

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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| Grant Recipient Details |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Your name               | Emma Gibbons   |
| Project title           | ReefDoctor Fano (marine turtle) project                          |
| RSG reference           | 14868-B  |
| Reporting period        | 2014 - 2015  |
| Amount of grant         | £12,000  |
| Your email address      | <a href="mailto:gibbons.e.l@gmail.com">gibbons.e.l@gmail.com</a> |
| Date of this report     | 30th June 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   |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Deliver centralised access to information and diagnostic biological monitoring, essential in the management of marine resources.   |              |                    | Yes            | Continuous data collection presented in Annex 1.1 provides an insight into the effectiveness of the marine turtle protection program   |
| Improve capacity building for the conservation practices of the indigenous peoples and local community marine turtle management association FI.MPA.MI.FA.                                  |              |                    | Yes            | The turtle fishermen's association, FI.MPA.MI.FA., has received continual training on "best practices" in implementing local laws created to manage the turtle fishery throughout the 13 villages of the BRB                         |
| Provide support and build a network linking the marine turtle protection teams based in the 13 communities of the Bay of Ranobe (BRB).   |              |                    | Yes            | Providing collection points within the communities for fishers to bring turtles protected by the dina has forged a network of 'helpers' throughout the 13 villages of the BRB  |
| Advocate the local indigenous law (Dina) protecting juvenile marine turtles under 70 cm with the full participation of communities to reduce the exploitation of marine turtles in the BRB |              |                    | Yes            | Annex 1.2 shows the effectiveness of the marine turtle tagging programme   |
| Provide support and infrastructure for the community based tagging project in collaboration with international marine turtle observatory and research centre Kalona.                       |              |                    | Yes            | Kelonia marine turtle observatory in Reunion have contributed materials to the RD tagging programme – in turn RD has submitted tagging information, contributing towards the assessment of marine turtle hunting in the Indian Ocean |
| Improve education and awareness regarding the sustainable  |              |                    | Yes            | Improving awareness has resulted in an agreement in Ifaty to stop the sale of turtle meat Annex 1.3  |

|  |  |     |  |   |
|--|--|-----|--|---|
| exploitation of marine turtles in the region                                   |  |     |  |   |
| Develop Reef Doctor's local, national, and international marine turtle network |  | Yes |  | A regional turtle meeting was held in December 2014, with all the important stakeholders present from Madagascar government, NGO's and fisher associations; ReefDoctor did not "host" the meeting but participated and provided important information towards the National protection of marine turtles |
| Provide a platform for marine turtle conservation in Madagascar                |  | Yes |  |   |

| Additional Objective   | Not achieved | Partially achieved | Fully achieved | Comments  |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Minimum of 30% decline in turtle mortality associated with the targeted fishery by 2015, (baseline average of 655 marine turtles captured in the fishery per year – Fano project marine turtle fishery data 2012 and 2013)   |              |                    | Yes            | 31.5% decline in the turtle fishery by 2015. Graphs displayed in Annex 1.1: number of turtles caught by year and by month, the total number of turtles caught by year (calendar year) per village and combined, and the total number of turtles caught per year, per village. |
| 30% of juvenile turtles landed in the fishery under 70cm Curve Carapace Length (CCL) protected by the indigenous law or Dina' will be tagged, and released by the community association FI.MPA. MI.FA by 2015 (baseline average of 126 turtles per year recorded with a CCL under 70cm data from – Fano project marine |              |                    | Yes            | 98% of juvenile turtles captured in the fishery are tagged and released exceeding our planned estimates. Graphs in Annex 1.1 and 1.2 demonstrate the number of turtles tagged and released (n=243) per village.   |
| 90% of FI.PMA.MI.FA members from the 13 communities of the BRB will participate in a marine resource management workshop   |              |                    | Yes            | 100% of FI.PMA.MI.FA members from the 13 communities of the BRB participate in a marine resource management workshop – resulting in the Ifaty declaration (Annex 1.3)   |

|  |  |  |     |  |
|--|--|--|-----|--|
| 90-100% of NGOs and community marine organisations and associations of the 'Récif Complex de Toliara stretching from Androka to Belo-sur-Mer (of which the BRB is a sub-section) will be surveyed regarding the exploitation of marine turtles in the mission to develop a marine turtle conservation platform |  |  | Yes | A regional turtle meeting was held in December 2014, with all the important stakeholders present from Madagascar government, NGOs and fisher associations. Information regarding each party's involvement in turtle protection was recorded along with objectives for future work in this field. |
|--|--|--|-----|--|

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

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world, with 92% of the population living on less than \$2 per day. In the semi-arid, drought prone region of Toliara, southwest Madagascar, and poverty is even more severe, as harsh living conditions drive more and more people towards the coast to eke out an existence from an already over exploited coastline. Increasing levels of poverty in the BRB are mainly attributed to a) decreasing catches in the fishery and a lack of alternative income sources, and b) country-wide economic instability, poor infrastructure, and non-existent fisheries surveillance and management.

*ReefDoctor has received funding from the Darwin Initiative to implement village based aquaculture projects (sea cucumber and algae farms) to provide sustainable alternative livelihood choices.*

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

ReefDoctor has had many successes over the 2014/2015---project year, the most important outcomes are

1. 31.5% reduction in the marine turtle fishery over the project year 2014/2015 (Annex 1.1). ReefDoctor achieved the project objective of 30% decline in the turtle fishery.
2. 98% of juveniles captured in the fishery tagged and released (n=243). Previous efforts to implement the tagging and release program resulted in only six juvenile turtles tagged and released over a 10-month period. ReefDoctor exceeded the project objectives '30% of juvenile turtles landed in the fishery under 70cm Curve Carapace Length (CCL) protected by the indigenous law or 'Dina' will be tagged and released by the community association FI.MPA.MI.FA by 2015'
3. Bay of Ranobe, Ifaty agreement to stop the sale of turtle meat: in brief, the "Ifaty Declaration" effectively bans all sales of turtle meat, in stating:

That the people of Ifaty recognise the importance of the previous Dina, the minimum size

restriction, and would like to go even further by prohibiting the intentional killing of any turtles of any size. However, if a turtle is found dead, it may be consumed by the person that found it but may not be sold. (Annex 1.3)

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

ReefDoctor believes sustainable conservation strategies must be community led in areas where surveillance and fisheries management is non-existent. Therefore, at every stage of this project ReefDoctor engage the communities of the BRB integrating conservation and turtle protection into everyday life.

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

Yes, we currently receive funding from the Darwin Initiative to implement alternative (aquaculture) projects for the local fishing communities of the BRB. The Darwin funding will provide poverty relief through the provision of sustainable alternative activities, reducing the competition for resources. One of the main objectives is to provide turtle hunters with an alternative to turtle hunting, providing the people who depend on the ocean for survival the resources and tools to conserve this unique ecosystem.

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

ReefDoctor submit all turtle tagging data to Kelonia marine turtle observatory, this information is used to assess turtle population in the Western Indian Ocean. Information on the marine turtle fishery is submitted to the Minister of Fisheries for southwest Madagascar and shared with NGOs and interested parties.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

1 year (12 months)

**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  |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Project manager                                 | 1800            | 1800          | 0          |   |
| Local community supervisor and translator       | 1200            | 1200          | 0          |   |
| Local community data collectors                 | 1080            | 1080          | 0          |   |
| Operating and administration                    | 1000            | 1000          | 0          |   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual marine turtle conference | 1200            | 1200          | 0          | The conference was split to village based meetings to reach more people as the national |

|  |             |             |          |   |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------|---|
|  |             |             |          | conference in which RD participated was held and sponsored by WWF   |
| IH.SM University student internship  | 708         | 708         | 0        | We also supported students from the main university in Antananarivo to conduct village assessments of turtle nets in Fitsitiky (report in progress) |
| Workshops and local training for FI.MPA.MI.FA                                      | 650         | 650         | 0        |   |
| Workshops and local training for FI.MPA.MI.FA Miaro Fano (turtle protection teams) | 350         | 350         | 0        |   |
| Support for dissemination of information for FI.MPA.MI.FA                          | 372         | 372         | 0        |   |
| International, national, and local network development                             | 400         | 400         | 0        |   |
| Travel and subsistence   | 960         | 960         | 0        |   |
| Field expenditures   | 500         | 500         | 0        |   |
| T-shirts, printing etc.  | 800         | 800         | 0        |   |
| Pilot project Itampolo   | 980         | 980         | 0        |   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1200</b> | <b>1200</b> | <b>0</b> |   |

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

ReefDoctor has been working with the communities of the BRB since 2002 and is dedicated to the conservation of the marine environment and the development of the communities who rely on this ecosystem to survive. Continued support of community initiatives is vital to ensure sustainability of the project in the pursuit of marine turtle's protection in the area.

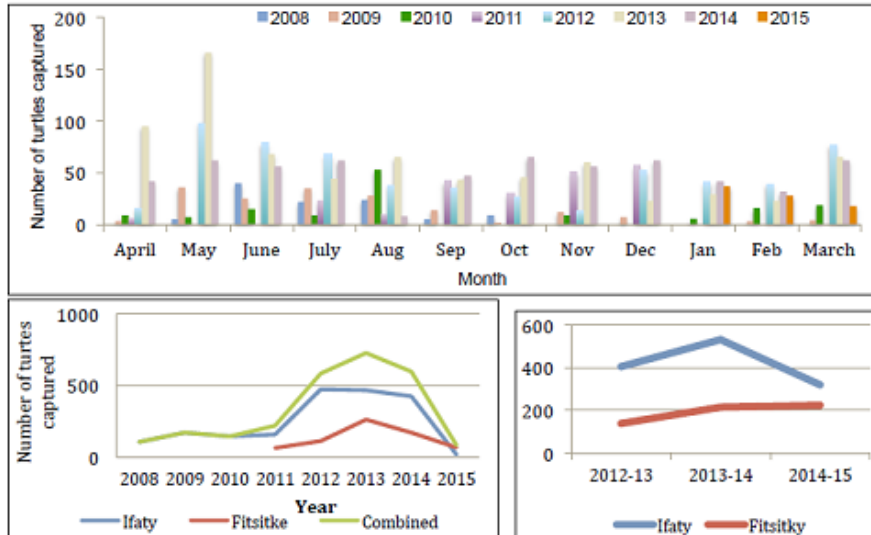
#### 10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, in all publications and media/publicity generated by the project locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Rufford will be credited in all publications regarding the data collected during the project phase.

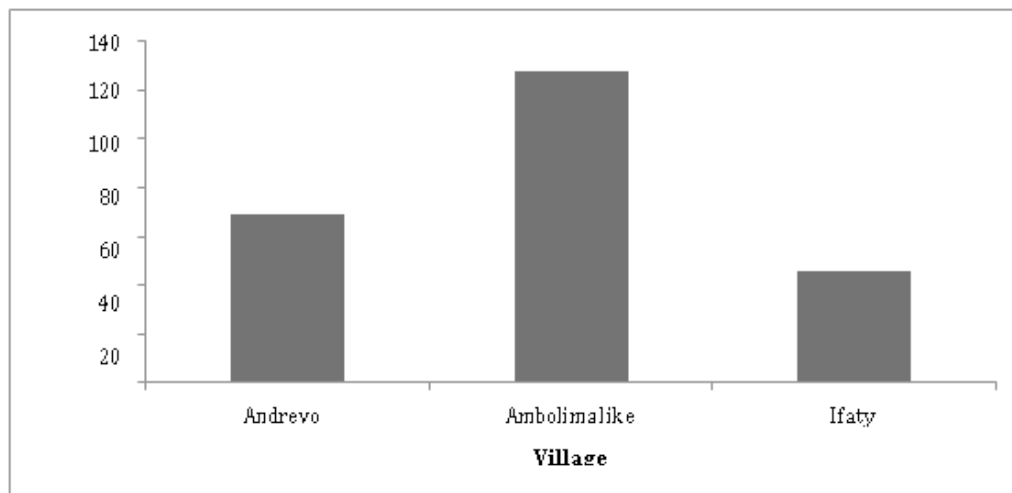
#### 11. Any other comments?

ReefDoctor Fano project would like to thank the Rufford team for their continued support and assistance

## Annex 1



**Annex 1.1** Turtle fishery data: number of turtles caught by year and by month (top-row), the total number of turtles caught by year (calendar-year) per village and combined (bottom-left), and the total number of turtles caught per year, per village (bottom-right).



**Annex 1.2** Numbers of turtles tagged and released per village since the start of the 2014 project year



Titiana an-tsontra ny fivoriana anio faha: 02 Febroary 2015  
Toerana fivoriana: Ifaty  
Atan-pivoriana:

Ny ONG Reef Doctor dia namory ny fokolonina eto Ifaty, mahakasika ny fomba atao mba hikajana sy hiarovana ny Fano noho izany tapaka tantariny fivoriana ny ireo fepetra manaraka ireo:

- Thy azy atao ny mitaha sy mitambara azy hamaizotra fano velonany, raha an'ny ny lalana velona afa n'ny katigany
- Ny fano hita maty baka an-dranka dia azy zavaovao azy, hakanana fa ity azy afa n'ny na miasana na miasakaka
- Tsy isany fano maitika, ireo fepetra ireo dia hakan'ny fano isany azy mitambara azy amin'ny "Bak de Rando"

Natso ity tantarany ity mba hamaizotra izany zavatra tapaka tantariny fivoriana any manarany ny azy hampiasana amin'izany rehetra hitana azy

Manao sona eto amin'ny ireo olona nanatrika ny fivoriana:

Ny any amin'ny Reef Doctor  
Ny any ao amin'ny Service de Pêche

Ny solontaniny ministeran'ny tantolo tanàna (Tolara)  
Ny fihom-pokotany eto Ifaty

Ny solontaniny olo-be eto Ifaty

REEF OLONA TONOA NANATRIKA NY FIVORIANA  
Toerana: Ifaty  
Antan-pivoriana: Ny fomba hita mba hamaizotra fano  
Daty fivoriana: 02 Febroary 2015

| Lah | Anarana            | Fokotany | Sona |
|-----|--------------------|----------|------|
| 01  | VANY               | IFATY    | And  |
| 02  | ALFA-2ix           | IFATY    | And  |
| 03  | FREDERIC           | IFATY    | And  |
| 04  | JOSOA              | IFATY    | And  |
| 05  | CHRISTIAN CALVIN   | IFATY    | And  |
| 06  | Emile              | IFATY    | And  |
| 07  | FELIX              | IFATY    | And  |
| 08  | JEAN BOSCO         | IFATY    | And  |
| 09  | Kaondra            | IFATY    | And  |
| 10  | Bonno koga Soudain | IFATY    | And  |
| 11  | Godwin             | IFATY    | And  |
| 12  | Rafaely J.P        | IFATY    | And  |
| 13  | Michel R.B         | IFATY    | And  |
| 14  | Benoit             | IFATY    | And  |
| 15  | JOHANORE           | IFATY    | And  |
| 16  | Jean de col        | IFATY    | And  |
| 17  | Paul-Dimé          | IFATY    | And  |
| 18  | Emmanuel           | IFATY    | And  |
| 19  | Benoit Jean Louis  | IFATY    | And  |
| 20  | André              | IFATY    | And  |

REEF OLONA TONOA NANATRIKA NY FIVORIANA  
Toerana: Ifaty  
Antan-pivoriana: Ny fomba hita mba hamaizotra fano  
Daty fivoriana: 02 Febroary 2015

| Lah | Anarana              | Fokotany | Sona |
|-----|----------------------|----------|------|
| 21  | Samiraty Dutez       | IFATY    | And  |
| 22  | Bu                   | IFATY    | And  |
| 23  | Antony               | IFATY    | And  |
| 24  | Andriana             | IFATY    | And  |
| 25  | Eva                  | IFATY    | And  |
| 26  | CHARVIN              | IFATY    | And  |
| 27  | SERET                | IFATY    | And  |
| 28  | Jeanne               | IFATY    | And  |
| 29  | Rafaela              | IFATY    | And  |
| 30  | Andriana             | IFATY    | And  |
| 31  | Henri                | IFATY    | And  |
| 32  | Andriana             | IFATY    | And  |
| 33  | François Jean Mouton | IFATY    | And  |
| 34  | François             | IFATY    | And  |
| 35  | Engel P              | IFATY    | And  |
| 36  | Kahiny               | IFATY    | And  |
| 37  | François             | IFATY    | And  |
| 38  | CALVIN               | IFATY    | And  |
| 39  | SAMSON               | IFATY    | And  |

REEF OLONA TONOA NANATRIKA NY FIVORIANA  
Toerana: Ifaty  
Antan-pivoriana: Ny fomba hita mba hamaizotra fano  
Daty fivoriana: 02 Febroary 2015

| Lah | Anarana             | Fokotany | Sona |
|-----|---------------------|----------|------|
| 40  | RD HADRY            | IFATY    | And  |
| 41  | DRICHO TOMBOHANA    | IFATY    | And  |
| 42  | Rafaela Jean Mouton | IFATY    | And  |
| 43  | TANAKARA            | IFATY    | And  |
| 44  | ANTOARRE            | IFATY    | And  |
| 45  | Augustin            | IFATY    | And  |
| 46  | DADAB               | IFATY    | And  |
| 47  | Michel              | IFATY    | And  |
| 48  | Andriana            | IFATY    | And  |
| 49  | PETERSENAMPAN       | IFATY    | And  |
| 50  | HITA                | IFATY    | And  |
| 51  | RABE                | IFATY    | And  |

**Annex 1.3** The Ifaty Declaration stating that turtles will be protected in the village of Ifaty, dated 2 February 2015 (in Malagasy)