

## 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>	Dr. Lalith Ekanayake
<b>Project title</b>	Continuation of the sea turtles & coastal biodiversity conservation in Kalpitiya Peninsular of Sri Lanka
<b>RSG reference</b>	20848-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 to 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£9,830
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:bcssl@yahoo.com">bcssl@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> December 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
Increase the education and awareness on importance of sea turtle & coastal biodiversity conservation				The objective was successfully achieved. Both fishers and school children were very interested about the awareness programmes. They were actively participated and raised questions during programmes.
Increase the community knowledge on sustainable use of surrounding natural coastal resources				The objective was fully achieved. The fishing community understood the importance of the protection of their surrounding in sustainable manner. Moreover positive feedback received from the community about the knowledge they gain from the programme.
Reduce the turtle by-catch, dolphin killing and illegal fishing activities destructive to the coastal biodiversity in the area				This is a long term objective and its need more time to get full effect from the programmes. However, the fisheries community including school children were understood about the threats, reasons and importance of conserving sea turtles.
Promote field conservation activities among the coastal community & reduce use of plastic bags				The objective was fully achieved. The community members highly enthusiastic to take part in the field conservation activities. Use of cotton bags reduce the number of plastic bag usage.
Increase the availability of educational materials and newspaper articles on sea turtles and coastal ecosystem in Sri Lanka				A leaflet was printed and distributed among participants. Many newspaper articles on sea turtles and coastal biodiversity conservation published in both printed and online version. Moreover, the news shared through Facebook for many audiences.

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

We managed to conduct many programmes without any problem. But, only little problem arise for the English classes venue. We had a problem to conduct the classes in the original building expected. However, we manage to find another location within the community house to initiate the classes. However, it will be moved to permanent place within next year.

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

The fisheries community members are depend on coastal resources and they are responsible for most of the destructive activities to the coastal biodiversity. During this programme we were manage to increase their educational and awareness level on sea turtles and coastal biodiversity, its importance for sustainability and conservation for future generations.

The active participation of coastal community (both adults and children) increased on coastal biodiversity conservation manly field activities such as beach and lagoon environment cleaning. We manage to get the support from the government officers such as village councils (similar to municipal council), police and navy. We believe it as the major outcome and must continue more field conservation activities to get more active contribution from the community.

Community members were very interested for the cotton bags provided by the project. They use it regularly during their shopping. It was great that we were manage reduce the use of over 100,000 of plastic bags (if one cotton bag used 100 days it will reduce 100 plastic bags. So 1,200 cotton bags reduce use of 120,000 plastic bags. Actually the cotton bag can be wash and use over one year).

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

The local community members (both adult and school children) actively participated for the field activities such as beach cleaning and tree planting. They were actively attended for the awareness programmes and gain lots of knowledge about the importance of coastal biodiversity including sea turtle and all the marine mega fauna and how can they contribute for the conservation (Please see annexed photos end of the report).

We distributed 1,200 cotton bags for the community members including both adults and children. It was reduced the use of plastic bags as well as some money they used to buy plastic bags. Moreover it was long-term benefit for the nature to reduce release of used plastic bags to the coastal environment.

During the programmes, pomegranate plants were distributed to 1,500 families among project beneficiaries to motivate the community (3,000 plants with funding from other sources). It was very successful and now the plants are growing well at

home gardens as well as school gardens. Especially school children were very happy about this and it will be a long-term benefit for them and also good memory about the conservation programmes.

English classes were conducted for the children, youth and some adults also attending. BCSL volunteers conducting the English classes. It was very useful for them learn English and it will be a long-term benefit for them.

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

Yes, it is planning to conduct more awareness programmes in the Kalpitiya peninsula, adjacent mainland and also some of the inhabited small islands which didn't cover from previous or this projects. Further, field activities was more popular among the communities. So it is planning conduct more field activities to get active involvement of the community for the sea turtle and coastal biodiversity conservation. The English classes will be continuing in the same location.

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

I have already submitted an abstract to the forthcoming 38th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation at Kobe, Japan in February 2018. So the result will be presented as a poster presentation. Moreover, the results of the project will be included in the BCS web site ([www.bcssl.org](http://www.bcssl.org)). Further the results will be summarised and published in local newspapers.

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

It was planned to complete the project within one year from January to end of December 2017. However, it was managed to complete all the programmes first week of December little earlier than the original plan. We got positive response from the community and hence, it was easier to complete 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
Programme officer (£ 90 per month x 11 months )	1,080	990	+90	The programme was completed within 10 months and 20 days. So programme officer paid for 11 months.
Lecturer fee (£ 30 per	1,440	1,440		Completed

programme x 48 programmes )				
Transport - ( £ 35 per programme x 48 programmes )	1,680	1,680		Completed
Refreshment - ( £ 10 per programme x 48 programmes )	480	480		Completed
Media promotion in newspapers	500	500		Completed
Refreshment for participants ( £ 0.4 per person x 100 persons x 12 programmes)	480	568	-88	A total of 1,420 people were participated for field activities.
Transport -	300	350	-50	£ 50 have to spend over the budget for transport
Transport - collected plastics for recycling	150	200	-50	£ 50 have to spend over the budget for transport
Gloves & garbage bags	60	90	-30	£ 30 have to spend over the budget
Cloth bags (£ 1.3 per bag x 1,200 bags)	1,560	1,560		Completed
Manufacture of bench & chairs etc.	500	530	-30	£ 30 have to spend over the budget
Printing an educational leaflet ( £0.15 per leaflet x 6,000 posters)	780	780		Completed
Office rent (£ 20 per month x 10 months)	240	200	40	The programme was completed within 10 months & 20 days. Paid 10 months.
Electricity and telephone bills (£ 15 per month x 10 months )	180	150	30	The programme was completed within 10 months & 20 days. Paid 10 months.
Accountant payment (£ 25 per month x 10 months)	300	250	50	The programme was completed within 10 months & 20 days. Paid 10 months.
Audit fee	100	100		
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,830</b>	<b>9,868</b>	<b>-38</b>	Additional funds provided by the BCS

Exchange rate 1 £ = LKR 180 (Date: 2017-01-13)

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

We are keeping close contacts with the schools and fisheries societies which participated project activities during this project. It is very important to continue and follow the conservation activities in the area and for long term sustainability. Moreover, it is important to continue the awareness programmes rest of the villages in Kalpitiya peninsula, adjacent mainland and also inhabited small islands which didn't cover from previous projects. Marine pollution especially due to plastic waste is a huge problem in Sri Lanka. So it is expecting to continue coastal cleaning programme throughout the Kalpitiya peninsula. Marine plastic waste and braking

plastics to micro plastic is a threat not only to sea creatures but also to human being. So it is highly necessary to continue the plastic cleaning and awareness programmes.

**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, it was used in the printed leaflet distributed among the participants. Further a banner with Rufford Foundation logo displayed during the programmes. RF acknowledged in newspaper articles. It was published worldwide through BCSL Facebook account. The Rufford logo displayed in the front page of the BCSL website.

**11. Any other comments?**

I would like to acknowledge the Rufford Foundation for supporting this awareness programme and expecting to continue the programmes.

During this project period an abstract submitted and poster presentation was presented on previous Rufford grant results (17447-2) at the 37<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium – April 2017, at Las Vegas, USA.

**Annexes below:**

## Annex I: Photographical Summery

### Awareness programmes & plant distribution









Environmental Day celebration – Lecture



Collecting plastic waste at school for recycling with BCSL guidance

### Field Activities – Cleaning





Navy officers



Littering prohibited – Notice board after cleaning



### Fruit plants planting at school gardens



### English classes



### Supported to rural clinic



## Training Department of Wildlife Officer – Assistant Directors & Rangers On Sea turtle and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation



Treating injured turtles with Wildlife Department (by-catch turtle - damaged head, probably fishers beat the turtles' head)



Publicity



Attended 37<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium – April 2017, at Las Vegas, USA and presented on previous Rufford funded programme.

