

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Segun Olayinka Oladipo
Project Title	Intensifying conservation actions for the protection of Red List Threatened stingrays in Nigerian Lagos Lagoon
Application ID	38729-2
Date of this Report	24/11/2023

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
Socioeconomic survey				These interviews helped to document indigenous knowledge of various stingrays previously and presently found in the localities and socioeconomic importance in the villages. Social groups were interviewed to document additional localities where stingrays are likely to be found, and the market trends.
Field survey data				Training on the fish survey and stingray identification methods were giving to the students of Kwara State University, Malete as well as the fishermen for data collection and dissemination techniques towards DNA barcoding of the stingrays in Nigeria. The representative and voucher specimens of different species of stingray are preserved in the Department of Zoology, Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria
Community-based conservation programmes				The activities involve targeting the local community in Badagry and Epe, secondary schools around the local community and the university. This focused on community-based conservation education geared towards improving and the need for the conservation of stingrays in Nigeria waters. During this programme, many undergraduate students, two host communities were reached and included in the project. In addition, secondary schools with about 400 students reached so far.
Stakeholder's meeting				The involvement of the key stakeholders such as the community heads, fishers head, market women head and key research and academic institute such as Kwara State University, Malete informs the participation of different social

				groups –fishermen, youths and market women as citizen scientists.
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2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a). The project provides and document indigenous knowledge of various stingrays presently found in Nigerian waters and socioeconomic importance in the villages.
- b). Training on the fish survey and stingray identification to both the locals and the students to confirm and differentiate related stingray in Nigeria.
- c). Conservation awareness and education programmes on stingrays in the host communities, schools and environment.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

N/A

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

The local communities were directly and indirectly involved during the project. This includes involvement of the community heads, fishers head, market women head and key research and academic institute such as Kwara State University, Malete informing the participation of different social groups – fishermen, youths and market women as citizen scientists. Similarly, training on the fish survey and stingray identification methods were giving to the students of Kwara State University, Malete as well as the fishermen for data collection and dissemination techniques of the stingrays in Nigeria.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we have plans to continue this project. Firstly, we plan to further projects that would give grassroots education and awareness to improve literacy about Nigerian stingrays and other related endangered ray species in Nigerian water. This further and improve conservation of the threatened stingrays in Nigeria. Again, funding is needed to secure this momentum.

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

From the sponsored project, manuscripts had been drafted titled “Characterization of Marine Stingrays in the West Africa Coastal waters” and “Socio-Ecological Survey of Ray and Skate in the Badagry and Epe Coastal System, Lagos, Nigeria”. In addition, these were shared among scholar within the region towards marine research and conservation meetings.

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

The important next steps include the following:

1. Grassroots education and awareness on stingray and other rays in Nigerian water.
2. Improving literacy on Nigerian stingray and other related endangered ray species in Nigerian water.

8. 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 was used in all conservation awareness programme and meetings documents such as face caps, the banners, t-shirt, notebook, questionnaire form, etc.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Dr. Segun Olayinka Oladipo: Project team leader, super head the ecological research, including field work, species identification and questionnaire distribution, as well as community conservation programmes for the species.

Prof. G.C. Nzeh: Supervise the field work. She was the one of the key participants during stakeholders meeting.

Dr. Kehinde M. Adelokun: He involved in the field work, sampling, collection and identification of fishes. He also assists in community awareness programmes in the villages.

Miss Adeniran Deborah Mojisola: Assist in sample collection and community awareness programmes in the schools.

10. Any other comments?

Our gratitude to The Rufford Foundation for the approval and funding support towards the project, and in particular to Jane Raymond.

We also express our sincere thanks to Kwara State University, Malete, secondary schools managements, fisher's heads, market heads and the village heads where the conservation awareness took place.