

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	Beate Heycke
Project title	Peninsula Osa, Carate Beach: Sea Turtle Conservation Program
RSG reference	13341-1
Reporting period	July 2014-February 2015
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	beate@planetconservation.com
Date of this report	10/08/2015

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
To conserve the sea turtle populations nesting on Carate, Rio Oro and La Leona beaches.			X	During our contribution our team has supported the sea turtle conservation project and collected data during multiple morning and night walks. Taking care of the nursery during different shifts, night patrols were performed and accompanied by local collaborators. Participants from the sea turtle conservation program managed by Planet Conservation supported more than 5500 volunteer hours during the reported period.
To generate scientific data that can be used for the preservation of sea turtles.		X		Data was collected according to training held by the biologist in charge. All data generated by our staff or volunteers were given to the biologist in charge.
To increase the survival rate of sea turtles by protecting nests in situ as well as the relocation of nests to other parts of the beach and possibly to a hatchery where eggs can be safeguarded during the gestation period.		X		Our team was able to support this work by help with the construction of the hatchery, by walking the beaches during night and morning patrol taking care of the nests and working hours at the hatchery. Furthermore our team worked in the elaboration of camouflage meshes to protect nests from predators like dogs, wild cats, etc. Elaboration and maintenance of signs to keep the beach clean and protect Sea Turtles. Organization and participation of numerous liberation activities of hatchlings
To establish a tagging system of nesting females to contribute to regional efforts on the monitoring of sea turtle populations, as well as a possible collection of tissue samples of the green	X			The leading biologist of the project cooperation was against the tagging so it was decided not to work with tags on turtles in this project for now.

To assess poaching activity and other threats to the survival of sea turtles.		x	Our team supported activities like sea Turtle festivals, where large trash collection activities along the nesting beaches were supported in collaboration with the community and other entities, like the police, local hotel owners, etc. Poachers and gold miners of the area had the chance to learn about the importance of protecting Sea Turtles and some of them got actually involved in protection activities (night patrol, trash collection, festival activities) rather than poaching the eggs. Our team elaborated meshes to protect nests from dogs and other animals.
To increase international participation in the preservation of sea turtles.		x	We offered the opportunity to participate in night patrols and volunteer opportunities. Therefore we rented a house and could offer accommodation for up to 10 volunteers at a time. For visibility of the program our team elaborated signs for more consciousness regarding sea turtle conservation in the area. We also installed a community board with information about the program.
To establish a well-organized and sustainable sea turtle monitoring program in the long-term that contributes to the recovery of sea turtles populations.		x	Our assistance has represented a significant value on the part of human and economic resource for the support of this sea turtle conservation project. Training and payment of local staff to help with monitoring, hatchery and patrols. A document was drafted with technical recommendations for ongoing project work at the sea turtle

To improve collaboration and information exchange with sea turtle conservation networks in Costa Rica as well as Costa Rican government		x		<p>Our team was working constantly in information exchange with local entities, other organizations of the area (Osa Conservation, COTORCO) as well as collaboration with MINAE in all activities.</p> <p>The proper segregation and disposal of solid waste was managed with the support of MINAE and local hotels, which</p>
To improve collaboration with the community			x	<p>Our goal was to involve local community in the entire project activities. So we purchased locally fresh vegetables, fruits and fish whenever available. Furthermore we hired local staff for project work as well as cleaning of facilities. Our Volunteers booked several locally offered tours to the waterfall, horseback riding, cheese making and Corcovado nature hikes with local guides.</p> <p>We organized workshops to provide ideas and techniques for additional income opportunities: workshop elaboration of coconut soap, English lessons, guidance</p>
To establish a youth group working in environmental education			x	<p>Every Saturday our team invited the children and youth of the village to work in environmental education topics. Activities involving excursion, artistic workshops, beach cleaning and recycling activities as well as teaching English. The group named itself "Stars of the Jungle" (estrellitas de la selva)</p>

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

Due to the particular characteristics of the group of existing socio-cultural issues in the area (education deficit, poverty, insecurity) we had the experience of being robbed three times. Belongings were taken from the volunteers, homeowners and property of the organization, including hammocks, shoes, clothing, digital camera, etc.

There were some communication problems due to cultural diversity but with our project team we tried to minimize negative impacts and maximize the positive exchange, strengthening of preventive measures to continue our work to support a sustainability program in the area.

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

The installation of the youth group has been a very positive outcome of this project as their interest and continuous support of activities will determine the future of the conservation efforts on these beaches.

The integration of the community has been a very important outcome as well as the community initially did not feel a strong involvement when we started to work in Carate. In our program we did involve the community with paid work, workshops and activities they enjoyed (cultural events, crafts workshops and capacitation).

Last but not least our volunteer program and extra funding from Rufford were a great support of the Sea Turtle Conservation program in Carate for the season of 2014 and beginning of 2015 as this program cannot be successful without patrolling the beaches, taking continuously data, taking care of the hatchery as well as all the accompanying activities (as described above). We were able to pay the biologist of the program as well as a local assistant for 3 months.

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

As described above the integration of the community has been a very important. We believe they did benefitted from the project by direct paid work opportunity (Cleaning staff, hatchery assistant), workshops, English tutoring for locals with volunteers, soap elaboration workshop with professionals and extra activities they enjoyed as we were able to support with cultural elements (such as story tellers and music groups) that accompanied the events such as the Sea Turtle Festival or beach cleaning days. The children of the community got involved in the conservation work and were able to travel (most of them for first time in their life) to another city (former volunteers did fundraising, too to bring supplies, books and co-financed this journey). The kids visited us and we did games and paintings as well as took them to the cinema. We believe that the educational work with the youth is so very important to gain a sustainable implementation of conservation efforts in the area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes we do. We would like to continue working in the area especially to continue working with the youth group as well the conservation efforts although we think it might be even more important to focus our efforts in order to install a conservation program in Playa Hermosa/Uvita where currently no other permanent efforts take place and poaching was reported to MINAET. We would like to apply for a follow up grant with Rufford in order to be able to take the good results and implement this sea turtle conservation program and to build an important station in the existing conservation network of Central America.

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

A document was drafted with technical recommendations for ongoing project work at the sea turtle conservation program in Carate. As well a report with outcomes and best practices has been elaborated by the project staff. The results of our work help to recruit more volunteers for the program and set up new programs in other areas.

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

The RSG was used from July 2014 to January 2015. Our initial plan was to extend the project the entire year but because of higher prices in accommodation as well as the extremely difficult logistics for the program due to its remote location brought us to the decision to leave at the end of the main season in February and leave remaining work to the local entities. We are still open to collaborate with volunteers that apply for our programs. Now we are planning to open up another station further up north close to Uvita Beach in order to implement the successful elements for a sustainable sea turtle conservation program with integration of the community as well as national and international volunteers and professionals.

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
9 Galvanized Square wire Mesh (15m rolls)	1104	950	-154	
5 Nails (kgs)	46	46	0	
200 Hooks	25	25	0	
4 Machetes	15	40	+25	\$10 each
2 Buckets	13	13	0	
9 month administrative costs	2750	4200	+1450	7months support for biologist and 3 months hatchery assistant
9 month travel Expenses	450	420	-30	Due to early termination of program
Cultural expenses for turtle event		350	+350	not in budget
TOTAL	5963	6044	81	

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

We think important next steps would be to continue to work with the youth groups, the support of a continuous data collection as well as publication of the scientific data which has not been done yet. Furthermore we think it is important to take best practices to other areas that do not have an existing conservation program yet in order to protect other important beaches for nesting activities as well.

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?

We included the RSGF logo in our report. Other than that we did not publish any information.

11. Any other comments?

We hope that you will be able to fund ongoing conservation efforts. Thank you very much for your trust and choice to support the Sea Turtle Conservation program in Carate. Enclosed some pictures from the project work.



Clown at Sea Turtle Conservation Festival

Storyteller Mykol at Sea Turtle Conservation Festival





Activities with youth of the area

Sign elaboration and maintenance "More turtles – less garbage"



Workshop of Coconut Soap elaboration Volunteer working with youth group





Volunteers get painted at Sea Turtle Conservation Festival 2014

Volunteer working with youth group



Beach Cleaning activity with Planet Conservation, local organizations, MINAE and Police. Hatchery Carate beach

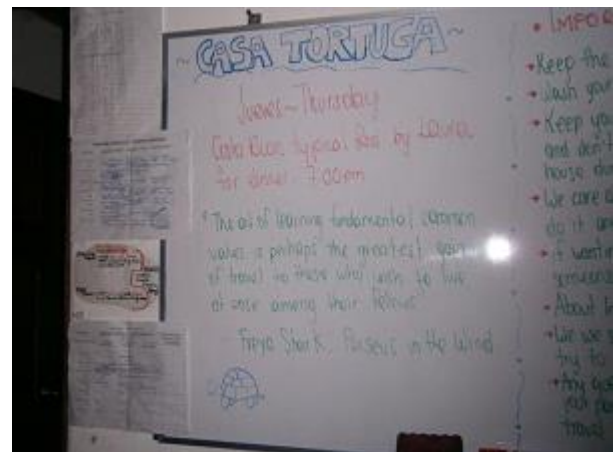


Elaboration of mashes to protect nests at the beach.



s locate meshes over nests to protect from animal predators

Work schedule – task board



Every Saturday volunteers were working with the environmental youth group "Estrellitas de la selva" "Stars of the Jungle"