

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Luke Swainson
Project title	An integrated Sea Turtle Conservation, Eco-Tourism and Volunteer Programme: Bangkaru Island, Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia
RSG reference	18758-1
Reporting period	Nov 2015 – Nov 2016
Amount of grant	£4977
Your email address	lukeswainson@gmail.com
Date of this report	Jan 30, 2017

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
Finalise a management Plan and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for tourism and volunteerism activities.				The standard operating procedures for tourism and volunteering have been drafted in both English and Indonesian and discussed in detail with programme staff, government officials, and some community and local business stakeholders. The socialisation of these SOPs with local communities and tour agents needs to continue to be strengthened moving forward. The background information for a detailed Management Plan has been collected and analysed. However, a detailed Management Plan has yet to be drafted. Instead, the bulk of attention has been focused on lobbying key government decision makers at the district, provincial, and central levels to halt the signing of an extractive focused spatial plan, and to encourage them to jointly work together on an alternative Management Plan. The lobbying has worked well to halt the approval of extractive orientated spatial plan, but government decision makers are yet to push forward on the idea of working to put an alternative Management/Spatial Plan in place.
Review facilities and infrastructure capacities				A lot of gains have been made in regards to this objective. Initial

			<p>assessments showed key areas that needed to be targeted for the health and safety of staff and visitors – notably, the water pump, genset, mosquito nets, and roofing at the facility. Money was raised to fix these problems through a CSR donation from a software company - Configure. Through this process there were also additional gains made. We identified that it was essential to get a new transport boat. The money for this was raised from a new partner NGO – Lestari. We also worked with government to get approval for a new guard post located at the turtle nesting beach so as to further deter poachers, which is currently being built. Any finally, we also had a solar energy specialist visit the area and write a report about the needs and options for the ranger camp, which we are now using to try and raise funds to develop solar energy at the site.</p>
<p>Build community capacity and participation in conservation eco-tourism and volunteerism activities.</p>			<p>It has taken more time than expected to put the appropriate building blocks in place to meet this objective, and as such less has been achieved than we hoped. We have had a successful training of our lead ranger, who in turn carried out trainings with the other rangers. Through this process we have been able to recruit and build the capacity of more rangers from the local communities. As above, we have also been able to put in place SOPs for tourism and volunteering, which: a) helps clarify what the procedures are for</p>

			<p>visiting Bangkaru, thus reducing confusion and problems; and b) we have developed a volunteer programme, which while slow starting, will bring further visitors to the area that will boost economic opportunities for local communities. We have also undertaken initial scoping of a service provider who will do handicraft training with local communities in 2017, and another service provider who will be building a plastic upcycling facility within the local community in 2017 (80% of the funding for this has been raised). Finally, we are 75% through the production of a cartoon storybook explaining the linkages between tourism and the environment and the importance of conservation work. All of this work is positively moving towards our objective, it is just moving a bit slower than expected.</p>
<p>Increase national and global awareness of Bangkaru Island</p>			<p>A number of things were achieved in 2016, but mostly it was about setting things up for more impact in 2017. The volunteer programme creates a great platform for increasing awareness – it already has a following of 603 people on Facebook in its first few months of operation. We have also facilitated a number of pro-surfer trips to Bangkaru that have resulted in magazine articles and videos about the area. These results are much less than hoped for though. It has taken longer than expected to get greater traction on this objective. However, 2017 is looking more promising. We have</p>

			<p>established a relationship with the Southern Cross University on two research projects: 1) collating and publishing all turtle data to date; and, 2) a comparative study about the biodiversity value of Bangkaru compared to other islands in both Pulau Banyak and Simeulue. We have also developed a partnership with another conservation NGO - Lestari – who have started conducting biodiversity assessments on bird and plant life on Bangkaru, with publications expected to be released in 2017. Finally, we will continue to facilitate more media coverage around Bangkaru, and are currently in discussions with Patagonia for a large showpiece expose on Bangkaru.</p>
--	--	--	---

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

Some attention was pulled away from the objectives discussed above, due to much higher levels of turtle egg poaching in early 2016 compared to at any other time over the past few years. At one point, we were getting poachers targeting the turtle nests every single night of the week for at least 1 month. The poachers came in groups, and our rangers were unable to deter them. As a result, a law enforcement operation was put in place with the local government and navy. This operation turned out to be extremely successful; the three arrests made were the first of its kind for turtle egg poachers in Sumatra, and it has put a complete stop to turtle egg poaching on Bangkaru ever since.

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

1. The establishment of the volunteer programme (<http://www.healthylslandsindonesia.com/vast-volunteer-program.html>) is a great result that we hope will: a) provide a sustainable source of funding for the programme moving forward; b) provide additional oversight, reporting, and assistance to the

programme, as well as motivation to the rangers who love getting visitors; and, c) more direct engagement and benefits for local communities.

2. The new partnerships developed and in the pipeline are very promising. Relationships that have been developed and strengthened include: government decision makers on the management of Bangkaru at the district, provincial and central levels, Lestari, Southern Cross University, global businesses that can help spread the message about Bangkaru (Monster Children, Red Bull, Patagonia), local tour operators and communities, solar energy and waste management experts. A profit share agreement with a local coconut business has also been solidified, helping to ensure the long term financial viability of the programme.
3. The law enforcement breakthrough. Although it was not initially included as a core part of the Rufford grant, this initiative has had a dramatic impact on Bangkaru conservation and could not have been achieved without the assistance of Rufford.

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

Local community involvement during the course of the project has been less than hoped for. This is because key initiatives have taken longer than expected to put in place – including, the cartoon book, the volunteer programme, and training for handicrafts. All of these initiatives are still being worked on though, and will be completed by the end of 2017. Hence, the Rufford grant enabled this work to be kick-started, which will ultimately lead to positive impact for local communities, but after the project period has ended.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this is an on-going conservation program that is just starting to get back on track following the disintegration of the previous organisation that managed the programme (Yayasan Pulau Banyak). We need to keep raising grant money to allow the good work to continue until the sustainable finance mechanisms come into play.

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

1. The volunteer programme provides a great outlet for on-going programme updates via social media.
2. We will also continue to lobby government at various levels and keep them updates on all aspects of the programme.

3. Scientific publications are expected to be produced in 2017, which can then be shared with others via social media.
4. We will continue to build relationships with global brands and businesses and conservation organisations that have their own strong following and can help share the message about the importance of conserving Bangkaru Island.

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

As described above, as aspects of the programme have taken longer than expected – notably the production of the cartoon book, training around handicrafts, and development of the Management Plan – which have all not been completed during the course of the grant. However, all of these initiatives are on-going and will be completed after the life of this 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
Technical assistance to design management plan and SOPs	890	3,564	2,674	We took on board a full time position to develop and implement the volunteer program, as opposed to the short term assignment initially envisaged.
Travel and meetings costs for management plan and SOPs	267	534	0	More travel to both Bangkaru and Banda Aceh was needed than what was anticipated
Management oversight for management plan and SOPs	528	0	-528	This work was undertaken was by HAKA's core management team, which was covered by separate budget. Initially we had envisaged hiring someone specifically for this role.
Technical assistance	667	416	-251	The work was cheaper

to develop and produce education material				than initially envisaged
Technical assistance to increase capacity of tourism service providers	667	0	-667	We have not yet brought in an external person to undertake this work.
Travel and meetings costs to build community capacity and participation	267	267	0	
Management oversight to build community capacity and participation	267	267	0	
Technical assistance to undertake biodiversity studies	890	0	-890	This work has focused to date on building relationships, rather than paying for external assistance. The external assistance we have now lined up for 2017 will come at no cost.
Travel for biodiversity studies	267	0	-267	As above, this work will start in 2017.
Management oversight for biodiversity studies	267	0	-267	As above, this work will start in 2017.
TOTAL	4,977	5,048	71	

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

We made very good progress in 2016, and now it's a matter of building on that work and going from strength to strength. In particular, we would love to build on our existing monitoring and research work to add GPS tracking to the turtle programme and include other species, especially birds. It is also essential that follow through the planned community development work – using the cartoon book to build environmental awareness, carry out the handicraft training and link it to the volunteer programme, and implement the plastic upcycling initiative (this is a social business to be established in and operated by the local community where plastic

waste will be washed, shredded, and moulded in items that are saleable (pot plants) to ensure the financial viability of the initiative).

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

The RSGF logo will be put on the cartoon book currently under production. We will also put out a large thank you across the volunteer programme social media once our current cycle finishes in February (we have posts locked in for the next month).

We also plan to keep name dropping Rufford into articles and blogs that we hope to get produced regarding the program on Bangkaru over the next 12 months.

We are open to other suggestions you might have?

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

12. Any other comments?

We would like to thank Rufford again for the essential help during what was a difficult time for this conservation programme. We hope to build on this relationship moving forward.