

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Dr. Lalith Ekanayake
Project Title	Continuation of the sea turtles & coastal biodiversity conservation in Kalpitiya Peninsula, adjacent mainland and nearby inhabited small islands, Sri Lanka
Application ID	24629-D
Grant Amount	£9920
Email Address	bcssl@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	2 nd March 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
Increase the education and awareness on importance of sea turtle & coastal biodiversity conservation among the target group.				The objective was successfully achieved. Schoolchildren and fishers were very interested about the awareness programmes. They actively participated and raised questions during programmes.
Increase the community knowledge on sustainable use of surrounding natural coastal resources.				The fishing community understood the importance of the protection of their surrounding in sustainable manner. Community responses were positive about the knowledge they gained from the programme. So this objective was fully achieved.
Reduce the turtle by-catch, dolphin killing and illegal fishing activities destructive to the coastal biodiversity in the area.				This is a long term objective and it needs more time to get the full effect from the programmes. The fisheries community including schoolchildren understood the threats, reasons and importance of conserving sea turtles. However, we have conducted fishermen attitudinal survey during this project period. The community members who participated our programmes said they released as much as possible bycatch turtles. This is a major plus point of the project.
Promote field conservation activities among the coastal community & reduce use of polythene & plastics which is hazards to sea turtle and coastal biodiversity.				The objective was fully achieved. The community members were highly enthusiastic to take part in the field conservation activities. Use of cotton bags reduced the number of plastic bag usage. Moreover, we have initiated a small business for some community women to collect and sell plastic (PET) bottles.
Increase the availability of educational materials and newspaper articles on sea turtles and coastal ecosystem in Sri Lanka.				A poster was printed and distributed among participants. Many newspaper articles on sea turtles and coastal biodiversity conservation published in both printed and online version.

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

There were no any unforeseen difficulties during the project period

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

- I. We managed to access remote islands and its fisheries communities in the Kalpitiya peninsula. There were no previous programmes conducted on these islands due to access only by boats. So it was very important to conduct bycatch reduction awareness programmes in these islands.
- II. We managed to distribute 1,800 cotton bags to the community members. If one cotton bag was used for 100 days it is the equivalent of using 100 plastic bags. So 1,800 cotton bags can reduce the use of 180,000 plastic bags. Actually the cotton bag can be washed and used over 1 year. The community members were very interested for the cotton bags provided by the project. They use them regularly during their shopping.
- III. We have initiated a small business for some community women to collect and sell plastic (PET) bottles. So much of PET bottles washed from the sea accumulated on the beach along Kalpitiya peninsula. So this will be a self-sustainable income as well as long running cleaning programme for ocean plastics. If not collected this bottles washed backed to the ocean.

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

The local community members (both adult and school children) actively participated in the field activities such as beach cleaning and tree planting. They attended for the awareness programmes and gained lots of knowledge about the importance of coastal biodiversity including sea turtles and all the marine megafauna and how can they contribute to their conservation (Please see annexed photos end of the report).

We distributed 1,800 cotton bags to community members including both adults and children. They reduced the use of plastic bags as well money they used to buy plastic bags. Moreover it was long-term benefit for the nature to reduce release of used plastic bags to the coastal environment. We were able to initiate a PET bottle collecting (for sell to recycling) business for some community members. It will be a long term income generation activity for some families as well as sustainable coastal plastic cleaning programme.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we plan to expand the activities to Mannar area adjacent to Kalpitiya. Moreover, as with activities in previously conducted areas. Proper plastic cleaning and especially PET bottle collection as an alternative income will be another plan to continue in future projects. The field conservation activities will be conducted in other areas such as Mannar.

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

Some of this work has been already published at the International Sea Turtle Symposium which was held in Charleston, South Carolina, USA from 2-8th February 2019. Moreover, the results of the project will be included in the BCS web site (www.bcssl.org). Further the result will be summaries and publish in local newspapers.

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

It was planned to complete the project within one year from Late February 2018 to February 2019. So the programmes were completed within the expected time duration.

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
Programme officer (£ 100 per month x 12 months)	1,200	1,200		Completed
Lecturer fee (£ 40 per programme x 36 programmes)	1,440	1,440		Completed
Transport (£ 35 per programme x 26 programmes)	910	910		Completed
Boat hire to Islands (£ 60 per programme x 10 programmes)	600	600		Completed
Refreshment (£ 10 per programme x 36 programmes)	360	360		Completed
Media promotion in newspapers	500	500		Completed
Refreshment field activities (£ 0.4 per person x 100 persons for programme x 18 programmes)	720	760	-40	Completed £ 40 have to spend over the budget
Transport - field activities (£ 40 per programme x 13 programmes in mainland)	520	520		Completed
Boat hire to Islands	200	200		Completed
Transport - plastics for recycling (£ 40 per programme x 10 cleaning programmes)	400	400		Completed
Cloth bags (£ 1.5 per bag x 1000	1,500	1,500		Completed

bags)				
Printing an educational poster (£ 0.25 per poster x 3,000 posters)	750	750		Completed
Office rent (£ 20 per month x 12 months)	240	240		Completed
Electricity and telephone bills (£ 15 per month x 12 months)	180	180		Completed
Accountant payment (£ 25 per month x 12 months)	300	300		Completed
Audit fee (£ 100 -)	100	100		Completed
Total	9,920	9,960	-40	Additional funds provided by the BCS

Exchange rate 1 £ = LKR 213.19 (2018-02-27)

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

We are keeping close contacts with the schools and fisheries societies which participated in project activities during this project. It is very important to continue and follow the conservation activities in the area and for long term sustainability. Moreover, it is important to continue the awareness programmes up to Mannar area near Kalpitiya.

Marine pollution due to plastic waste is a current topic in Sri Lanka and it is a major problem. So we expect to continue coastal cleaning programme in the whole Gulf of Mannar area. Marine plastic waste and breaking plastics to micro plastic is a threat not only to sea creatures but also to human beings. It is necessary to continue the plastic cleaning and awareness programmes. Moreover, we are planning to develop a PET bottle collection programme as an income generation activity for local women and it is highly effective for the sustainable marine plastic cleaning.

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, it was used in the printed poster distributed among the participants. Further a banner printed on flex material displayed during the programmes. RF acknowledged in newspaper articles. It was published worldwide through BCSL Facebook account. The Rufford logo displayed in the front page of the BCSL website. Moreover, the logo displayed in the poster presented at the International Sea Turtle Symposium, Charleston, USA on February 2019.

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

Dr. E.M. Lalith Ekanayake - Team Leader - Overall coordination of the project activities and conduct awareness programmes as the lecturer.

Mr. A.M.D.S. Rathnakumara – Programme officer - Organising all the awareness programmes and field activities.

Mr. M. M. Saman – Assisting to organize the awareness and field activities.

Ms. Y. K. Karunarthna - Responsible for the preparation of project accounts

12. Any other comments?

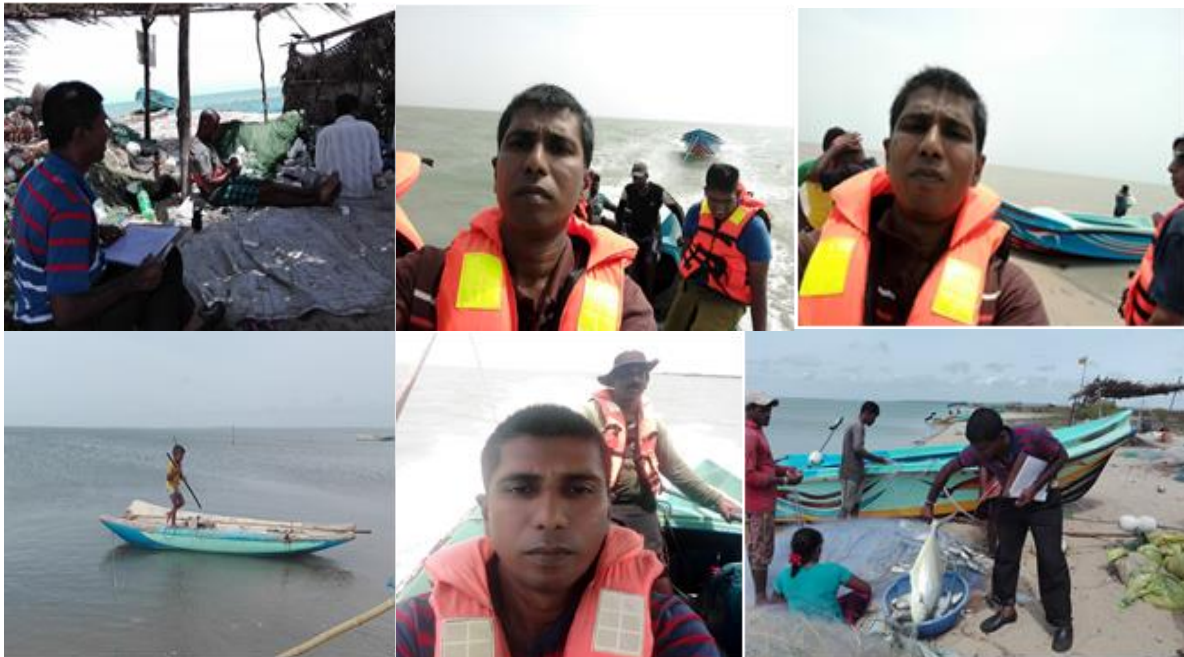
We would like to acknowledge the Rufford Foundation for supporting this awareness programme and expecting to continue the programmes.

Awareness programmes





Meet fishermen in the Islands



PET bottles on the beach with other plastics



A bottle from Kerala India to Kalpitiya Sri Lanka

Beach cleaning - PET bottles





Pandanus replanting



ISTS 39 at Charleston USA



Publicity – Poster



COMMUNITY WELFARE TOWARDS SEA TURTLES CONSERVATION AT KALPITIYA PENINSULA OF SRI LANKA.

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INTRODUCTION

Five species of sea turtles come ashore to nest in Sri Lanka while their feeding habitats & migratory routes located around the island. The species are namely green turtle, leatherback, olive ridley, hawksbill and the hawksbill. Kalpitiya peninsula located in the Gulf of Mannar at Northwestern coast of Sri Lanka. The fishing communities in the Kalpitiya Peninsula depend on seasonal, artisanal gill net fisheries targeting pelagic schooling fish. Sea turtles often get entangled in the sea and lagoon causing damage for fishing nets. In response, fishers either beat the turtles' heads until they rendered unconscious, or hack off the turtles' body parts to make disentanglement easier. The turtles are then either discarded at sea, or brought back to shore for illegal processing of their meat for local consumption. So coastal communities must be educated about the importance of conserving the sea turtles and coastal ecosystems including various habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass beds etc.



OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

The aims and objective of this programme is to encourage the fisher's families for the conservation of sea turtles and coastal biodiversity while continuing BCSL education and awareness programmes. However, it was identified that only awareness programmes not enough get the attention of the coastal communities. So we have initiated some welfare programme parallel to the awareness programmes in order to increase active participation of the communities.



Basic Training Programme

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Although many families having toilets still there are some families among fishers doesn't have proper toilet facilities. It is a big problem for the sanitary condition of the villages as well as it is badly affect to the environment and beauty of the nature in the area. So we have built 20 toilets for the needy fisher's families in the Kandakuliya village. Moreover, we have conducted Basic training programme for the ladies in the fisheries community. They can earn additional income for their day today living expenses by selling the Batik garments. While uplifting their living condition we are expecting their support for the sea turtle and coastal biodiversity conservation activities. Moreover, we have continued our awareness programmes for the fisheries community on sea turtle and coastal biodiversity conservation. Field activities such as beach cleaning and Pandanus (Creeper) replanting in the beach were conducted with the support of community members. The active participation of coastal communities for the conservation activities increased due to welfare programmes. When comparing their living conditions, actually welfare programmes are not bribes and just encouragement for the conservation.



Provide sanitary facilities



Awareness Programme



Pandanus replanting for beach protection



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge International Sea Turtle Symposium for their support to attend the symposium. Moreover, we would acknowledge Rufford Foundation, U.K. and People's Leasing and Finance PLC Sri Lanka for the financial support for the programme.