

Project Update: December 2020

We managed to survey 1,200 km covered in approximately 80 hours of work onboard. A total of 31 observations of bottlenose dolphin were recorded (each observation contained between one and six dolphins) and more than 2000 images of dolphin fins were captured as part of our mark-recapture long term study. Out of these 2000+ pictures, five new individuals were identified and are now included in our catalogue along with the re-captures of the already catalogued individuals from previous years.

However, these results were only collected from 13 fieldtrips out of the originally funded 20 fieldtrips by The Rufford Foundation which should've taken place in 2019-2020 time. We had some major delays in completing the original 20 trips due to restrictions and drawbacks related to the COVID-19 outbreak. First there was the curfew/quarantine that was held in Tunisia starting May 2020 followed by restricting our access to the ports until late August 2020. Also, movement between cities was restricted until October 2020 which reduced our chance to reach the further sites of our study area. Another drawback (which doubled as interesting from a socio-economic/fisheries point of view) is that the fishers (whom mostly of senior age rather than the new generation), were reluctant to take us on-board their boats from fear of infection. when we managed to pick up the pace in late October 2020, the favourable weather was already behind us and we could do very little since.







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