

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	Barry Bendell
Project title	Community-based Seagrass Monitoring and Conservation at Phra Thong Island
RSG reference	71.08.09
Reporting period	December 2009 – December 2010
Amount of grant	£3669
Your email address	
Date of this report	2 January 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
Regular seagrass monitoring			X	Monitoring took place at regular 3-month intervals through the year in two plots.
Developing monitoring standards			X	A set of photographic standards for estimating percentage seagrass cover were developed using image analysis techniques.
Surveying and mapping seagrass meadows		X		A complete survey was done of the largest meadow in the Ban Lion area, and GPS data collected for generating a detailed map that is currently being worked on.
Educational material about seagrasses		X		Materials were collected that will be used for educational displays and printed information that are being developed.

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

No major problems were encountered.

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

- 1) Monitoring of the seagrass has now been completed over a period of 18 months and this will give us a solid basis for continuing the monitoring into the future.
- 2) Standards of percent cover have been developed which will be used for all further work, thus maintaining the quality of the data.
- 3) A map can now be developed which can be used to show regulated zones in the meadow as part of proposed management.

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

Local people are interested in the project and appreciate the idea behind the monitoring. Some of them have helped with the monitoring but it has been difficult to get them involved on a regular basis. Local people are most interested in the animal species they harvest in the meadow and would like to protect the area, particularly by setting up no-take zones. The current project is understood as a step supporting that goal.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the monitoring will continue. We are also developing proposals to establish and monitor a no-take zone which will protect some invertebrate species which are important to the local economy.

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

All of the seagrass monitoring data is freely available and copies have been sent to Seagrass Watch in Australia. The photographic monitoring standards have also been sent to them, and hopefully will become available through their website. Copies of the standards have also been given to individuals in Thailand who are involved in similar seagrass work. Pressed specimens of the seagrasses in our area can now be seen on the Seagrass Watch web site at http://www.seagrasswatch.org/herbarium_asia.html, and the Thai translation of their data sheet can be seen at <http://www.seagrasswatch.org/datasheets.html>. The translation work was done by Piyapat Nakornchai, who was partially supported by this RSG.

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

The funds were used through out the year, which was what we had anticipated.

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
The exchange rate used here to calculate actual expenses was the rate received when the money was transferred to the Thai account, 21-Jan-2010 (1£ = 53.3437 B), which was lower than the rate used for the budgeted amounts (1£ = 56.7 B), and so fixed costs expressed in pounds are correspondingly higher than anticipated.				
Project coordination and management	1102	1265	-163	(27 X 2,500B/day)
Community development coordination	847	900	-53	(12 X 4,000B/month)
Total travel expenses	300	247	53	Travel costs to the island were reduced because others often completely covered or shared the cost of the boat.
Total accommodation	143	84	59	Accommodation on the island was often covered thanks to Naucrates and MAP
Total food	210	421	-211	More days were spent on the island than anticipated and food costs were high.
Kayak related	529	105	424	A kayak was donated to the project by John Gray Sea Canoe in Phuket. Related costs included materials for building a rack, buying a paddle and

				rope.
lifejackets	26	33	-7	(3 X 580B each)
Camera (Olympus digital water proof)	0	300	-300	From the money saved on the kayak, it was decided to buy a camera. It was necessary to photograph monitoring quadrats, develop photographic standards of cover estimates, and recorded animals and dugong tracks. The camera has become an important asset that will be used in subsequent projects.
All other items (including fees and commissions on transfer of money to Thai bank)	272	70	202	Anticipated expenditures were not made for a display and educational materials, which are still being developed.
Project overhead	240	240	0	Overhead expenses were arranged with MAP, which covered office use, including internet. They also helped with the cost of accommodation and boat to the island, and extensive use was made of their GPS unit.
Total	3669	3665	4	

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

Regular seagrass monitoring needs to continue. There are now proposals to develop a no-take zone in the meadow to protect some locally harvested animal species. Documenting and monitoring the results of that initiative will be an important part of the proposals.

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?

The RSGF logo has been used on the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) web site where this project is described, <http://mangroveactionproject.org/about/regional-offices/asia-office/thailand-projects> RSGF will be thanked as a funder in any publications about the project.

11. Any other comments? Thank you for your support. This funding was critical for maintaining project activities on Phra Thong Island through the year.