

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	Linda North
Project title	Environment Education and Awareness Raising through Community-based Biodiversity Assessment in Conflict and Tsunami-affected Area of Ujung Pancu, Peukanbada, Aceh Besar, NAD Province Indonesia
RSG reference	41.09.09
Reporting period	February 2010 to March 2011
Amount of grant	£5985
Your email address	northlinda@gmail.com , or lindanorth@lamjabatfoundation.or.id
Date of this report	16 th June 2011

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
<p>Yayasan Lamjabat (YL) with environment youth group REPALA will carry out a joint assessment of local bio-diversity with local stakeholders by:</p> <p><u>Activities</u></p> <p>(1) Flora and Fauna Bio-diversity assessment & monitoring , wetlands, farming, forest and upland farming areas: 10 surveys in year 1</p> <p>(2) Ocean, tidal zones, reef - bio diversity and sea water composition: 10 surveys in year 1</p> <p>(3) Base-line & end of grant review: community perceptions on importance of local wildlife & environment</p> <p>(4) Visual presentations, bulletins, booklets, photo displays plus short films for community & other stakeholders.</p> <p>(a) to look for</p>				<p>Stakeholders included in the field surveys were lowland farmers, women hill farmers and rattan collectors, youth bird and animal catchers, fishermen, traditional leaders, university field survey teams from marine and geophysics departments, national youth environment association, community and NGO environment organisations, local and provincial government representatives and journalists.</p> <p>Results from joint mapping and monitoring of biodiversity along with information on the potential of and threats to various ecological sites and positive and negative impacts from community livelihood activates changes in wetlands, forests, tidal areas and reefs are displayed in the form of visual maps, photos and written data at Ujung Pancu Information Centre and local and national government offices. Information collected has been used in (1) Awareness raising school poster campaign for conservation of flora, fauna including marine species, (2) REPALA local environmentally friendly recreation activities promotion booklet and exhibitions and a (3) booklet on the "Ocean in Crisis" as well as (4) Two documentary films made with government and community to raise awareness of the importance of Ujung Pancu Ecological area and of the need to conserve and protect what bio-diversity still remains.</p> <p>For community perceptions, formal and informal interviews were carried out with (a) Women hill farmers and rattan collectors (b) Older farming community (c) Junior school children and teachers (d) Youth (e) Fishermen (f) traditional leaders. In the base line interviews with local community both young and old had some basic understanding of the links between the environment and fresh water and local food sources but they had not given much thought to the impact they were having on local eco-systems and what this might in</p>

<p>innovative solutions to slow the rate of deterioration and</p> <p>(b) Increase awareness within communities of the need to work in harmony with their surroundings to protect their and their children's futures.</p> <p>Aims to set up Ujung Pancu Information Centre, UPIC, (run by REPALA) as a public open media learning and as a reference centre on biodiversity and other natural resources of Ujung Pancu and Peukan Bada Area. Will include photo displays, bio-diversity data, and maps of areas covered by these activities and results / conclusions from monitoring.</p>			<p>turn mean for them in the longer run. There is a lack of understanding about bio-diversity but local villagers do recognise that negative changes have taken place over the last 40 to 50 years and this is a result of man's activities. They can see that farming on the hills using slash and burn leads to increased flooding, sediment in the sea, fewer fresh water sources and disturbed habitats.</p> <p>Results of the initial surveys show that as post tsunami aid programs supporting various livelihoods came to end, more of the community turned to the land and forest to earn a daily living. Early 2010 saw an increase in local quarrying and conversion of secondary forest to plant chilli as villagers struggle to earn a living. Children are often left unsupervised and many boys favourite hobby is playing with catapults. These activities further exacerbate local village conflicts and village leaders are reluctant to be proactive in seeking solutions.</p> <p>In the final round of interviews at the end of the year changes in seasonal weather patterns and rising sea levels were of more immediate concern than changes in bio-diversity. Earning a daily living still takes priority over longer term sustainability. Older members of the community identified that changes in bio-diversity both on land and in the sea were mostly as a result of human activities and this had impacted communities negatively. They also agree that protection of species is important for their own sustainability. As a result of the activities in this project there had also been some direct action taken by members of the community with REPALA and YL to mitigate the negative changes and to highlight the risks to others in the area of any further environmental degradation.</p> <p>Solutions: Forest areas- Reforesting secondary forest areas belonging to the community.</p> <p>With help from YL and REPALA, hill farmers in 2 villages are now planting nutmeg, chocolate, durian trees in the areas where they previously farmed chilli. Over time this should reduce the practice of slash and burn, help with water catchment and reduce sediment run off onto the reefs. More people are requesting trees to</p>
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			<p>plant and YL is actively seeking funds to provide more seedlings to two other villages. Environment activities with children and within their schools has led to a reduction in children and youth catching birds and mammals and some members of the community are now active in advising children and parents against this practice. REPALA have had a very positive influence other youth and children and many children have been encouraged by REPALA to join in with tree planting and beach clean ups. There is a still a long way to go with the communities and local government to encourage a change in behaviour towards direct action in conserving their environment but there is definitely a greater general awareness of the importance of preventing any further degradation.</p> <p>Marine, Coastal area - By monitoring marine bio-diversity with fisher families and joint stakeholder initiatives locally, fishing with explosives has stopped completely in this area and on December 11th 2010, at a traditional fishing community ceremony, PanglimaLaot declared the area to be a local managed marine protected area. YL and REPALA have been active in supporting the Panglima Laot coordinate activities with other community leaders. The coastal areas around the sub-district of Peukanbada are now in provincial government plans for future support to protect coastal areas.</p> <p>UPIC has been at the forefront of promoting the outcomes of the bio-diversity assessments to the local and wider community, large photo panels are on display with flora fauna and marine bio-diversity, maps, local beauty spots, caves, historical sites as well as information on damaging activities and the links to potential disasters in the future. REPALA has also displayed much of this information at district and provincial wide government sponsored exhibitions helping the head of this sub-district win awards for the most interesting displays. Many government officials including tourism board were unaware of Ujung Pancu and find it difficult to believe that this area is only 10 kilometres from the city of Banda Aceh.</p> <p>During this period there was massive coral</p>
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			<p>bleaching through all of Aceh including Ujung Pancu reefs. Whilst this was a damaging event it also gave us the opportunity to highlight locally and province wide the vulnerability of the reefs and the impact on local fishing trade if more reefs die.</p> <p>To ensure that debates on environmental impact of local livelihoods are on other stakeholders agendas UPIC has worked collaboratively with schools, local NGO's working on coastal and forest community issues, the government at district and at province level as well as with the Geophysics, Forest and Marine science departments and academics at Banda Aceh university.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Making short films: One difficulty was coordinating the availability of community, government and academics that participated in the short films at the same time as the trainer who was helping with the process. We used a local studio that had experience in some environment and community films as capacity builders and mentors throughout the process of making the films. The training was in four parts with on-site mentoring between training sessions until the films were completed. The process was participative including other stakeholders in various stages in order to maximise the impact and eventual distribution of the films. The down side was that this also slowed down the process.

Incompatibility between the computer program used to edit and the files to be used for the final version resulted in errors in the editing had to be redone. The trainer had been advising us on what programs to use and had not mentioned that this could be an issue.

Throughout this process YL and REPALA had to be very flexible and patient and make themselves available at short notice when those participating in the films were available. Those responsible for the editing had to allow a lot more time to complete the films than anticipated. However, this was a good learning process for all involved. The academics and government officials in the films were very understanding and more than willing to contribute their time and knowledge to support this project.

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

1. Increase in awareness by local communities, schools, district and provincial government, journalists, university and college groups and academics, of existence and importance of local ecological area Ujung Pancu and surrounding hills and coastal waters as a result of all the joint activities and media information disseminated through YL, REPALA and Ujung Pancu Information Centre.
2. Formal Declaration by the traditional fishing authorities, Panglima Laot, local fishermen, the coastal police, military and government heads of district and sub-district that the coastal waters of Peukanbada are now a locally managed marine protected area along with cessation of destructive fishing using cyanide and explosives.

3. Community Tree planting in slash and burn farming areas - A positive move on the part of some of the hill farming community to plant a variety of trees in slash and burn farmed hill areas to restore the health of the secondary forests and also to provide them with a sustainable income from fruits and spices in the future. This in turn improves the forest habitats and protects bio-diversity.

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

REPALA, the youth environment group for this area are the children of farmers, fishermen, teachers, ex- combatants, local government in the local area. The focus of this grant was to build up their capacity and to assist in making links between them and other stakeholders including their families and communities around Ujung Panca. The membership increased to from 33 to 63 during 2010 and they have become a well known active group with support from the local police, military and traditional authorities. Activities carried out jointly by REPALA with local community include; (1) monitoring use of the forest, reef conditions, exploring potential for local environmentally responsible tourism; (2) planting 2000 trees around community halls, mosques, in lowland forest and beach areas with community and other stakeholders; (3) putting up 30 public signboards, making posters on forest and coastal protection for local schools and visitors; and (4) joint beach clean ups and exhibitions to promote working together to look after the local environment. (5) REPALA has visited all middle and senior schools in the sub-district with visual presentations and talked to school children and teachers about the local environment and conservation (6) Making 2 documentaries on the local area, led by YL and REPALA and with involvement of local traditional leaders and older members of the community.

REPALA, YL and other stakeholders held a number of events and village/school based activities during the year to highlight the natural beauty of the area, importance of protecting the eco-systems for sustainable living and looking at the potential of Ujung Panca being developed for environmentally friendly tourism. This has brought in many visitors to the area who in turn make use of local facilities such as café's and kiosks selling food and drink, parking to go on local hikes, renting local fishing boats to go fishing or snorkelling as well as many more people coming to the area at weekends and on holidays. Without the presence and activities of YL, REPALA and the Ujung Panca Information Centre this area may have remained an area known only as a dangerous conflict area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

REPALA is continuing as local environment group with Ujung Panca Information Centre (UPIC) open every weekend and on holidays as a local information centre on bio-diversity and to monitor changes in the environment locally. They are also working on promoting and campaigning for environmentally friendly local recreation and tourist activities to the hills, beaches and reefs of Ujung Panca as a way to raise awareness of the importance of protecting the environment for future generations.

Reefcheck team is continuing to monitor any changes in the reefs and use of the reefs as well as continue strengthening relationships with other stakeholders, e.g. traditional fishing authorities, fishermen and fishing communities, coastal police, government, academics and marine conservation organisations to push for stronger controls to reduce over fishing and destructive fishing practices throughout Aceh.

Joint working on the marine issues has been the most successful part of this project with all authorities cooperating to protect the local reefs. At the time of writing this report, 2 species of turtle and some large reef sharks have been seen which may indicate the health of the reef area is improving. YL will actively seek more support to put in more mooring buoys and visual signs to increase further awareness of this first locally managed marine protected area of Aceh outside of Pulau Weh.

Member of KuALA-YL and REPALA will continue to be part of the KUALA network campaigning and participating in action to raise awareness and seek positive change from government and other stakeholders on issues relating to protection of coastal areas which include the forested hills and wetlands areas around Aceh.

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

Throughout the period of this project one of its main focuses has been on including other stakeholders, shared decision-making and involvement in the project activities along with sharing information on outcomes of activities through formal and informal meetings, YL website and through other networks and their websites. Work on the design of posters, leaflets and the short films was carried out in conjunction with Advocacy Coalition for Marine Aceh (Kuala) a network of member institutions and civil society groups that have a non-governmental activities focus on empowering and monitoring of coastal and marine management areas in Aceh. Another priority has been to invite organisations and government to UPIC to see the work that is being done on documenting forest and marine bio-diversity and the changes that are happening in the environment.

REPALA forest team carried out surveys with local hill farmers and rattan collectors, IKAPALA (coordinating body for all affiliated student, youth environment groups), geo-physics students and representatives from other community groups and NGOs. REPALA reef team with Yayasan Lamjabat has worked collaboratively with ODC/Marine Division University Banda Aceh, WCS, PanglimaLaot (traditional fishing authority) and KUALA, Advocacy for Aceh Coastal Areas to document corals and marine species, carry out reef checks, bathymetry mapping and exchange information in the reefs and fish catches with local fishermen.

Through UPIC, 2 documentary films were produced collaboratively with input from government environment board, leading academics on marine and forest environment and traditional leaders with the aim of sharing information about Ujung Panca. These have been widely circulated locally:

Film 1 – “A Hope for Ujung Panca (Ujung Panca Sebuah Harapan)” filmed in Indonesian Language on:
Engage Media <http://www.engagemedia.org/Members/arifsyah/videos/ujungpanca>
YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWdGz4X5nc4>
Vimeo <http://www.vimeo.com/23844102>

Film 2 “Natural Charms of Ujung Panca (Pesona Alam Ujung Panca)”- also in Indonesian Language on:

Dhingana video <http://www.dhingana.com/video/pesona-ujung-panca-avi/related-htZwpkmWXWI/1>

YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htZwpkmWXWI&feature=related>

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

Anticipated 1 year but due the time on t he editing of the film the actual time was 1 year 2 months.

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
Flora and Fauna Bio-diversity assessment and monitoring	423	406	(17)	As planned
Ocean / tidal zones / reef - bio diversity and sea water composition	462	553	91	Budget for water testing kit used for reef monitoring activities.
Underwater Camera for reefcheck team	346	322	(24)	As planned
Water testing kit and/or tests at university	100		(100)	Water testing fees were not required as other stakeholders provided the equipment and service for free
Community stakeholder meetings- formal/informal	192	147	(45)	
Local transport / boat maintenance and boat hire	308	376	68	Underspend on other budgets used here to support taking stakeholders out to see coral bleaching.
Materials and supplies and distribution of media for communication /information campaign	1154	1184	30	As planned
Film documentary capacity building costs for youth team	1923	2106	183	Slightly over original budget for capacity building on editing which took longer than anticipated
Library set up	385	243	(142)	Underspend used for film documentary, UPIC managed to sources some materials free of charge.
Pancu environment information centre - Communication, contribution to website / internet costs	692	647	(45)	Slightly under budget.
Total	5985	5984	(1)	

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

1. **Marine biodiversity.** Continue supporting the set up of the locally managed marine protected area by regular monitoring of the reefs and continued awareness raising of the existence of this protected area. Regular monitoring jointly with scientific and other interested and more experienced teams including the provincial special operations police will build up the capacity of the local youth reefcheck team and provide data on the health of the reef which can be shared and used by a variety of stakeholders. It also deters fishermen from any destructive fishing. We need to continue to assist the traditional authorities, marine police and fisher men in devising a set of do's and don'ts in the marine protected area and putting up visible signs and more mooring buoys to support the implementation and support other community groups that would like to do the same in other coastal districts.
2. **Forest Biodiversity-** Continue to support the community groups / hill farmers that want to plant seedlings in the slash and burn areas with access to advice on tree species and seedlings. Support REPALA and encourage other environment groups to continue with monitoring bio-diversity and changes in the forested hills and share their findings with stakeholders through UPIC and other networks.
3. **UPIC** – Support REPALA to generate income by promoting and maximising the use of resources at the information centre for local scientific, academic and recreational groups coming to the area. Income generated will be used to support further environment campaigns and capacity building on what is eco-tourism and how to move towards this as well as provide much needed additional income to the members of REPALA to support their own education.

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?

1. Rufford Logo on School Posters on the need to (a) Protect Birds (b) Protect marine species- fish and corals (c) Conserve forests habitats for forest animals (d) Protect and conserve forest flora - examples of all posters are on the YL website at <http://www.lamjabatfoundation.or.id/> and all photos were taken by YL and REPALA in Ujung Panca. Distributed to middle and high schools in Peukanbada and Banda Aceh.
2. Rufford Logo on Booklet- on Ocean in Crisis distributed to government, academic and NGO stakeholders along with visitors to a variety of exhibitions in Aceh.
3. Rufford Logo on REPALA promotional Leaflet for environmentally friendly recreation to Ujung Panca with photos of wildlife and beauty spots to visit distributed to hotels, tourist and other government departments, schools and university.
4. Logo on YL website <http://www.lamjabatfoundation.or.id/>

11. Any other comments?

Grateful thanks to Rufford Foundation for making this grant available to us. It has enabled us to move forward more quickly than anticipated on marine protection and supported REPALA and YL in

building up strong networks to facilitate working together with other stakeholders on broader environment issues in the future. The production of the 2 films has increased the capacity in IT significantly for those youth involved in the film production and has enabled them to make further short films for specific events to promote different issues. REPALA is in the process of setting up their own website and they continue to develop their IT and presentation skills.