

## 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. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Chris Bone
Project title	OceansWatch
RSG reference	9886-1
Reporting period	August 2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:chris@oceanswatch.org">chris@oceanswatch.org</a>
Date of this report	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2012

**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
Carry out 30 Reef Check transects to monitor Coral Reefs in Vanuatu.				One of the communities had recently been monitored, one we did not get to visit due to crew leaving early and weather stopped some others. We carried out 32 transects overall in the project period with nine in the Solomon Islands and 11 in Papua New Guinea. -In Vanuatu we carried out 12 surveys.
Development of Marine management plans, Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and implementation.				We monitored the reefs inside and outside the community MPA at mystery island in Analcouhat village on Aneutyum. This is an MPA that was going to be annulled due to lack of understanding and support that we helped save in 2010. We wrote a scientific report for the Fisheries officer Alsen Obed to support the proposal to create an MPA at Sakao Island off Esprito Santo. We collected the GPS points for the MPA in Dillon's Bay as a step towards them registering it as a Community conservation Area (CCA). In Lamien Bay we provided the GPS co-ordinates of the MPAs to the government and VANGO. We also provided the community and Fisheries officer at Port Olry with the GPS co-ordinates of their MPA. We also mapped the MPAs on Gaua Island. We also implemented MPAs in the Reef Islands in the Solomon Islands. -This is ongoing but we were able to provide data requested by the Vanuatu government.
To give eight films on Marine conservation				In addition in the time frame of the grant we gave many film nights in two communities in the Solomon Islands. - Eight films nights were held in Vanuatu in 2011
To give eight lessons on Marine Education.				Arriving during a holiday festival prevented us giving lessons in one community. Lack of a French or Bislama speaker prevented lessons in one school. Lessons were also given at three schools in the Solomon Islands. - In Vanuatu six lessons were given in the schools.
To help with a turtle tagging project				This was at Mystery Island where they have a lot of tourists from the cruise ships and they run turtle tagging as a conservation and ecotourism venture each time a ship comes in. They were

			finding that tourists were asking questions that they could not answer and so we were able to give them some more in depth education on turtles. - The turtle tagging project that we rejuvenated in 2010 is going well.
Assistance in dealing with threats to the marine environment.			We safely removed over 700 crown of thorn starfish from one of their MPAs and planted trees for erosion control. We also assessed coral bleaching for Coral Watch on the reefs we surveyed. - In Nguna Pele MPA area
Assistance with two eco tourism projects.			Two of these communities we helped with eco tourism projects are on islands where new airports have been developed or planned. All three also have visiting yachts and in Analcouhat cruise ships visit. In Lamén Bay we helped to create awareness among the cruising yachts about where they should anchor to prevent damage to the seagrass, we mapped the seagrass area which is the habitat for the dugong that are the local eco-tourist attraction. South West bay Malekula are building an Eco-lodge and wanted help with a mooring buoy project, we found a site and provided them with a plan for this idea, along with costings. - In Analcouhat, Dillon's Bay Erromango, also in Lamén Bay.
Upskilling and training of 10 Reef Guardians.			We gave training to five young guys in Dillon's Bay who helped us with our Reef Check surveys. We trained one Reef Guardian at Namasari Bay in Gaua. In the Reef Islands we have trained 10 youths with our newly revamped Reef Guardian training which uses Free Choice Profiling, a qualitative methodology as well as a quantitative system. - We trained or upskilled 6 Reef Guardians.

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

In Aneityum bad weather and engine problems meant we only carried out six of the eight Reef Check surveys that had been planned.

One of the movie nights on Gaua was abandoned as the projector would not work properly. On future visits we will try to have a generator as it seems this was the problem not the projector itself.

Our plan was to be back in Vanuatu earlier in 2012 but boat refit delays and a request to be in the Solomon Islands meant we switched things around and will now visit Vanuatu communities in October 2012.

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

The three most important outcomes were:

1. The ongoing Reef Check monitoring that was carried out for the communities. This was done in partnership with the Vanuatu environment department and in close cooperation with their fisheries department. This data was also submitted to Reef Check International which monitors the health of coral worldwide.
2. The data that we were able to provide to the Vanuatu government. We provided GPS points marking Community Conservation Areas in five communities to the environment department. This will allow the registration of these areas. We provided a scientific report that to the North Vanuatu Fisheries Department to support the creation of a Marine Protected Area in Sakao Island. This area was observed to be a pristine reef that will be supporting all the other reefs in this area, providing ongoing food sustainability and supporting the local community's eco-tourism businesses.
3. The lessons given in the schools and in village meeting spaces. Providing information to these communities helps to educate them about their marine habitat and the importance of looking after it. Also talks on climate change were provided. This education helps build the capacity of communities to handle the impacts of other people with conflicting interests and helps them understand how to reduce their own impact on their coral reefs.

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

All the communities that we work with have either invited us to work with them or we have been requested to monitor their coral reefs or MPAs on behalf of the Vanuatu Environment Department. Each visit involves a meeting with the relevant stakeholders and an inquiry as to how they would like us to help them.

In all communities we work to build their capacity and educate them about their resources to provide them with a more sustainable future.

Whenever we were monitoring the reefs we took locals with us to show them their reef and train them to do their own monitoring.

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

We are currently (July/August 2012) working with communities directly to the north of Vanuatu, which are an isolated part of the Solomon Islands. We will return to Vanuatu in October. We plan to visit the Island of Esprito Santo to continue to work to support the creation of a Marine Protected Area around Sakao Island and will also revisit Labo village on the West coast of Malekula.

Our experience with most of the other communities in Vanuatu that we have visited over the last 4 years is that they have established CCAs and the support of quite a few other NGOs. We will

continue to work in those places where we feel we can provide the most help to conserve their environment for the future. We will continue to work in partnership with the Vanuatu Environment Department to provide them with the data they require from the isolated communities.

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

Reports were written for all the communities we visited and these have been given to the contact in each community, the Vanuatu Environment Department and the Vanuatu Fisheries Department. The Reef Check data was also provided to the government departments and to Reef Check International.

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

The grant was used to fund the expedition to Vanuatu in 2011 but the charts and dive/ Reef Check materials are still being used in 2012. We have received funding from a GDF prize that has funded the 2012 expedition. We did plan to be back in Vanuatu again within the timeframe of the project but that has been delayed until October 2012.

## **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
Charts/ID books	250	95	155	Bought second hand copy
Dive equipment/ RC	700	1021	321	Bought extra tank to have back up
Marina Fees	500	558	58	Increase in cost or extra nights
Repairs and Maintenance	1500	2571	1071	Had to buy parts and fix outboard motor.
Fuel	1000	1631	631	Increase in fuel prices
Postage	150	42	108	Did not post much
Internet	300	79	221	Used free wifi with food purchase in Port Vila
Bank Fees	100	21	79	Probably wrongly accounted for
Phone card	100	105		
Print/copy	400	53	347	Printed in office in advance and used posters
Immigration	200	308	108	Increased govt costs
Total	6000	6799	799	

**Converted from NZ dollars, although some was spent in Vanuatu Vatu. Exchange rate \$1.9 to £1**

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

In Vanuatu there is most need in the northern part of the country away from Efate where there are lots of NGOs working. The establishment of an MPA in Sakao Island while it is still in its pristine condition may help the local community prevent logging in the area and will build on their ecotourism capacity and sustain the other reefs in the area, which provide a significant food resource. It will also build the resilience of the marine ecosystem to mitigate the effects of climate change.

As our strength is reaching isolated communities that others do not reach we are also focussing on the isolated Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands north of Vanuatu. The Solomon Islands government does not yet have a system for implementing Marine Protected Areas. However, communities are recognising the need and several have requested our help with this.

**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?**

All the reports provided to the government departments displayed the RSGF logo and we have had the logo displayed on our website. We have acknowledged Rufford in communication to all our members and in a newsletter to over 5000 on our newsletter list and also to our Facebook followers.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are extremely grateful to your small grants program that allowed us to achieve our objectives in 2011 and hope we will be able to work together in the future as our projects continue.