

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	Nguyen Van Quan
Project title	The status exploitation and trade of the keystone reef animals in central provinces (Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa and Ninh Thuan), Vietnam
RSG reference	24.05.07
Reporting period	2007-2008
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	quannv@imer.ac.vn and fishhio@yahoo.com
Date of this report	8 th September 2008

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
Assess the exploitation intensity targets on the keystone reef animals			X	<p>The target groups focus on tiger shrimp fingerling, abalone, grouper fishes. Fishing seasons concentrate on December to April of the following year. The average of the fishing yield reaches 50 tons/village and occupies of 53% exploitable capture fishery at the near shore waters. Fishermen normally sell the products directly to the offshore trade ships that anchored outside of the vicinity of the villages. Several low economic value products left will be sold for tycoon that will re-sell them to tourist cities such as Nha Trang and Ho Chi Minh City. Grouper fishes, a high economic species, normally are intensively fished due to high price on the live fish food trade in Hong Kong markets.</p> <p>The exploitation of hard coral groups seems to be the common practices in the coastal areas of the central provinces. Fishermen exploit the corals and sell for the tycoon at the local provinces. Through a trade network, coral and coral made products will be sold at the souvenir shops in Nha Trang City, Ho Chi Minh City (tourist hub cities) even some of them has been sent to the north provinces such as Ha Long Bay city and Hanoi capital. In Khanh Hoa province, the Hon Khoi cement company keeps using the coral as the materials for processing. Annually it requires thousand tons of dead coral to produce cement. Unfortunately, though people knew that harvesting coral (dead or alive) was illegal practices according to Vietnam Fisheries Law but the local people still broke the laws due to "they needed something to eat rather than</p>

				conservation the nature” – according to fishery survey results.
Explore the market chain for the trading of the endangered rare coral reef animals.		X		Fishery survey form sometimes did not work well when we look for the road map of trading the coral reef animals. The tycoon mostly does not want to tell the truth about the quantities or exact number of selling animals or selling prices. To deal with this problem we had to do the survey on indirect ways such as the statistical data comes from Department of tourisms, Department of Custom and Management authority of the local markets. The initial results showed out that most trading activities rated as domestic based (serving the local people) because Vietnam nowadays also applied the CITES laws strictly a not allow to export the corals. Accounting the economic aspects, most the benefits getting from coral trade animals go to the pocket of the tycoon (65%), 25% for the traders and only 15% are given to direct exploiters (local fishermen)
Enhance the public awareness about the mitigation of the exploitation forces on the coral dwelling species			X	Those funding allocations to invest on this activity seems limited to compare with other activities but the project member has tried the best to get the partial funding from other donors (Project Aware, Australia as the example). Fortunately, this objective was achieved with the best results: The 2nd fieldtrip has been carried out at the second week of March 2008 at the Ninh Thuan Province, where was considered as the most “hotspot “of intensive harvesting on the coral reefs. The purposes of this trip were to organize two onsite training workshops that focusing on two groups: (1) 20 people represented for fishermen who their livelihoods depend on the harvesting of coral dwelling resources and the management staffs at the community

				<p>based coral protected area of Thanh Hai commune – Workshop activities intend to provide the basic technical skills for livelihood alternation in the surrounding waters of the Thanh Hai Commune (Mariculture technique transferring: fish floating cage, abalone farming and Algae Kappaphycus sp farming)</p> <p>(2) 100 high school students at the Thanh Hai high school, Thanh Hai Commune – Workshop activities intend to provide an overview about the benefits of the coral reefs and coral animals to the life of the people in the coastal areas, threats to the coral reefs and how to reduce the stress on this valuable ecosystem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01 paper has been published in Vietnamese journal (Vietnam Marine Journal)
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The most difficulties we experienced during this project were how to convince the people that scientist trying to do the best things for their life not to disturb the ways they earn the money. In order to get the support, come from local people to implement the project activities, all the project members have established a strong contact with the NGO at the local community sites to explain details about our works and ask them to joint. Some incentive techniques that directly benefit the people there were to open the short training course for them to learn a new technique of aquaculture, high potentials in the coastal areas where they could use them in the future when the capital from local government investing was available.

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

- Having the baseline information about the status of trade and exploitation influencing to the health of the coral reef ecosystem by the quantitative data and actual case studies.
- Contributing the background information for the local authorities to manage their coastal zone more efficiently
- Public awareness campaign by carrying out several activities: leaflets, notebooks for high school students as gifts with the conservation slogan, onsite technical short courses opening for fishermen...and the initial results of the project were published in the National Journal of Vietnam Marine Studies.

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

Project activities did several good works to involve the local communities to participate in this project and getting the direct benefits from project activities. A typical example was an onsite short training course has been opened to transfer mari-culture technique for the fishermen living at the coral reefs site so called “Finding the livelihood transformation ways to the local people at the marine protected areas”. All the participated people acquired the basic techniques and they would have enough capability to select the suitable target species to grow out at their home waters that directly cut down the pressure of the natural exploitation practices on the coral reef sites.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In the next steps, in order to convince the local people to support the conservation work it is needed to do more quantitative research about the ecosystem services at their linkages with the life of the local people.

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

As the previous 1st granted project I would like to disseminate the results through several ways such as publishing the papers at the national/international workshops and peered review papers. We also build a strong collaboration with the national broadcasting companies (both TV and Radio) to produce some programs based on the outcomes from this project.

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

The time scale for one-year period was seemed fair and all the project members follow the timetable efficiently

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
Printing costs for poster and leaflet	823	823		
Report production	260	260		
Consumables (stationery)	165	165		
Travel costs (if appropriate)	1212	1212		
Fares	1161	1161		
Field equipment	415`	415		
Food and accommodation	707	707		
Insurance				
Other: Project Aware, Australia provided £2000 as partial funding for public awareness	106	2106		Organized an onsite technical training course for local fishermen at Ninh

campaign				Thuan province
TOTAL	£ 5000	£ 70000		

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

As I already discussed above the most important things for any conservation project were how to get the supports come from local communities. The local people only give a hand to the conservationist if they understand that the works made by scientists will benefit their life. In relation with that I think that we should carry out a project that include the both natural social aspects to deal with the problem of maintain the natural resources for local people.

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, I already sent some papers that have been published under the flag of Rufford Foundation. Furthermore, any public education material was released with the Rufford logo.

11. Any other comments?

People at the Rufford are very kind with us. Miss Jane Raymond have encouraged us and recommended a lot of things when we experienced with the difficulties carrying out the project. She did a good job to collaborate all the grantee around the world sharing the lesson learned via forum in the Rufford webpage...etc. I love the ways she managed the project. And at last we would like to express our thanks for the crucial seed money come from Rufford Foundation to invest in this project and now the outcomes were fruitful the people life in the central provinces.