

Project Update October 2025

Rufford I.D.: 47124-1

Project Title: Exploring the Relationship Between Artisanal Fishing and Marine Megafauna: Joining Forces to Protect Marine Fauna and Strengthen Local Economies

Update:

Since the disbursement of the grant, we have made significant progress with data collection, for which I have maintained strong communication with the fishers' leaders. I must highlight their great support and compromise.

We have managed to increase the quantity of surveys to over two hundred. This will be analyzed in the course of the month for deeper analysis. Furthermore, and more importantly, we just finished our project workshop, where I presented the preliminary results and opened the discussion of what can be done to try to diminish the consequences that bycatch bring to the community, as well as talk about other pressing problems that fishers are facing and were not covered in the surveys. For further support on the topic and as a networking opportunity for fishers, Planet Ocean's director and project member, Kerstin Forsberg, attended the workshop and gave us a little presentation of the NGO's purposes as well as tourism as an alternative income.

The workshop invitation was made to the three communities involved in the project; however, only fishers from two out of the three communities could make it. As the project covered all of the expenses to arrive at the venue through a private bus, as well as catering and an incentive of a basket of groceries as thanks for their time and participation, we believe the main difficulty for fishers to assist was the unpredictability of their work. Most of the fishers who were really interested in partaking in the workshop had unexpected calls in the morning to go out to the sea and, hence, couldn't make it, even if the workshop was changed to be in the afternoon hours.

For this reason, we had some remaining baskets of groceries. As we did not want to waste them on other purposes, we used these baskets to visit some fishers who had helped greatly in the organization and creation of the project, and could not attend the workshop. In these visits, we presented the basket as a present for their time and asked if we could interview them further on the matter.