

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Edna R. Sabater
<b>Project title</b>	Movement, Range, and Population Size Estimate: Aspects in Cetacean Conservation in the North-western Mindanao Sea, Philippines
<b>RSG reference</b>	53.02.10
<b>Reporting period</b>	
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5997
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:ersabater@gmail.com">ersabater@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	27 October 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
Estimate population size of the most frequently seen delphinids.			X	Estimates were calculated for three (or four) species such as <i>Peponocephala electra</i> , <i>Stenella longirostris</i> , <i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i> and <i>Grampus griseus</i> .
Determine movement patterns and habitat range.		X		Movement was inferred using identifiable dorsal fin images.
Establish species distribution and composition			X	GIS map showing distribution per species was generated.
Produce IEC materials			X	Posters, mural, and other forms of information and education materials were distributed.

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

Prolonged north-east monsoon during the month of March prevented the team from conducting boat surveys as originally planned. An extension in project duration was requested and granted by RSG in order to do additional surveys in the month of October 2011.

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

1) Estimation of population abundance of four cetacean species. The study site may be a small portion of the entire Bohol (Mindanao) Sea yet nature-based activities are concentrated in this area. The results serve as baseline information since none exists prior to this study. Knowing this is critical in determining future changes in the population structure whether caused by anthropogenic factors or otherwise.

2) The whole project catalysed the support of Concepcion Durables and Ayala Foundation Inc. through the assistance of Joel Uichico. Condura is dedicated in raising funds through the annual Condura Skyway Marathon and this year, cetacean conservation project in the north-west Bohol Sea became the beneficiary. A tri-partite Memorandum of Agreement was signed mid this year to make the collaboration official and binding.

3) Technical and scientific enhancements among field assistants. *In situ* experience allowed survey team members to learn the protocols of *Distance* sampling and for the boat crew members the proper conduct of approach and interaction with cetaceans in the wild. Improvement in photography skill was also developed among observers that made them more efficient in taking usable images necessary in the analysis of data.

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

Local boat operators who are also into tour business including whale and dolphin watching activities were utilised throughout the study period. In doing so, they were exposed into the proper conduct of cetacean interaction and correct identification of animals they encounter. Personnel from six local government units were invited to join the series of surveys although only one group participated. During the dolphin mural painting in Pamilacan Island, members of the community helped out especially the children. Three panels of plyboard are currently on display in the island. Training and workshop will be conducted after the completion of this project supported by another grant as mentioned in Item 3.2. Target participants are the tour operators, resort staff (for the stranding and rescue response), government agencies and NGOs.

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

Yes. Planning is underway and more aspect of cetacean ecology will be considered. In addition, seabird census will be added in the data collection. Preliminary information was gathered during the study period, which is also a first undertaking in the study area.

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

Publication in peer-reviewed journals is one of the many ways to disseminate the results of the study. Final report will be provided to the municipal offices involved in this project as well the provincial environmental office. Progress report was presented in one of the municipal councils as well as the Bohol Environment and Management Office. Recommendations will be given to strengthen the protection and management of these mobile resources that the local offices can adopt during policy making. During the training/workshop next year, a presentation will also be provided. In mid-October 2011, a regional symposium took place and initial information about seabirds was presented as poster. It was entitled: At sea composition of seabirds in the north-west Bohol Sea. Responses were significant mainly because of rarity of studies made on seabirds here in the Philippines.

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

The funding support was utilized throughout the project duration from June 2010 – October 2011.

**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
Travel	488.58	1154.35	-665.77	Cost of transportation increased due to added frequency in travel prior to survey proper.
Accommodation	554.06	589.47	-35.41	Additional observers volunteered hence the additional fee.

Fuel	1843.20	899.66	943.54	Budgeted amount was not exhausted because part of the cost was supplemented by another grant.
Boat Rental	1704.48	859.44	845.04	Same as fuel budget
Education materials	142.05	230.98	-88.93	Some materials during the mural painting were purchased like the plyboard due to the absence of an existing and strategically located wall in the island.
Field Supplies and Materials	1179.38	1994.65	-815.27	Field supplies increased because another grant was unable to provide for it.
Insurance	85.25	0.00	85.25	Amount was unused because insurance fee was sourced from another funding.
<b>Total</b>	<b>5996.26</b>	<b>5809.55*</b>	268.45 <sup>#</sup>	

\*The actual amount received was equivalent only to £5809.55. There was a difference of £186.71. Average forex rate of USD to Php was 44.8425. Conversion from USD to GBP was 1.4803.

<sup>#</sup>A remaining amount of £81.74 (that is, £268.45 less £186.71) is intended to be used the production of additional IEC materials for distribution to other government agencies and tour operators.

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

During the course of the study, large baleen whales were encountered. To date, the taxonomy of mysticetes inhabiting the area is still unresolved. Conducting biopsy sampling on these animals and processing samples using molecular techniques will significantly improve the status and protection of the species in general. Moreover, studies addressing the impact of increasing number of whale and dolphin watching boats must be in place sooner. Strategies on how to control and monitor trips per day should be explored. This can be achieved with close partnership with the municipalities involved.

### 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?

Yes, the logo was used in all materials, presentations, and properly acknowledged as source of funding. Additional publicity will scale-up as the results of the study are disseminated.

### 11. Any other comments?

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for providing portion of the seed amount to start up systematic surveys using accepted approach in marine mammalogy. This research would have not been possible without the perseverance and patience of all observers (Christine, Jay, Jean, Junel, Katja, Mark, Teri, & Victor), the artist AG Saño, students Eric & Candy, crew members and boat captains of M/B Kinnara, M/B Amihan and M/B St. Anne de Beaupre. Acknowledgment is also extended to all the staff of Bohol Sea Breeze who excellently took care of us. Support from the 5 municipalities, baranggay captain of Pamilacan Island, and the provincial office is very much appreciated.