

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
Full Name	Dr. Lalith Ekanayake
Project Title	Continuation of the sea turtles & coastal biodiversity conservation in Kalpitiya Peninsula, Sri Lanka
Application ID	29994-C
Grant Amount	£14,650
Email Address	<a href="mailto:bcssl@yahoo.com">bcssl@yahoo.com</a>
Date of this Report	29 <sup>th</sup> December 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
Reduce the turtle by-catch, dolphin killing and illegal fishing activities destructive to the coastal biodiversity in the area.				We conducted a fishermen attitudinal survey (by two students for a study) in the project area from April to November 2021. This study confirmed again that fishers release as much as possible bycatch turtles without harming. However, this is a long-term objective and it needs more time to get full effect from the programmes. The fisheries community including school children were taught about the threats, reasons and importance of conserving sea turtles.
Discuss simple practical solutions to develop mitigation measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch.				We discussed mitigation measures with the experienced fishers. They were in a difficulty to suggest traditional methods. However, they agreed to trial LED lights in their fishing nets.
Trial some mitigation measures such as use LED lights in fishing nets to reduce turtle bycatch (mostly in bottom set ray nets – which keeping overnight in the water).				This objective couldn't be achieved due to Covid 19 pandemic. We were unable to get the LED lights from the foreign researcher due to the pandemic situation. However, our 3-year proposal was approved by US Fish & Wildlife service to work on sea turtle bycatch including trial LED lights. So, we will be working on this from 2022.
Increase and refresh the knowledge on importance of sea turtle & coastal biodiversity conservation among the target group				The objective was successfully achieved. The community members school children and fishers were very interested about the awareness programmes. We have received over 1,500 paintings from the kids for the art competition. It was a huge

				number after the first wave of the pandemic.
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 gain from the programme. So, this objective was fully achieved.
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 very interested in the field activities. They are very happy to use cotton bags instead of plastic ones.
Increase the availability of educational materials and newspaper articles on sea turtles and coastal ecosystem in Sri Lanka.				An awareness poster was printed and distributed among participants. 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.**

The Covid 19 global pandemic delayed the project activities. Although it was planned to complete the project activities within 12 months it has taken about 21 months. After the first wave of Covid pandemic, people in Sri Lanka freely moved and we managed to conduct most of the programmes during that time. However, the number of attendees was limited. We managed to conduct the Art Competition and collected the paintings. But we could not complete the award ceremony and exhibition. Finally, we have to cancel the exhibition and award ceremony due to health guidelines about working with school children. So, we have increased the number of awards and issued a certificate for all the children to encourage their contribution during the pandemic. Instead of the award ceremony we went to winner's homes (or close by) and gave their certificate and prize (cash) and took pictures with their family members. It was a new experience for both children and us. We noticed that children are happier for this (please see annexed photographical summary).

LED trials – We planned to use LED lights in fishing nets as a trial to mitigate turtle bycatch in fishing nets. A foreign researcher agreed to provide LED lights but due to the pandemic we were unable to conduct the study.

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

- a) We were able to meet new community groups which we didn't meet before. It was important to having contacts with them and agreed to get their contribution for the future conservation programmes.
- b) We had discussions with several fisheries community groups to get their support for the LED trials as a sea turtle bycatch mitigation method. We are planning to work this community members in 2022.
- c) Visiting Art Competition winners' homes also a new experience during the project. The happy families encouraged us to conduct its kind of programmes in future.

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

The local community members (both adults and school children) attended the awareness programmes and workshops and gained knowledge on importance of coastal biodiversity conservation. Moreover, they learn how to release bycatch turtles from their fishing gear. They understand how they can contribute to conserve the coastal biodiversity as well as direct and indirect benefit for them as well. The community members participated in fieldwork such as mangrove replantation. Moreover, we were able to distribute some pomegranate plants to grow in their home gardens to remember the conservation message.

We were able to distribute 1,500 cotton bags during the project activities. This helps to reduce the use of thousands of plastic grocery bags as well as it saved money spent for plastic bags (common word here is "shopping bags").

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, LED trials study - whereby hanging LED lights on fishing nets helps to reduce sea turtle bycatch will be conducted for 3 years from 2022. We will be conducting this study with the funding support from US Fish & Wildlife Service. Furthermore, we are planning to continue all our coastal biodiversity conservation programmes in the Kalpitiya peninsula.

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

Results of this works will be published at the International Sea Turtle Symposium 2022 (Virtual). Moreover, the results of the project will be included in the BCSL web site ([www.bcssl.org](http://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 1 year from March 2020 to February 2021. However, due to the Covid 19 global pandemic some of our activities delayed and completed in December 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
Programme officer (£ 150 per month x 12 months)	1800	1800		
Lecturer fee (£ 40 per programme x 24 programmes)	960	960		
Lecturer's fee (2 for a workshop x £ 40per person per workshop x 12 workshops)	960	960		
Transport - vehicle hire to transport all the equipment for the awareness programmes and workshops (£ 60 per programme x 36 workshops and awareness programmes)	2160	2160		
Boat hire to Islands (£ 80 per programme x 10 programmes)	800	800		
Refreshment & food for participants (£ 2.5 per person x 40 persons per workshop x 12 workshops)	1200	1200		
Conduct school art competition and exhibition in Kalpitiya peninsula	3000	3000		This activity was completed. However, we have to cancel exhibition and award ceremony. But we have increased the number of awards within the budget limit. Explained it above unforeseen difficulties.
Refreshment for participants - conduct field conservation	500	500		

activities (£ 0.5 per person x 100 persons for programme x 10 programmes)				
Transport - vehicle hire to transport people to the field & back (£ 60 per programme x 10 programmes)	600	600		
Cloth bags with printed environmental message, Rufford, BCSL & other logos (£ 1.5 per bag x 1,000 bags)	1500	1500		
Office rent (£ 25 per month x 12)	300	300		
Electricity and telephone bills (£ 20 per month x 12 months)	240	240		
Accountant payment (£ 40 per month x 12 months)	480	480		
Audit fee (£ 150 - onetime payment)	150	150		
<b>Total</b>	<b>14650</b>	<b>14650</b>		Exchange rate 1 £ = LKR 231.84 (2020-02-18)

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

During last five Rufford grants we have conducted hundreds of awareness programmes and workshops in the project area and covered reasonable number of fisheries communities. We are keeping close contacts with the schools and fisheries societies which participated project activities during this project. It is very important to continue and follow the conservation activities in the area and for long term sustainability.

However, now our main target is to initiate sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures such as use of LED lights in fishing nets to reduce turtle bycatch instead of releasing turtles. So, we are planning to work on this as the next step of the project. Moreover, we are planning to continue coastal cleaning programmes and local awareness to reduce marine plastic pollution.

**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 it was included in the digital banner printed on cloth material displayed during the programmes. The Rufford logo displayed in the front page of the BCSL website. Moreover, the logo will be displayed in the poster presentation planning present at the 40<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtle Symposium 2022 (Virtual).

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

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

**Mr. D.S. R. Kumara** – Programme officer - Organising all the awareness programmes and field activities.

**Mr. N. Fernando** – Assisting to organize the awareness and field activities.

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

**Mr. Sarath Ekanayake** – Volunteer consultant for the mangrove re-plantation activities

**12. Any other comments?**

The Bio Conservation Society (BCSL) would like to acknowledge the Rufford Foundation Small Grant Programme for the support given to conduct these programmes since 2013.

**Photographical Summery Below:**

- A. Awareness programmes and workshops**
- B. Art competition – Paintings and selections**
- C. Art competition – Certificates and prize giving at their homes**
- D. Mangrove replanting**
- E. Fishermen Attitudinal Survey**
- F. Newspaper articles**

A.







Wash and re-use cotton bags. Say, No to plastic bags. Reduce the use of single use plastic bags.  
 Old, well experienced fisherman with happy face

B.



C.



**ART COMPETITION ON  
"COASTAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION"  
2020**

This is to certify that

\_\_\_\_\_ has won / participated

in the Grade \_\_\_\_\_ category of the Art Competition on  
"Coastal Biodiversity Conservation"  
organized by the Bio Conservation Society of Sri Lanka (BCS) in collaboration with the Kalpitiya Zonal Education Office and the Rufford Foundation, UK (United Kingdom)



Dr. Leith Ekanayake (Ph.D)  
Chairman,  
Bio Conservation Society (BCS)

Date



D.



E.



F.

