

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	Jimena Castillo
Project title	Environmental Education with the Children of the Local Schools to Promote the Awareness and the Importance of the Conservation of Nature in Utila Island
RSG reference	
Reporting period	October 2009- May 2011
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	jimena.castillo.hn@gmail.com
Date of this report	13th May 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
The main objective of this project is to increase the children's awareness and encourage the protection and respect of nature, through a systematic programme of environmental education.			X	The children from the main island of Utila (824 students) have come to the Environmental Classroom - locally known as the Wishiwilly Centre- since its inauguration in February 2010. Through our environmental programme and thanks to all the achievements made possible through the Rufford grant, we are going to continue to reinforce this goal by extending our activities.
Strengthen the already existing environmental education programme.			X	Environmental classes adapted to the context of Utila, dealing with the biological diversity of the island integrating as well the cultural diversity of children and youth, are now part of the normal curricula in all Utilian schools.
Give the children an opportunity to have a more positive atmosphere in which to pursue further knowledge of environmental concerns.			X	The Wishiwilly Centre is a beautiful classroom where the children feel comfortable and have access to some ecological books, pedagogic games as well as environmental films.
Give the opportunity to children to participate in environmental activities.		X		More has to be done with this objective. We must link the theories that are given in the Wishiwilly Centre and the practice, through field trips and other hands on activities.
Obtain basic educational tools and facilities in order to develop planned activities in a structured and suitable environment.		X		More material has to be made available to the children of Utila and further promotion of the accessibility to this material has to be performed.
Convert the Environmental Education Classroom (ECC) into a laboratory.	X			It was not possible to make a laboratory because of the limit space and budget
Make an audiovisual projection room to promote an environmentally responsible culture through documentaries, films, lectures, and presentations.		X		More regular and scheduled film presentations must be available.

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

Weather conditions slowed down the construction of the Environmental Education Classroom (EEC), but still it was inaugurated in February 2009, just weeks after schools started. The EEC has been visited by all Utilian students this school year.

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

The three most important outcomes of our project are:

- To have the first furnished Environmental Education Classroom (ECC) on Utila, contributing with the national efforts of Honduras in order to achieve the human sustainable development through the environmental education of the children, youth and community in general.
- To facilitate access to technology and information, especially to those children from low income families, through free internet service, books, workshops, film presentations and environmental activities offered at the EEC.
- To have made the link with all the schools of Utila, since all the students of this island now know of the Center and that they can learn, use the books and facilities for their educational purposes.

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

All teachers of Utilian schools and many children were involved in the inauguration of the Wishiwilly Center, which is in fact the first Environmental Education Classroom of Utila. Since then, more than 100 environmental classes have been given focusing on the protection and understanding of the environment.

Children and young are also encouraged by our staff and their teachers to come to the centre to do their homework, as we have many books to consult and internet. In fact, we have received donations of more than 50 science books in 2010, in addition to the ones we have purchased. Recently, Science Fair activities (e.g. research and experiments construction) have been completed at the center.

Even if many classes, film exhibits and activities have been held in this EEC still more promotion in Utila has to be done and more regular activities have to be proposed (film transmissions, reading workshops, handcraft workshops, etc.). Currently we are working in improving this issue.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, environmental education has no end. Now that the Wishiwilly Centre has been completed, there are many opportunities to improve the EEC which is dedicated to the Utilian community, especially it's children and youth. This beautiful space is a base for several recreational environmental activities that have the limits that our imagination wants to put. We are currently planning to offer more regularly scheduled environmental films in our Environmental Education Centre as well as organise artistic and "green" activities and workshops, such as "Handcrafts Made of Waste" programme.

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

We want to further advertise our centre and its activities in the Utilian community. This can be accomplished through promotion with students and school teachers. Another way we can share our results and raise awareness about the EEC is through the local television on which we will mention our regular activities.

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

The grant was used over the course of 1 year. This was the predicted and anticipated length of the project.

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.

Rate Reference 1 £= \$1.61 1£=30.49 LPSHN

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Build an environmental education classroom	3000	3124.25	- 124.25	
- Lumber				
- Cement				
- Zinc for the roof				
- Sheet rock				
- Electricity supplies	1000	969.98	+30.02	
- Paint materials				
- Labour				
Purchase the basic equipment to furnish the EEC	1800	1719.61	+80.39	
- 1 Data show				
- 1 Laptop				
- 1 Computer				
- 1 Printer				
-Wi-Fi card				
- 20 Plastic chairs				
Purchase the materials to conduct the environmental programs	200	374.25	-174.25	
-Educational supplies (Markers, pencils, colors, ink, printing paper, scissors)				
-Environmental educational films, soft ware and games				
Total	6000	6188.09	+188.09	

The £ 188.09 exceed from the approved budget, it is added as counterpart by BAY ISLANDS FOUNDATION.

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

It is important to keep developing the environmental education with the children and youth of Utila, in order to increase their consciousness and to conform a generation of conservationists and a local

community concerned about the protection of the environment and their own sustainable development.

We will develop more strategies to help the Utilian community to reduce their social and ecological vulnerability, continuing the environmental education process and improving the opportunities of the beneficiaries to have information access practicing a more strong promotion of the EEC as a library and media centre. To complete the objectives that were partially achieved during the first stage of this project and to accomplish other goals with leadership, we will strength our capacities with the financial and technical support of donors and organisations, and we hope we can keep the support from Rufford Small Grants.

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, there is a Rufford plaque next to the entrance of the centre (cf. Photo).

11. Any other comments?

Each day, we see how environmental education is an important tool in the community for the protection of nature, thank you Rufford to give us this extremely rich experience.