The Rufford Foundation logo was also used to acknowledge the funding support of The Rufford Foundation during my presentation at the 1st Annual Ghana National Sea Turtle Conference on the 8th of March 2018 in Accra.

11. Any other comments?

My first and second Rufford Small Grant has been of immense help in creating awareness and bringing attention to some of the most important environmental issues in Ghana. The grant received for this project was especially crucial as it has helped in producing documentaries that would be helpful in educating the general public and policy makers on potential devastating activities being carried out in communities along the coasts as well as the consequences of ill-informed coastal management decisions. I am hopeful that Ghana may in the foreseeable future see some major improvements in coastal and marine resources management.

I am grateful to The Rufford Foundation for giving me the opportunity to carry out my project. It is as a result of these funded projects that I have gained recognition from the Cape Coast Metropolitan Assembly and their international partner (the City of Bonn) and also the opportunity to attend the United Nations Summer Academy in August 2017.