

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole**

**Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Maddalena Fumagalli
<b>Project title</b>	Community effort to protect the “Huzzah porpoise” in Egypt
<b>RSG reference</b>	14558-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 year
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5006
<b>Your email address</b>	fumma785@student.otago.ac.nz
<b>Date of this report</b>	June 16, 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
Scientific information advanced			x	My PhD focuses on the ecological and social features of the dolphin tourism in Egypt. Currently, a chapter on species ecology and abundance and a chapter on socio-economic aspects and management opportunity have been drafted. The thesis will be handed in by November 2015. Submissions to relevant peer-reviewed journals will follow. Results were presented at the International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas in Adelaide, November 2014. An abstract has been submitted to the conference of the Society for Marine Mammology (December 2015) and is currently being reviewed.
Local researchers empowered			x	The fieldwork involved several local and international residents; some of them working in marine-based tourism, others in private agencies and NGOs, others pursuing academic degrees. Collaboration has been established with one of the field assistants for the collection of data in a house reef. Another dive centre keeps collecting information on cetacean presence in its bay. A third operator has unfortunately closed before a solid collaboration could be established. A manual for data collection is been prepared with other colleagues to integrate several existing marine mega fauna monitoring programmes in a comprehensive one.
Conservation seed grown		x		One community event has taken place in El Quseir in collaboration with the NGO Roaya. Approximately 30 children have been involved in a 5-day camp for the design and realisation of "Life of Semola", a 30 minute long play. During upcoming summer vacations, the NGOs plan to organise one more performance in El Quseir and to work with local teachers in Marsa Alam to produce the

				<p>play there.</p> <p>In June 2014 we collaborated with HEPCA on the FEEL project and took the children onboard the research vessel in Samadai. Also, the Kuwaiti children from the “Journey of Hope” crew visited Samadai with the research team.</p>
Active attitudes promoted		x		<p>HEPCA has successfully carried out the Samadai certification workshops with the operators in Marsa Alam. Following suggestions and feedbacks, the approach is changing to better suit the participants.</p> <p>I have organised seven meetings with those operators I consider good representatives of the various realities active in Samadai and Satayah to investigate attitudes and beliefs, as well as suggestions for management of operations in these sites.</p> <p>During the time spent in Egypt the team was invited to deliver short presentations and talks about the research in a few dive centres.</p> <p>In collaboration with Liquid jungle Media and other partners, we have launched the “RSDP Video Blogs” online. This has had good responses. An additional and more formal video titled “Huzzah!” is still in editing phases. The distribution, implementation and feedback phase is happening in collaboration with HEPCA and will most probably take place in 3-5 months time.</p> <p>A booklet on Satayah dolphins is waiting for behavioural and ecological information to be finalised and will be made available to the public on HEPCA website by December 2015.</p>

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

We have had unanticipated technical inconveniences with two of the vessels rented for fieldwork. These forced us to rent other, more expensive, platforms and, despite successful extra fund raising, we had to curtail Samadai fieldwork of 4 days.

As we were working with local partners that are very active on ground, some unforeseen difficulties were related to unexpected and sudden events that affected people and organisations availability. Efforts were made to maximise the opportunities for collaboration with new partners (for instance the French-Egyptian NGO Bokra Sawa that specialises on education).

Also, the change in dynamics and relationships between partners has affected the original plans and we had to intervene with small organisational, logistical and conceptual adjustments to the activities.

As already learnt in the first project, it is really hard to stick to a plan in such a fast-changing and variable situation, but this can also create valuable opportunities. New, more adequate and suitable ideas constantly emerged and enhanced the quality and originality of the project. This was most often due to the involvement of new people and partner agencies. Maintaining flexible schedules and open attitudes has been very important.

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

1 - As a researcher, I think one of the most important outcomes is scientific advancement. The spinner dolphin is currently the best known species in the region: no other comparable medium and long-term studies exist in the Red Sea that have investigated and keep monitoring a cetacean population. On a global scale, we have information that is bringing the case up to standards with most renowned studies from Hawai'i, where researchers are leading the field.

2 - The fieldwork has been the occasion to strengthen the idea that the team working on the spinner dolphins is really interested in the Egyptian case study, caring for the wellbeing of the animals with an open attitude to dialogue and collaborations with the tourism industry. The continuous and long-term presence of researchers on site has consolidated them as component of the systems and not as simple guests. This is very important to me, as, according to my research, the presence of trusted bridging figures between the management agencies and the stakeholders are the key of successful conservation intervention. Also, personal relationships based on mutual respect between Satayah stakeholders are important and I feel that, in collaboration with local partners, we have initiated a positive dialogue between the parties.

3 – The kids' camp in El Quseir has brought together various realities (NGOs, schools, teachers, scientists, artists) in a marvellous collaborative environment. This successful experience has shown us that, with the right collaborators, all segments of the community can be reached and a great (yet demanding and complicated) project, such as a theatre play, can be pushed forward in a short time. The 7-13 years old children that delivered the play really engaged and learned about the marine life while doing art, music and acting in a comprehensive experience that they have all enjoyed. Furthermore, all participants and organisers have acquired new skills and capacities. The experience was very positive and generated the 'know-how' that ensures it will be successfully replicated.

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

Various segments of the local community have been directly involved in the realisation and fruition of the activities much more in this project than in the previous. HEPCA and Roaya have dealt with most of the awareness and educational components, while I took care of the media and communication. The Samadai community of users is getting stronger every year, more solid and informed, thus ensuring sustainable use of the resource even in a time in which the country faces great social and economic challenges. The Satayah community is forming and, hopefully, we will be able to keep acting as a linking agent for the different voices. Thanks to the information shared in both formal and informal contexts, operators and guests are more aware of their responsibilities and

rights, and thus more involved in the conservation and management debate. In terms of practices, we have observed an increased level of tourism on site, but also some better practices being adopted by some operators. The “Red Sea Dolphin Project” online resources are also increasing visibility on the international and national level. Guides and operators report their encounters, cetacean sightings or witnessed violations to us, indicating that we (and HEPCA) are felt as a safe reliable institution. This is also a sign that the community is more aware and interested in marine ecosystems and their conservation.

## **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

It is my intention to recommend and make sure that Samadai and Satayah will be targeted with long-term programmes to monitor both the health of the dolphin populations (abundance, site fidelity, population parameters) and the success of conservation strategies applied. Also, we have all realised that education is crucial. A project for a ‘travelling educational unit’ is being crowd-funded through Boomerang for Earth Conservation. Roaya and HEPCA are well established organisations that have already proven interest and availability in supporting and coordinating educational programmes, therefore can be valuable partners.

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

Most results have been shared and will be shared as written contribution to specialist and/or generalist journals and online platform. Updates were shared on the RSDP blog and Facebook page. Most of them featured also on HEPCA online resources.

When finalised, a summary of results and recommendation for Satayah management will be circulated among the operators I have interviewed, HEPCA and the relevant governmental agencies for comments and improvements.

Scientific results will feature in my Doctoral thesis and related publications.

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

Most activities were carried out as planned and funds used accordingly. For some of the outcomes we are exceeding the timeframe anticipated, but the activities are in progress. The funds still pending are being kept in a dedicated account and are being transferred to partners as the activities proceed.

## **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
Fieldwork Samadai	0	200	- 200	Additional funds were required to complete the Samadai survey. Some were taken from unspent funds originally allocated to internships and meetings.
Fieldwork	2500	2500	0	Completed.

Satayah				
Internship	261	120	141	One student withdrew only a day before the survey. Funds to support him were used to contribute to assistants travel expenses. The remaining funds were used to cover 1-day boat rental in Samadai.
Dolphin Day	435	255	180	The rest is available to Roaya to purchase material for the second performance.
Video briefing	610	610	0	Liquid Jungle video-operator has travelled to the site and collected the images needed for the video briefing 'Huzza!'. The video is currently being edited with the collaboration of another video company. Video blogs were released online during the summer 2014.
Hard Drive	165	165	0	Purchased.
Awareness and displays	905	0	905	The "Life of Semola" play has generated artwork that will be incorporated in the video, booklet and related materials. Design, printing and distribution is done in collaboration with HEPCA.
Meetings	130	70	60	Seven meeting with operators in Marsa Alam and Hamata were carried out. Moreover, I travelled to Cairo to meet governmental representatives. The remaining funds were used to cover 1-day boat rental in Samadai.
<b>TOTAL</b>	5006	<b>3920</b>	1086	

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

In my opinion, education is emerging as a fundamental activity to be pursued.

Camps for children, small meetings with managers of dive centres, presentation and talks to guides and guests: in any formats, these direct personal and informal ways of educating the community are the most important contribution to conservation. They create knowledge, awareness and engagement.

Spot initiatives deliver amazing results, but are unfortunately limited to short-term and short-range effects. I think a new ambitious project should include a full education programme that addresses all social segments of the local community with a consistent, long-term, coherent and efficient plan of activities, resource use and collaborations. Again, science should be the main provider of the information shared and the social sciences should also be involved. I believe that there is urgent need to intervene and mitigate impacts and I believe this can be done with targeted education and awareness programmes.

**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 was acknowledged in all activities, reports, presentations and contributions. The logo features on the Samadai booklet and information sheets produced within the first project and still in use. In the research sites, members of the team wear t-shirts carrying RSG logo (again, produced within the first project).

**11. Any other comments?**

There is a great potential for successful small and regional scale activities in Egypt and I am glad we have found the partners that, despite the always-changing political, social, economic atmospheres, can ensure solid presence on ground and deliver positive results.

I would like to thank everybody at RSGF for supporting this project, in particular those who reviewed my initial proposal. Their comments and questions were of great help.