

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Trokon Saykpa
Project Title	Support for Community-Based Marine Turtle Monitoring and Conservation Education Project along the Liberian Bassa coastline
Application ID	23248-D
Grant Amount	£10,000
Email Address	trokonsaykpa@seaturtlewatchlr.org
Date of this Report	17 September 2018

1. 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
1) to protect sea turtles and their nests around the year and inspect local fisheries for bycatch				The annual regular monitor's training was held at the beginning of the nesting season and involved local community monitors from the participating communities surrounding the beaches. The monitoring team continued the beach patrols and inspected the local fisheries throughout the length of the project implementation. There were no reports of poaching or disruption during this period by our local team.
2) to improve the quality and availability of educational materials in local schools within the area				The school authorities and local teachers from the participating schools started the conservation education program. Currently, only fifth and sixth graders are participating in the nature lectures/classes. Lectures are organised once a week and teachers have reported that the school children appreciated the additional learning materials and are taking up interest in these nature conservation lectures. Additionally, a field trip has been planned for the nature club members at the Compound #1 School (Boique Public School) during the next nesting season. Also, nature awareness meetings were held within the area as a way to continue spreading the message of protecting sea turtles and their nests within the region.
3) to contribute to small-scale community development and livelihood projects serving as benefit for the coastal community				The project team distributed additional solar lights to the communities. Although, all the community needs cannot be met at once, the team will continue to contribute to community small-scale

inhabitants living within the target area.			projects [that are tied to conservation] as we strive to achieve our overall mission – i.e. To save endangered sea turtles from any form of threats thereby ensuring the survival of the species in Liberia.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

There were no major unforeseen difficulties during the project. The project team will continue to work with the communities to complete/finish-up other small-scale community projects for which contributions were made by the project.

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

1. Our team protected the nesting beaches without report of nest poaching or any form of disturbance during the entire nesting season;
2. Our team rescued a new sea turtle species haven't found nesting within the region – the loggerhead. Two loggerheads were rescued from fishermen and released at the Little Bassa beach during the period.
3. Our team and the school teachers have increased the school children's interest in conservation thus motivating them to planned conservation field trips to the beach. Students will take a trial field trip to the beach to participate in activities such as beach clean-up, nests marking, etc.

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

Selected community members were trained and are directly involved with the beach and bycatch monitoring activities. They participated in the education workshop/meetings and have received additional energy saving lights and chargers. Importantly, community members are being hired and compensated with small stipends for their efforts to monitor the beaches within the region.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, our team will continue to work with the local communities in our quest to increase the sea turtle population within the area as well as providing additional training to the community monitor as a way to build their capacity and take ownership of the project. Also, we have plans to work with the local trained school teachers and the school authorities to get the school children involve more in conservation through field/outdoors nature activities.

As a top priority, our team will develop a sea turtle database in close collaboration with the Save My Foundation, the Environmental Justice Foundation, the EPA, the

FDA, and the National Fishery Bureau in Liberia. The database will be a storehouse for nesting information, hatchling success data, bycatch data and other relevant research information for sea turtle of Liberia.

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

The results of the project will be placed on the organisation's website as well as share with other relevant stakeholders including the EPA, National Bureau of Fisheries and the NGO Coalition members. Other information/News about the project will always be placed or made available on the organisation's social media pages and on the Rufford Foundation website.

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

The fund from the RSG was used through October 2017 to July 2018. In addition, the funds helped the project team to carry out essential activities during the actual length of the project.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Personnel costs	2,700	2,000	700	
Contractual costs	2,085	2,385	(300)	
Meetings/Training and education workshop costs	430	430		
Supplies	261	261		
Travel costs (DSA, maintenance, and fuel for vehicle)	1,200	1,200		
Printing services	1,750	1,750		
Other costs for radio awareness, purchase of lights, postage, wire t5ransfer and monthly bank charges	1,574	1,974	(400)	
Total	10,000	10,000		

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

As an important next step, the project will

- i. continue to provide regular training for the local monitoring team to recap, lecture on new techniques and progressive way forward;
- ii. provide a means through which school children and their instructors could get involved more in conservation through outdoors/field nature activities;
- iii. provide additional nests repair materials as a form of motivation to the local fishing communities for releasing stranded sea turtles;
- iv. continue radio awareness activities;
- v. work with communities to raise additional fund for contributing to small-scale community development projects; and
- vi. develop a web-based sea turtle database where visitors can access information relating to sea turtle in Liberia.

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

Yes, the RF logo was used on awareness billboards and other reprinted school conservation materials. Our team continuously mentioned RF to key stakeholders during our field work and other organization meetings.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?

As always, our Sea Turtle Watch team is most grateful to The Rufford Foundation for its continuous financial support to our marine turtle conservation programme in Liberia. It remains our vision for our territorial waters and beaches to be an important foraging habitat and nesting grounds for sea turtles; therefore, we are hoping that the cooperation/support from the RF will continue to improve our awareness raising, beach/bycatch monitoring and research activities in Liberia.