

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	Emile Pemberton
Project title	Nevis Sea Turtle Conservation Programme
RSG reference	
Reporting period	February 2008 to February 2009
Amount of grant	£5000.00
Your email address	mugabe@hotmail.com
Date of this report	3 rd February 2009

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
Public education programme on sea turtles			Yes√	
Beach Cleanup		Yes√		More garbage found than anticipated. However, we were able to mobilise enough persons to clean up two of the three main nesting beaches.
Night patrols for schoolchildren, family groups and hotel guests		Yes√		The main nesting season was during the summer vacation. Thus it was difficult to mobilise teachers and students who were then on holiday. We were able though to get family groups and hotel guests to accompany us on beach patrols.

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

There was the situation where most of the experienced volunteers were unavailable by being off island during most of the sea turtle nesting period. The student volunteers were quickly trained and were able to do most of the work that the experienced volunteers were expected to do. Luckily one of the student volunteers was in his second full year of monitoring and they were all quick learners. This enabled the monitoring programme to run smoothly.

The cost of gasoline tripled during the period when monitoring was done leading to groups who lived in the same general area been targeted. This way less fuel had to be used than would have been the case had different groups from all parts of the island been targeted at the same time.

The students from schools and colleges could not be reached through the normal route of their teachers due to the fact that these institutions were closed for the vacation during the peak sea turtle nesting period. This target group had then to be tackled via inviting school and family groups to the beach. This was successful in that persons from this age group were present on the beach most Friday nights during July and August.

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

Renesting turtles were encountered with greater frequency than in any other previous year of monitoring on Nevis. This was because of the increased patrolling. Additionally, poaching of nesting sea turtles and of sea turtle eggs was reduced to a minimum because of the monitoring activities. There was also an increased awareness of the work done by the Nevis Turtle group because of the many articles done on sea turtle conservation in the local media and the number of competitions organised for school children. Moreover, four student volunteers were trained in sea turtle conservation and so were not only capable of conducting monitoring on their own but also of passing on this knowledge to their families and friends.

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

Interested local children got the opportunity to see nesting turtles for the first time and were also able to enter competitions and win prizes for doing so. There is a raised awareness among the populace that there is a need for the sustainable use of all our resources including the sea turtles of Nevis.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes indeed. It is planned that this work will continue for many years to come.

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

The results of this work will be shared with the local media (electronic and newspapers) and will appear on our web pages as well. Already the results of this work has been shared with our regional brothers and sisters at the December 18th to 20th December, 2009 meeting of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (Widecast) at Ross University of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts.

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 March 2008 to February 2009. This fits into the actual length of the project.

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
Production of 2009 sea turtle calendar	£290.00	£400.00	£110.00	Inflated prices here on the island. Also a great demand for the calendars meant we had to produce more.
Stipends for student volunteers	£1000.00	£2000.00	£1000.00	Unavailability of the experienced volunteers meant we had to engage more student volunteers and for longer than originally planned.
Quizzes, poster competition and debate	£250.00	£1200.00	£750.00	There was a high level of interest from the schools in these competitions. Thus it was decided to spend more of the resources here.
Transportation	£1560.00	£1400.00	£160.00	Fewer persons taken to beach than originally intended.
Provision of office and field supplies	£1000.00	£0.0	£1000.00	Supplies accessed from other sources including Nevis Island Administration and St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network.
Contingencies	£500.00	£0.0	£500.00	We were able to source money from elsewhere for contingencies.

				Resources were diverted to where seen most needed as the project developed.
TOTAL	£4600.00	£5000.00	£400.00	There was a general rise in prices on the island in 2008 – especially in regards to fuel.

Exchange rate used: £1.00 = EC\$5.00

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

Continuation of the project building on the success in particular that was had with the involvement of the student volunteers, family and church groups. Intensify the public education programme and attempt to build a greater awareness of the need for marine conservation on the island. The sea turtle will be used as the flagship species in order to help build greater awareness of this need.

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. RSGF logos were put on our beach cleanup flyer as well as on the flyers for our sea turtle poster competition. Additionally the RSGF logo appears on each page of our much in demand 2009 sea turtle calendar. The RSGF was also given publicity on the radio and television programmes that we appeared on and in newspaper articles about the activities of the Nevis Turtle Group.

11. Any other comments?

We are thankful to the RSG for allowing us this opportunity to greatly increase our sea turtle conservation efforts. We are hopeful that we can get a RSG booster grant so that we can better able continue our conservation work here that is aimed ultimately at the creation of marine parks and marine protected areas in our country. It is only with marine conservation that sustainable livelihoods can be created for all stakeholders as regards the marine resources of our country.