

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	Thalya Gabriela López Méndez
Project title	A marine world for conservation program involving children with focus on sharks and rays in Livingston, Guatemala
RSG reference	20969-1
Reporting period	November 2016 to November 2017
Amount of grant	4998
Your email address	lmendezthalya@gmail.com
Date of this report	11/06/2017

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
Change the negative perception about sharks and rays in children from Livingston Guatemala especially in the Creek Chino school.				By the practice of environmental education skills, we implemented a new way to show the children how important is to care about the sea life since they are little kids. Principally because this zone is important because one of its main economics activities is the shark and ray fishery.
Create a colouring book about sharks and rays to increase knowledge in a fun way.				Besides of the educational talks, this helped and will continue to help as a feedback about the main topic which is to take care and get more knowledge about sharks and ray.
Demonstrate to the fisherman sons the importance of these living creatures and to educate their parents about it.				Work directly with this children was fundamental since thru them is the best way to get the fisherman attention so then they will also care about our wildlife.

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

Livingston:

- Principally the bad weather (excessive raining) because that caused the majority of the children were not able to go to school.
- The majority of fishermen were not able to go to school because of the fishing tasks.
- The constant protests made by teachers, caused the suspension of classes at school.

Quetzalito community:

- Bad weather (floods) caused the absence of transportation so we had to walk for about more than 1 km to this community.
- Due to the lack of electrical power we couldn't present what we did on Livingston, so we had to go door by door of each people to explain what we did and to show what the colouring book was about.

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

1. The project has generated crucial information because through the mural teachers showed to the children the importance to care and keep safely their resource.

2. The possibility to teach children of Creek Chino School in Livingston community showed me that is important create different strategies to motivate the participation of this children.

3. The creation of a shark and a ray colouring book to increase knowledge to 550 children in 2 communities of the Caribbean of Guatemala (Livingston and Quetzalito) and 50 in one community of Honduras (Cuyamel): 350 in Creek Chino school (Livingston), 100 in Lucila Morales school (Livingston), 100 in the School of Quetzalito community and also we included 50 to CCO (Cuerpos de Conservación de Omoa) in Honduras. Finally we showed what we did in Quetzalito a fishermen community located in El Refugio de Vida Silvestre Punta de Manabique a protected area in Guatemala.

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

A few months ago we started this project, the school teachers participated in all the activities, and they learned the importance to care about this organisms. Children participated painting the mural in their free time, and something that is very important to mention is the way that those people received us when we visited the school. This people was benefitted with different tools to continue learning, also this children received different educational talks using real organisms, draws and the colouring book about sharks and rays. This allowed us to increase their knowledge in a fun way.

Teachers told us that the colouring book and the mural will be continuously used to teach the children in natural science subject.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, my plan is to continue with this project introducing other species, not just shark and rays. I would like to mention other endangered species in schools of Guatemala City and in the pacific because it is important that children learn how to appreciate and care about all the resources that we all have.

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

- Doing educational talks in schools and other organisations.
- Present the project in other communities.

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 grant was used over a year, the estimated 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. 1 £ sterling = 9.6635 quetzales (11/06/2017)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Transport	1366	1366	0	We spent the total amount by travelling to Livingston and to Quetzalito community (last field trip).
Lodging	1575	1146.82	+428.18	We saved in lodging because the owners gave us discounts for staying in their hotel (double rooms for the same price as the individual ones), in addition we used their installations to prepare the material for the classes.
Food	1260	1260	0	We saved on food as sometimes we ate in the community (Quetzalito) and the food was made by fishermen (Livingston)
Shark and ray colouring book	351	351	0	We spent the total amount to reproduce 600 colouring books about sharks and rays for 2 communities of the Caribbean of Guatemala (Livingston and Quetzalito) and one community in Honduras (Cuyamel).
Miscellaneous	330	330	0	We spent the total amount in buying water paint and brushes for the mural.
General material	116	116	0	We spent the total amount in buying paper, markers, tape and crayons for classes in the yard of the school using the mural.
Loss of money by bank transfer	0	424.45	-424.45	Money saved during the previous items was used to cover the loss during the transfer.
	4998	4994.27	+3.73	

Note: Quetzalito community wasn't in the budget but after asking by email we

made and extra field trip to this place. Money came out of some savings from loss of money transfer and lodging.

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

Currently all the people at the school have the capacity to continue with this project, because they have all the tools to do it, so now they know what to do with it.

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, we used the logo in the mural of the school, in our power point presentation, in improvised classes, and in the colouring book.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to say thank you to Rufford Foundation for this opportunity, for supporting this project, because in Guatemala it is important to create awareness in our children, also the possibility to show this little guys from the communities how is having fun while learning. Also many thanks to Jane Raymond for being an excellent vehicle of information during this awesome experience.

