

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	Alastair Baylis
Project title	Rediscovering Falklands Ocean Sentinels
RSG reference	11903-1
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£3,000
Your email address	al_baylis@yahoo.com.au
Date of this report	19/09/2014

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
Southern sea lion census			X	

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

No unforeseen difficulties. We budget for additional time to account for weather delays.

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

- (1) The census enabled us to determine the current conservation status and population trend of southern sea lions breeding at the Falkland Islands.
- (2) The census provided an opportunity to collate historical records relating to the southern sea lion harvest at the Falkland Islands. This information will be used to assess whether commercial sealing caused the decline of sea lions between 1930 and 1960.
- (3) The census enabled the location and size of sea lion breeding colonies to be accurately reported (i.e., GPS locations). This data has already been used by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute for marine spatial planning.

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

The data has been made freely available to the Falkland Islands Government and is managed by local conservation organisations. Specifically, our data is available via the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute. We employed a local charter boat operator.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We aim to better understand what caused the sea lion population to decline (between 1930 and 1960) and the impediments to population recovery. This information will improve the efficiency of contemporary conservation measures and projections of population change.

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

- (1) I have submitted a report to the Falkland Islands Government.

- (2) I am an advocate of data sharing! The census data is available in a data repository. In this instance, the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (<http://www.south-atlantic-research.org/>).
- (3) I will present the results at an international conference (as a poster).
- (4) A manuscript has been submitted for publication in an international peer reviewed journal.

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

The project had well defined start and end dates, including reporting, and a viable exit strategy that identified who would manage the data to ensure the project had a lasting impact. The project was completed on time, and the data is available via the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute.

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
Boat Charter	8,700	8,000		21 days boat charter
TOTAL	8,700	8,000		

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

Understand the cause of the population decline (1930-1960) and impediments to population recovery to improve the efficiency of contemporary conservation efforts. This approach will include historical ecology, biologging, and sea lion population genetics.

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, RSGF received publicity on several Deakin University media releases. RSG was also acknowledged in a short news piece in the local newspaper, a report to the Falkland Islands Government and acknowledged in the manuscript that has been submitted for publication in an international peer reviewed journal.