

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Yedda Christina Bezerra Barbosa de Oliveira
Project Title	Reducing Impacts of Incidental Capture and Promoting Sea Turtles Conservation through Community-based Monitoring
Application ID	27878-2
Grant Amount	£5000
Email Address	yedda.oliveira@gmail.com
Date of this Report	17 October 2021

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
Improve the survival of reproductive individuals				
Engage the community in the monitoring				
Promote awareness and education				

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

Social isolation was the most impactful adversity we faced to fulfil the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance for controlling the COVID-19 transmission. The interruption in fieldwork from March to September 2019 resulted in a lack of information about species identification and turtle reproductive success (due to no exhumation of nests) and a complete cancelling of awareness activities with local communities (meetings, hatchling release, and presentational capacity building). Possibly, there is an underestimation of the number of nests and strandings of sea turtles. We overcome the difficulties by using virtual meetings with the community and promoting capacity building for police and public manager to handle some urgency (stranding and hatchling emergence).

Nonetheless, the quick interruption in fieldwork has saved money for the project, which allowed its use in a second reproductive season. So, despite the 1-year project previously planned, we managed to conduct 2-year monitoring of sea turtle breeding seasons. More details for each year of monitoring are attached to this report (please see Update October 2021).

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

1. Increased protagonist role of the local community in conservation and research. By engaging more members in monitoring from the first to the second year of activities, reinforcing the feeling of local belonging and connection with sea turtles.

2. Public communication about our outcomes. We have reached spontaneously newspaper advertising and mention in television programmes.

3. Articulation and networking with public and private authorities. The main points are that: (a) we became part of the Environmental Development Council of the City of Conde in 2020, bringing the sea turtle conservation agenda into the environmental licensing process for fishing, tourism, and coastal economic activities, and (b) we have also integrated the Brazilian Northeast Sea Turtle Conservation

Network (RETAMANE) in 2020, cooperating with non-governmental organisations from other Brazilian states.

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

Retired people, artisans, fishers and tourism workers are the core of our voluntary team who often express their sense of place. It is clear the importance of nature connection, the relationship between members of the group and how it shapes behaviour towards conservation and wellbeing. Sea turtles become an attraction in tours conducted by locals. Tourists visiting our study area can watch sea turtles at sea through observatories, seeing their nests on the beaches or purchase an iconic souvenir handmade by some volunteers of our team.

The volunteers in general act as supporters of the project, publicising our outcomes, engaging more members, and building a net of protection for the turtles spontaneously. As the sense of place motivates awareness, the project engagement has shown a deep sense of place in a reinforcing feedback loop.

An interesting outcome is that some new volunteers are from traditional communities: indigenous and maroon people.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We intend to continue to carry out the activities from academic and public policy approaches. The Principal Investigator (Yedda Oliveira) is a PhD student at Federal Rural University of Pernambuco and will continue the collection of ethnobiology and nature conservation data. Her thesis is about sea turtle conservation and marine governance in the view of Social Representations Theory (Moscovici, 1961). I aim to understand the value of sea turtles for different social groups, contribute to planning the adequate management of common-pool marine resources, helping to change behaviour towards conservation.

IPAS will continue contributing to Paraiba's Marine Monitoring Network and Political Pedagogical Project of the Coastal and Marine Zone (PPPZCM), in partnership with regional and local authorities to promote the sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems.

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

We expect to share our results at The Rufford Foundation Brazil Conference 2022 because we were part of the conference in 2020 (cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic). We already contribute with Brazilian Database for Sea Turtle Conservation (through BDCTAMAR) by reporting critical areas for reproduction and mortality of sea turtles in Paraiba. Moreover, we also expect to present our work at RETAMANE Conference and in a scientific paper publication.

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

As mentioned before, we planned to conduct 1-year fieldwork from October 2019 to September 2020, which refers to one reproductive season of sea turtles in Paraiba, Brazil. However, we managed to run two seasons, using the grant until October 2021.

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
Accommodation for coordinator	1425	1425	0	
Food for coordinator	795	795	0	
Food for field assistant	1250	1250	0	
Fuel	423	280	-143	We use transport less than expected because we saved money from this category in other projects as well
22 T-shirts	151	149	-2	Not significant
Workshops	172	166	-6	Not significant
Field materials	219	361	-142	We were able to conduct two campaigns instead of a one-year project as previously planned
Board for turtle nestings	15	57	+42	We were able to conduct two campaigns instead of one-year project as planned
Miscellaneous	550	517	-33	Not significant
TOTAL	5000	5000		

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

Two important steps are necessary to ensure the continuity of the project: (1) diversify the sources of funding to ensure the basic maintenance of our activities (a hard pressure faced during the pandemic), and (2) integrate governance and co-management strategies far beyond the management and conservation of endangered species of turtle proper. This last point is recommended to reduce the conflicts with economic activities (such as fishing and tourism) and create opportunities for effective socio-environmental development based on nature

conservation. It is necessary to manage the commons at multiple levels, improving the integration of conservation in a holistic perspective.

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 have printed The Rufford Foundation logo in banners delivery at communities, T-shirts for the team, and mentioned this fund in newspaper advertising (please see Update October 2021).

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

Community team (also called “sea guarders”) responsible for sea turtle monitoring	
Ana Cristina Rufino Ribeiro da Silva	Community member (both seasons)
Andrielly Tabajara	Community member (2nd season)
Celso Von Lastrow	Community member (1st season)
Cleiton Nolasco Martins	Community member (1st season)
Cristiane de Oliveira Silva	Community member (both seasons)
Danilo Zim	Community member (1st season)
Eduardo Maranhão Filho	Community member (1st season)
Ely Jesus Caetano	Community member (both seasons)
Emanoel da Silva	Fisher team (both seasons)
Erivanete Tarquino	Community member (2nd season)
Fabiano Aguiar	Community member (1st season)
Flaviano Ribeiro da Silva	Community member (2nd season)
Itauhy de Almeida Pereira Junior	Community member (1st season)
Jayane Carvalho dos Santos	Community member (both seasons)
João Rufino Ribeiro da Silva	Community member (2nd season)
José Augusto Fiorelli	Community member (both seasons)
José Rufino dos Santos Filho	Fisher team (both seasons)
Karina Rossignoli Padinha dos Santos	Community member (1st season)
Leandro Aparecido Penafieri	Community member (1st season)
Luiz Antonio Tapias	Community member (both seasons)
Maria del Carmen Rocha	Community member (both seasons)
Maristela Dias de Queiroz	Community member (both seasons)
Mércia de Macêdo Cavalcante	Community member (both seasons)
Roberto Barbosa Tavares	Fisher team (2nd season)
Roberto Teixeira de Carvalho	Community member (both seasons)
Roselaine Barbosa Pessoa	Community member (both seasons)
Simone da Silva Teixeira	Community member (1st season)
Sueli Evagelista	Community member (both seasons)

Susana Menezes Cordeiro	Community member (both seasons)
Tânia Catarina Dantas	Community member (both seasons)
Tubakiá Soares da Silva	Fisher team (both seasons)
Vitor Aragão de Almeida	Community member (both seasons)
Willis Pereira Evangelista	Community member (both seasons)
Technical team responsible for sea guarders supervision.	
Anna Raquel Vieira	Intern (1st season)
Camilo Carrasco	Field Assistant (remotely on 2nd season)
Douglas Nazareth Rivera	GIS consultant
Leopoldo Spagnolo	Intern (2nd season)
Luana Costa	Field Assistant (1st season)
Lucas Azevedo	Field Assistant (remotely on 2nd season)
Shaka Furtado	Field Assistant (1st season)
Yedda Oliveira	Principal Investigator
Yohanna Klafke	Field Assistant (2nd season)

12. Any other comments?

I wish to thank The Rufford Foundation very much for the funding. Since the 1st grant, my team and I have broadened our actions and networking, engaged more people in sea turtle conservation, and created opportunities for community and academic people. The great opportunity to find our proper NGO in 2019 is strongly related to RF and this project funding. Before that, we were a group of biologists with good ideas and a passion for nature conservation but restricted to the university and personal experiences.

Even with the complicated situation globally (plus the socio-environmental injustice we are facing in Brazil), initiatives like The Rufford Foundation grants are essential to encourage us to keep going forward.