

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. 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. 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	Rainer Schimpf
Project title	Ocean Messengers NGO
RSG reference	52.02.09
Reporting period	2009 / 2010
Amount of grant	£12,000
Your email address	Ocean.messengers@gmail.com ; info@expert-tours.de
Date of this report	25.05.2010

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>Education, awareness and presentation of marine environmentally friendly solutions.</p> <p>Protection of the marine environment and help to evoke social responsibility.</p> <p>Create 100 Open Water Divers.</p>	-			<p>“100 Dive project” which was successfully co-funded by Rufford. Concept here is: only if you see what is at stake can you understand its need for protection.</p> <p>Hence, we decided to involve the local previously disadvantaged community as much as possible and also give them a chance not only to learn to dive, but more to understand how important it is to keep the oceans clean and well protected for generations to come.</p> <p>These communities are unlikely to understand and appreciate the marine environment if their only knowledge is based on what they can see on the surface.</p> <p>It is only when they receive an opportunity to observe the impact of pollution underwater that their eyes are opened to reality.</p>
<p>Sponsors: Rufford Booster Grant, SSI (Scuba Schools International), Dive Expert-Tours.</p>				<p>Rufford, Expert-Tours and SSI (Scuba Schools International).</p> <p>Supported financially, logistically and with material and knowledge.</p>
<p>Aim: To promote education (training) and understanding the need to protect the sea and its creatures. Only practical experience will make “locals” and “previously disprivileged” Africans understand the enormous eco tourism potential and value within the Algoa Bay, Port Elizabeth.</p> <p>100 Open Water qualifications from June 2009 onwards and train 100 students to become fully qualified divers “Open Water One SSI by July 2010.</p>				<p>The “100 Dive project” was officially launched at the 6th International Coastal & Marine Tourism Congress (CMT 2009) hosted in Port Elizabeth in June 2009 and again presented at the annual Noordhoek Dive fest in PE 2009 as well.</p> <p>For the 100 dive qualifications two dive schools were selected: Outdoor Focus in Port Alfred and Ocean Divers in Port Elizabeth.</p> <p>During the 1-year period, the dive schools experienced various difficulties and problems predominantly to recruit enough potential disadvantaged divers.</p> <p>Firstly, we realised that many potential diver candidates could not swim, which is essential to conduct a dive course.</p> <p>Furthermore, many had no transport to get to the dive schools.</p> <p>Others started a course and baled out without further notification, sometimes without returning</p>

			<p>the educational material handed out already. One has to understand that the legacy of the former apartheid regime in South Africa still lingers on and it will take generations to change attitude and behaviour.</p> <p>Realising these problems, we changed the strategy slightly and now offer the course to predominantly disadvantaged people within universities or employees of Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) and Addo Elephant National Park (this includes the proclaimed marine reserves of Bird Island and St Croix Island in the Marine Sector of the Park). The course is also offered to the South African Police Services (SAPS) who are involved in trying to eradicate marine poaching and additionally to all people who at least stand a chance in future to be employed in either a government or industrial position which may have an influence in decision-making and policy with marine-related environmental issues.</p> <p>To promote this initiative further, Ocean Messengers hired an exhibition stand at the Johannesburg Dive Show 2009 and the project was also promoted in Submerge Magazine and Divestyle Magazine as well.</p>
<p>The estimated value of this project was ca £ 30,000.00</p>			<p>This is a really well-organised and well-thought through project which has surely got to the right people.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it seems to have caused some petty jealousy in different sectors as well. I am sorry about this because it misses the point completely.</p> <p>Educational awareness is what Ocean Messengers and its supporters are all about. We have put lots of time and effort into this project and we are presently expanding the project for another year. Coastal cities are the fastest growing cities in the world and the problems associated with marine environmental and awareness are compounded when coastal cities are also industrial cities.</p> <p>In this regard Nelson Mandela Bay metropolitan city and Algoa Bay face huge challenges.</p>

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

For the 100 dive qualifications two dive schools were selected: Outdoor Focus in Port Alfred and Ocean Divers in Port Elizabeth. During the 1-year period, the dive schools experienced various difficulties and problems predominantly to recruit enough potential disadvantaged divers. Firstly, we realised that many potential diver candidates could not swim, which is essential to conduct a dive

course. Furthermore, many had no transport to get to the dive schools. Others started a course and bailed out without further notification, sometimes without returning the educational material handed out already. One has to understand that the legacy of the former apartheid regime in South Africa still lingers on and it will take generations to change attitude and behaviour.

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

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It seems to have caused some petty jealousy in different sectors as well. I am sorry about this because it misses the point completely.

Educational awareness is what Ocean Messengers and its supporters are all about. We have put lots of time and effort into this project and we are presently expanding the project for another year. MCM (Marine and Coastal Management) are now thinking of a diving task force, for environment as well as policing reasons.

More universities are looking at this concept to attract more students to become involved and understand the sea and its threats.

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

Coastal cities are the fastest growing cities in the world and the problems associated with marine environmental and awareness are compounded when coastal cities are also industrial cities. In this regard Nelson Mandela Bay metropolitan city and Algoa Bay face huge challenges.

Divers qualified by Ocean Divers and Outdoor Focus will now see the direct impact humans have on the sea, projects as harbour developments, construction at sea such as oil platforms and refineries inside Algoa Bay, will now find more outspoken critics and qualified commentators. Our qualified divers know sometimes more what is at stake than the engineers planning and constructing a factory.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Ocean Messengers has put lots of time and effort into this project and we (Ocean Messengers in conjunction with SSI and Expert-Tours) are presently expanding the project for another year (still lacking further financial support, hence it looks like a slightly different scenario).

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

The webpage www.ocean-messengers.com is active. Furthermore, we share all important info via local press.

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

Ocean Messengers started from May 2009 and continued until May 2010. This was the planned time frame. Money was used for this 100 Dive project constantly. Dive Schools had to be paid for rent, instructors, boats, pool, fuel and personal. Import Tax and freight had to be covered for the SSI materials being shipped to South Africa, more DVDs of the film “Opaque” were produced and submitted to Film festivals worldwide in order to enhance knowledge of Ocean Messengers and its supporters (Rufford is named in the credits of the film), bookkeeping cost had to be covered and the expenses for the Boat show and the facilities rented.

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. (at time of transaction from Rufford the exchange rate from £ to South African Rand was one to 14, today it is 1 £ to 10,8 South African Rand).We calculated an average of 12.9 exchange.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
SSI Educational materials	7000	7000		Sponsored by SSI
SSI Booklets and brochures Ocean Divers and Outdoor Focus	6200	6200		Sponsored by SSI Paid to both centres (3.100 each)
DVD Opaque and fees for submitting to Film festivals (sponsors in credits)	3900	3900		More Overseas acknowledge through the film festivals, and international prices made focus on this project worthwhile (the actual production cost were covered by me personally) Changes in transport and

				Tax values.
Import and Transport duties for SSI Materials (extras needed)	3000	3000		Tax /Financial reports.
Bookkeeping, Office, Telephone, Paper, extra fuel etc.	1900	1900		Partial Stand, Transport, Hotel, Brochures and Poster.
JHB Boot Show	2300	2300		
Training Room (VC, B&B)	2300	2300		More sessions as intended were necessary to conduct training for the Instructors. More time was used to find the right strategy to select the proper candidates. (as explained earlier)
TOTAL	£ 33600	£ 33600		

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

Ocean Messengers will be present on Dive Shows in 2010, distributing films and brochures and the message of the “200 dive project 2010 till 2011”. It is hoped to find furthermore a strong partner who can and will support our mission financially. Presently, SSI has committed to 200 Open Water Diver Kits. Expert-Tours will support with boats and skippers and fuel. Dive Schools all over the country will participate in this upcoming season!

We need urgently more help than ever.

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, on the website as a hyperlink and on all DVD productions.

11. Any other comments?

I truly and honestly want to thank Rufford for the 3-year support Ocean Messengers has had. I am sure had Josh not attended the Congress in Port Elizabeth, Ocean Messengers would have not happened this way and the environment would have had suffered by far more. People in our City now became aware, not only in terms of something is wrong, but now more than ever they feel it's not too late and they can change something to the good.

The Alcan Aluminium Smelter was the main reason Ocean Messengers was founded. This planned factory is history, maybe also because Ocean Messengers created awareness of what is at stake! Thanks to Rufford.

Now we have a new threat: an oil refinery. Petro SA wants to build in Algoa Bay. Our potential world heritage site is at stake! We have a long way to go. Looking at the Caribbean presently, oil is a highly discussed environmental threat, and everybody knows this know. We need to use this public consciousness to our advantage! Right now, right here in Algoa Bay!!!