

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
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Project Title	Impacts of climate change on West African green turtles and marine turtle conservation in Guinea-Bissau
Application ID	25625-B
Grant Amount	£9989
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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
Involvement of local communities				30 young family men from seven local villages participated in this project, received training, income, and contributed to the development of concept project for the upcoming season.
Monitoring of sea turtle nesting activities in all 7 nesting beaches from the Varela region				All seven nesting beaches were monitored during the nesting season, from August to November 2019.
Protection of all nesting sea turtles				No nesting female was taken during the monitoring period.
Protection of all sea turtle clutches				Two nests were taken. Awareness sessions will be reinforced.
Interchange visit between Poilão Island and Varela collaborators				One of the collaborators from Varela visited Poilão island. However we were hoping for more collaborators to be involved and for a longer period. This will be reinforced this year in this upcoming year.
Development of micro-movies for dissemination of sea turtle conservation work at Guinea-Bissau				The RSG supported partly this objective, covering flight and lodging costs of producers/directors. The films are ready awaiting final approval, and will be disseminated shortly.

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

The project went better than anticipated, thanks to the high level of engagement and motivation of the local communities, and the involvement of partners from other projects in extra training and awareness raising sessions.

However, as this was a very low nesting season at the country level, we could not properly assess the importance of Varela and the impact of the nest patrolling for sea turtles. The upcoming season is expected to be high (according to past fluctuations in green turtle nesting at the nearby Bijagós archipelago), allowing for a better assessment of the nest distribution and the needs for the protection of these extensive nesting beaches.

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

1) Thanks to the presence of the turtle teams in the field, during the 2018 nesting season there was a full protection of nesting females, not one turtle was poached and a couple of immature green turtles were saved from entangling fishing nets.

2) The community engagement was very strong. The fact that the turtle team was big – four members from each of seven villages with nesting beaches, plus two coordinators from Varela – and highly motivated, meant that many more awareness sessions were conducted at local schools and at the villages, in a volunteering scheme. Additionally, the association for the sea turtles of Varela engaged the fishing community and the National Guard, with representatives of these groups at the final restitution meeting, and keen to reinforce their collaboration in sea turtle conservation.

3) The IBAP was very supportive of the project, actively participating in activities and organising logistics of meetings and training/awareness sessions. Thanks to the excellent community engagement and motivation the IBAP arranged to fund this project in Varela region in 2019/2020, using sources from a larger grant from the MAVA foundation.

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

During the field work this project contributed directly to the income of 30 young family men from the local communities (28 collaborators and two field coordinators).

At the beginning and at the end of the project training was given on patrolling and monitoring by myself and by a technician from the IBAP. Also, we arranged for partners from a different project, experts on education and capacity building, to give an additional thorough training session (June 2019). This capacity building of the local teams will contribute to the continuity of the project and their involvement, and can potentially lead to the hiring of some key members by the IBAP, as has happened in the past with some collaborators from the Bijagós archipelago.

All members of the local communities participated in the awareness raising sessions, and the projector and speaker now in use by the association for the marine turtles of Varela were a huge success particularly among the children/student community.

This project reinforced the links between the Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas of Guinea-Bissau (IBAP) and the local communities of the Varela region. This means that not only the IBAP will support the project in the upcoming season, but also there will be more engagement in other activities. As an example one of the field coordinators, Landim Sane, was invited by the IBAP to participate in an exchange visit to Sao Tome and Principe to meet the sea turtle team members there, and exchange experiences.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The IBAP will cover the project's costs during the 2019 nesting season, and there is a high likelihood that it will also support the project in 2020, as the IBAP currently has a larger grant from MAVA and, thanks to the good work conducted, they feel that this project is worth supporting. Additionally the IBAP will now consider the region of Varela as a priority site for sea turtle conservation, and will thus procure funding in a longer term.

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

Some results and activities have been already shared in the social media: Twitter - <https://twitter.com/arcpatricio>, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/tartarugasvarela/>, and at the new website for sea turtles in Guinea-Bissau - <https://www.seaturtles-guineabissau.org/post/successful-sea-turtle-workshop>.

Five micro-movies (~2 min) plus a short documentary (13 min) have been produced and are now on final approval stages. These will be widely shared on the new website for sea turtles in Guinea-Bissau, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, at the International Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation in 2020, at national schools, meetings with decision-makers (Government of Guinea-Bissau), and meetings with potential and current donors.

Given that the nesting season of 2018 was a low one, both at the Varela region and at the Bijagós, we will gather more data in 2019 and: 1) send an article to the African Sea Turtle Newsletter, 2) produce articles for the general public to share online.

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

From July 2018 to March 2019, as anticipated. Some activities ended in June 2019, but all funding was spent by the end of March 2019.

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
Fuel for two bikes	351	206	-145	We predicted 3 months X 45L fuel but after a meeting with project field coordinators they explained 35L was enough and it even

				allowed for continued work in the month of November, not initially planned.
Stipends for collaborators from local communities	3240	3989	+749	<p>The total stipends for local collaborators was £4274, but the IBAP covered the £470 we were short of, so the RSG amount was £3804.</p> <p>Initially we predicted 90 days for 8 collaborators at £4.5. However because the local collaborators have other activities – fishing, agriculture – and because the association from Varela had already engaged a larger number of people for sea turtle protection and monitoring, it was agreed that there would be two teams at each of the 7 villages, each team of 2 members, thus 28 collaborators in total (2 x 2 x 7).</p> <p>The predicted value of 3281FCFA (£4.5) was rounded to 3000FCFA (£4.11), agreed by all in a general meeting.</p> <p>Each team member patrolled for 10 days a month from Aug to Oct (28 x 10 x £4.11).</p> <p>In November 20 collaborators from 5 villages patrolled the beaches for extra 10 days (20 x 10 x 4.11) - the other two villages/beaches finished in September as there was no nesting.</p>
Stipends for fieldwork coordinators from the community of Varela	1080	795	-285	<p>We predicted 90 days for each coordinator at £6, but the way we organized in the end was 58 days per coordinator (16 days each per month in Aug, Sep, Oct plus 10 days in Nov) at £6.85 (5000FCFA).</p> <p>This reduction in number of days per coordinator was done to include more collaborators in the project, as per request of the coordinators, as they had already engaged a larger group: 4 members from each of the 7 villages (28 people).</p>
Field work consumables (sharpies, batteries, field sheets, etc.)	250	292	+42	We added mobile phone credit for coordinators to aid communication between the turtle team members.
bike maintenance (tires, fixes, oil, etc.)	450	316	-134	Only £316 was needed to fix the two bikes from the field coordinators.
Headlamps with red light	52	63	+11	We estimated 8 at £6.5, but bought 10 at £6.3 (7€) – to cover for the 7 villages + field coordinator and 2 extras (in case of damage)

digital cameras	116	106	-10	2 cameras bought as planned, slight cost divergence
camping tents	136	198	+62	We estimated 2 at £68, but bought 5 tents at £39.58 (44€), as the camps had more people than initially predicted.
Flash light solar powered	54	90	+36	We estimated 2 at £27, but bought 4 at £22.5 (25€), as the camps had more people than initially predicted.
meals for intensive campaigns (camping)	260	614	+354	We estimated £130 per week, thus £260 for the 2 weeks, however, because the turtle team was larger the cost per week was £307 (224000FCFA = 16 team members X 7days X 2000FCFA)
Training session (transportation Bissau - Varela, meals, per diem IBAP technician)	350		-350	The IBAP paid for the initial meeting, training and awareness session
Meeting to share results of field campaign / conservation awareness meeting	450	619	+169	Costs included: lodging 3 people 2 nights £111 (81000FCFA); travelling to Varela (fuel + tolls) £94.6 (69000FCFA); per diems IBAP technicians (2) £164.6 (120000FCFA); meals for participants – coffee breaks and lunch - £150.4 (109650FCFA); £98.8 incentive for participation (£2.74 x 36 people/2000FCFA x 36 people)
Travelling from Europe, VISAS, food, and accommodation in Guinea-Bissau / field site, for producers/directors of micro-movies	3200	2071	-1129	This item was significantly less expensive than expected, we applied the amount saved in paying for pirogues that helped the team members to cross to the nesting beaches, we acquired material for awareness raising sessions and paid for an extra month of field work for nesting monitoring in November – with the help of the IBAP.
Pirogue maintenance (used to reach the nesting beach)		412	+412	In two villages the turtle teams need to cross a water body to reach the nesting beach, and fellow villagers helped by transporting the team members in their pirogues. As a compensation measure and to contribute to pirogue maintenance, fuel, and their time we gave the pirogue owners £206 each (20 days X 3 months X 2500FCFA = 150000FCFA). As this item was not in the original - 145proposal, we consulted the RSG Trust Administrator before.

Projector and speaker for awareness raising sessions		218	+218	We bought a projector and speaker to improve the quality and engagement of the awareness raising sessions, including now the projection of films on the ecology and conservation of sea turtles and PowerPoint slides with relevant information. As this item was not in the original proposal, we consulted the RSG Trust Administrator before.
TOTAL	9989	9989		

Notes to budget

The total price for each item was rounded to the upper nearest decimal. Budget was calculated in Euros and Francs CFA, and converted to GBP. Where costs were in Euros I used an exchange rate of 0.89965 EUR/GBP, for costs in Franc CFA I used an exchange rate of 0.00137XOF/GBP from: <https://www.xe.com/pt/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=1&From=EUR&To=GBP>, 11 of July of 2019.

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

This should be the start of a long-term patrolling/monitoring project, so a necessary next step is to continue to support the search of funding for sea turtle protection, monitoring and awareness raising in the region of Varela. The nesting population in the Bijagós is increasing and this together with the threat of sea level rise may lead to the displace of part of the population, it is thus critical to protected these nesting sites for the resilience of the population in the future.

Another important step will be to include women in the turtle team of Varela, engaging them in the awareness raising activities. This proposal was approved by all collaborators and field coordinators in our last meeting, and it should be in effect this year. The outcomes of engaging women will be: 1) women benefiting directly form sea turtle conservation through income; and 2) improve the awareness among the women in the communities – i.e. women passing the message to other women.

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?

The Rufford foundation logo is on our new website: <https://www.seaturtles-guineabissau.org/sea-turtles-at-varela>, in the project's page.

On all Twitter and Facebook posts related to the project, and blogs, the Rufford Foundation was acknowledged, and we used the appropriate URL and handles (i.e. @ruffordgrants, https://www.rufford.org/projects/ana_rita_patr%C3%ADcio).

Future articles and blogs using this project results will also acknowledge the Rufford Foundation.

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

Dr Rita Patrício, University of Exeter and MARE – ISPA, Instituto Universitário – fundraising, training, awareness raising, organizing monitoring scheme in collaboration with the IBAP and field coordinators, sharing project results and activities, analysing field sheets and data and report writing.

Dr. Paulo Catry, MARE – ISPA, Instituto Universitário – advisory on monitoring design, assistance with field work implementation, assistance with project coordination.

Castro Barbosa, IBAP – logistics for training/awareness raising sessions, assist in training sessions to local communities, handing over equipment and data sheets and collecting data sheets from field-coordinators, payment of stipends, organize logistics for the visit of producers/directors of micro-movies.

Landim Sane and Leão, primary school of Varela – coordination of fieldwork activities during the sea turtle nesting season, organization of raising awareness sessions at local schools and villages, organization of intensive monitoring campaigns during the peak of the nesting season, reporting to the IBAP and to RP,

Collaborators from the local communities of Varela, Catão, Edjin, Sukudjaque, Nhinquin, Tenhate and Bures: Papazinho Emanhe, Samuel Ndoi Burrira Djata, Bernardo Sipamiro, Cristiano Djedjo, Andre Djata, Afonso Djata, Joaquim S. Djata, Daniel Djedjo, Silobiam Djedjo, Estevaso Djata, Ramiro Djobel Djata, Aladje Djabam, Dauda Ducure, Mario Tendimam Djata, Ibu Cudjabe, Marcos Djata, Alendumam Djata, Eduardo Djata, Malique Djata, Salifo Djata, Sulae Djata, Ambrosio Djata, Afonso C. Djata, Armando Djata, Midjai Djata, Faustino Joao Mane, Pedro Djata, Domingos Sibotol Nhafa. **Role:** beach patrolling and monitoring, nest monitoring, participation in raising awareness sessions at respective village, alongside field coordinators.

12. Any other comments?

We planned for the field work at the Varela region (i.e. patrolling and monitoring of sea turtle nesting activities) to occur in August, September and October 2018. However, the teams were keen to continue to work in November 2018 to monitor and safeguard the nests that had not hatched yet. Thanks to discrepancies in the proposed vs real costs of some items, and to the support of the IBAP, we extended the field work to November.

This was a first step for the start of a long-term patrolling/monitoring programme in the region, and the Rufford support really made a difference, kick starting this project allowing for the local people to be part of the conservation of their resources.