

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Alifa Bintha Haque
Project Title	Identifying the trade chain of shark products; with a special emphasis on CITES species (sawfish, hammerhead sharks, Mobula spp.) and guitarfish in Bangladesh
Application ID	23404-1
Grant Amount	£5000
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Date of this Report	01 August, 2019

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
To identify the market chain and different stakeholders involved in shark-ray trading				The route and market chain of <i>Mobula</i> spp., guitarfish and all other sharks and rays have been identified. Three manuscripts are in preparation.
To identify the most traded species and make a comprehensive species composition in the landing sites				A list of species identified in trade using morphological and DNA identification has been started. This is in collaboration with another fund (BFRI).
To help Department of Forests, Bangladesh, the ratification of the existing law with scientific information for the protection on shark and rays				Three presentations on the results of the project have been conducted with Department of Forest, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute and Department of Zoology. A good connection has been made with Department of Forest for further policy work.
Creating a network of fishers and locals to collect data on most threatened species				A network of fishers and local enumerators have been created for data collection on rare and endangered species. However, this work is still ongoing and the next phase of the work has been planned.

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

- a. We were prepared for possible unforeseen difficulties hence apart from unforeseen weather problems all work was done according to the plan.
- b. Due to budget constraints we could not have 120 days of fieldwork. However, more than 90 field days were conducted.
- c. We took a long time to analyse all socio-ecological data from the questionnaire surveys. However, all data have been analysed.

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

1. The trade route and supply chain for CITES designated species (e.g. *Mobula* rays, guitarfish, sawfish, etc.) has been identified
2. All stakeholders related to trade on elasmobranchs have been identified.

3. Fishing practices related to elasmobranchs have been characterised.

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

In the first phase of this project fishers and traders took an active role in questionnaire surveys and meetings and workshops have been conducted beyond the capacity of the project to understand their perception. Hence, we planning to further empower fishers as pioneers of conservation for protected species.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We have already planned the next very important phases of this work. We will be continuing the next phases soon. We hope to apply for the next phase of Rufford grants.

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

- We are preparing three manuscripts with the results.
- One newspaper article has been planned to be published soon.
- We have presented out partial results in three meetings and two conferences.

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

The project was completed within the timeframe we planned (a year). However, we have substantial amount of data and that needs further work.

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
Meetings with fishers and community leaders, traders and government officials	300	450	+150	
Printing (field guide, data sheet, reports, questionnaire and photos to show the fishers)	475	510	+35	
Local travel (lump)	400	455	+55	
Camera and local help and miscellaneous	550	295	-255	We did not buy any cameras. We used the

				old ones that we have.
Accommodation*2 personnel*120 days	1075	1350	+275	
Food*3 meals* 2 personnel*120 days	1200	980	-220	
Field visits (120 days): 12 trips*2 personnel; Travel to the field	900	745	-155	
Miscellaneous	100	230	+130	
Total	5000	5015	+15	

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

1. In depth understanding for socio-ecological drivers for trade.
2. Perception studies of fishers and traders for evidence-based co-management and mitigation of trade.
3. Amendment of the national act in accordance with the most traded species.
4. Special emphasis should be given to guitarfish trade as the trend is harmful and will impact the population of guitarfish in Bangladesh a great deal.
5. Species specific studies for critical habitat identification within inshore and coastal areas are immediately needed.
6. Low cost and enhanced monitoring is needed in lading sites for rare, threatened and protected species (DNA barcoding or DNA mini assay can be introduced to identify protected species in export).

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. We used the logo in all presentations and material of surveys.

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

Alifa Bintha Haque (Principal Investigator) was responsible for designing the study, leading the field work, conducting surveys, species identification and writing the report.

Nidhi Gloria Costa (Research Assistant) was responsible for data collection, data analysis and helping in writing the report.

Amit Robert Baroi (Research Assistant) was responsible for data analysis.

Mahi Wasim (Research Assistant) was responsible for data collection and logistics

Nazia Hossain (Research Assistant) was responsible for data collection, financial management and logistics

12. Any other comments?

This project is one of the very initial project of a long-term elasmobranch conservation and sustainability work that we are planning on. We believe this project has been the founding structure of many in depth work we are doing and planning on for the next phases. We plan to create the evidence base for holistic elasmobranch conservation for Bangladesh.