

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole

Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Maria Carolina Monterrosa
Project title	Nesting assessment of four endangered species of sea turtles at Tayrona National Natural Park.
RSG reference	34.11.06
Reporting period	May – August
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	colombiamarina@yahoo.es
Date of this report	January 15, 2008

1. Please 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 evaluate nesting activity of marine turtles and their reproductive habitats.			Fully achieved	The complete season (march-september) was monitored working together with Park staff. There were clear the benefits obtained with the cooperation between National parks and Colombia Marina Foundation.
To tag and register morphometric measurements and other biological data of each individual of the nesting population.		Partially achieved		This project began on June 2007, and the nesting season did on March 2007, so the females arrived before June were not tagged. Nevertheless, the fact of tagging the last females in the season was a great step forward improves the management inside the National Park.
To relocate and supervise jeopardize nests and determine hatching success, incubation time and factors that affect mortality and emergency of hatchlings.			Fully achieved	As the nesting activity, relocation and supervision of jeopardize nest was an activity done together with park staff. After Colombia Marina began working with them, it was possible identify critics points and establish the principals failures in the methodology used by them.
To conduct workshops for the long-term assessment and conservation management of nesting sea turtles.			Fully achieved	After identify the necessities in the management and critical points in the techniques used during these years of work, it was clear the great necessity for knowledge in these subjects. So, CM conducted the first workshop in management and techniques for sea turtles conservation, clarifying a lot of points and doubts that the park staff had. After the workshop, their field job improves and the lasts nest relocations were successful, obtaining better clutch and emergency success.

To promote conservation of endangered species and their habitats through public awareness campaigns and educational activities.		Partially achieved		During the project was possible share with people on the beach at night the principal needs of sea turtles conservation, objectives of the project and how they would help us to protect the turtles with their behaviour. The brochures were given to them and they were useful because it was so difficult get the tourists together and develop the conservation talks that had been planned in the beginning of the project.
To identify and enumerate the current and potential threats at Tayrona's nesting beaches and nearby waters.			Fully achieved	During the three months of monitoring the team was able to identify the potential threats for sea turtle in TNNP. We had the possibility of talk with the actors and now we know what it is necessary for improve the conditions of the beach and get the cooperation of the residents in the nesting beaches.

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

In the beginning we thought that because of the great tourist flow in the TNNP, there will be possible to conduct conservation talks with a lot of people, but this was not possible because people are on vacation and the Park has not education activities programmed. So, the work team began talking with the people who stay in the beach at night, sharing with them our goals and how they could help us. Some little groups were invited to patrol beaches with the team, and even thought those nights were not turtles, people were really happy and share with other tourists the conservation ideas.

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

For us, in first place it was the possibility of identify the biggest necessities for sea turtle management inside the protected area. Even though they have been working during some years, there are evident some failures that have effected a lot the process, and with this project we were able to identify them and help them to begin improving their techniques and knowledge by developing the First Workshop in Conservation and management techniques for sea turtles.

The second would be without doubt, the Tagging Program initiated during this project in the TNNP. This tool is one of the most valuable in the conservation of sea turtles and inside the area, they have never tagged a turtle missing important information, so this was a significant achievement for our goal of protect these animals.

The third is to have had the opportunity of value the past information, put it in order and continue a process having clear the principal goals and needs to obtain the required knowledge in order to be able to generate an adequate management plan for these animals in this important part of the country.

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

Not applicable

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, in 2008 we will be doing the second part of this project. With these results we have wrote down a proposal for the next year of work, and we had already obtained the support of People Trust For Endangered Species.

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

At this moment, Colombia Marina had gave copies of the final report to other ONG's, universities, research institutes and young researchers that love sea turtles. Besides, if there is any symposium or meeting about sea turtles in the country, we will be there to share the results with all the interested people.

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

The RSG was used from June to September, and this time was the total length of the project this year.

8. Budget: Please 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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Subsistence Payments	£266	£266	£0	
Equipment	£343	£343	£0	

Supplies	£268	£268	£0	
Travel Expenses	£3873	£3719	£154	We save some money in travel expenses (food).
Educational Workshop Expenses	£222	£376	£154	We decided that the money left was needed to increase the expense in the educational workshops and the awareness campaigns.
TOTAL	£4,973	£4,973	£4,973	

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

To finish with success the second part of the project, which we have called the “consolidation of the process”, go ahead with the improvement of the techniques used by the park staff and continue the tagging program. This coming year, we are going to study the temperatures and humidity affecting the nesting process of *Dermochelys coriacea*, getting closer to the necessities of sea turtles in TNNP.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the educational material produced during the project has the RSGF logo in the front, as you seen in the photos attached and during the night talks, workshop and results dissemination activities, it was always clear that the project would have not been possible with out RSG support.

11. Any other comments?

Just to say thank you, all these achievements are because of your help and with this project has began a new face for the sea turtle conservation turtle in the Colombian Caribbean. It has shown that it its possible to obtain help form international institutes and that because in Colombia there is not support for these projects we can not give up and lay these animals to their luck. Again, thanks a lot and you will hear from us soon!! .

Fundacion Colombia Marina

**Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation (RSG)
Final Financial Report 2007**

Grantee: Carolina Monterrosa

Project: Nesting assessment of four endangered species of sea turtles
at Tayrona National Natural Park – Colombian Caribbean.

Project ref: 34.11.06

Grant period: June 1, 2007 - September 30, 2007

FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE GRANTEE FROM THE RUFFORD FOUNDATION

Exchange rate £ 5,000 10,000 USD
 £ 1 2,0 USD

IMPLEMENTED BUDGET (£)

Budget Items	Project Budget	Matching Funds		Contributed Funds RSG		TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENSES
		Approved Budget	Actual Expenses IN-KIND	Approved Rufford Grant	Actual Expenses	
Salaries	£5.666	£5.400	£5.400	£266	£266	£5.666
Travel / transport	£7.873	£4.000	£4.000	£3.873	£3.719	£7.719
Equipment	£2.265	£1.922	£1.922	£343	£343	£2.265
Supplies	£417	£125	£125	£268	£268	£393
Information dissemination	£222	-	-	£222	£376	£376
Total	£16.443	£11.447	£11.447	£4.972	£4.972	£16.419
Project Balance		£0		£0		£24

Notes:

Average exchange rate during report period 1£ = \$4,500 Colombian pesos

Carolina Monterrosa

Carolina Monterrosa
Colombia Marina Director