

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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<b>Grant Recipient Details</b>	
<b>Your name</b>	Ana Hacoheñ Domené
<b>Project title</b>	Participatory management of elasmobranch fishermen in the Caribbean of Guatemala.
<b>RSG reference</b>	19143-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	June 2017
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4979
<b>Your email address</b>	ahacohen@fundacionmundoazul.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	06/02/2017

**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
Apply, in the field, through fishermen participatory process, a methodology for biological monitoring for elasmobranchs, as well as the verification of landings.				During workshops fishermen and local volunteers learnt the method to conduct landing monitoring. During landings, we explained, assisted and guided fishermen and local volunteers during the process.
Strengthen the technical capacities of the fishermen, technical personnel and rangers of different institutions in elasmobranchs monitoring				Fishermen and rangers from the area have the technical capacities to conduct and continue conducting shark and ray landing monitoring in the area. Additionally we were able to train local volunteers to conduct shark and ray landing monitoring. All participants are able to conduct morphometric measurements and to take photographs for species identification.
Update the current information on the status and diversity of the elasmobranch population in one of the fishing communities of the Guatemalan Caribbean				Before this project, information regarding species abundance and compositions was scarce. After a constant year of shark landing monitoring we have been able to update the current information. To date we have record of 31 chondrichthyans species in the area (26 sharks, four rays, one chimaera). All results obtained during the project were shared with fishermen during our last workshop. This project is only a first step in generating scientific information on the current status of sharks and rays in Guatemala's Caribbean Sea. Landing monitoring should continue in the area with the assistance of local community and the rangers.

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

Sometimes some fishermen were not in the community, which made the number of participants decrease. If this was the case, meetings were rescheduled.

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

1. The project has generated crucial information needed to evaluate the current status of sharks and rays in the Caribbean of Guatemala.

2. We have a constant shark landing monitoring programme in the community. We have local people in the community, with high shark landing monitoring skills, able to continue shark and ray monitoring. By having local people constantly recording data, our presence in the community may only be necessary to assist, review and analyse the data.

3. Current information on the status and diversity of the elasmobranch population in the Caribbean of Guatemala is available for institutions in charge of management in the area. We have generated crucial scientific information regarding the species composition of sharks in the area, previously lacking in the area (species composition, size composition, etc.). We have recorded a total of 24 shark, six rays and one chimaera species in the area, some species are new records for Central America and the Caribbean Region.

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

A few months before we started the project fishermen were a bit distrustful with scientist recording their catches. They believed that data we could collect could only harm them by creating fishing bans. We explained them that more than establishing fishing bans we wanted to involve them in collecting data and to explain them why monitoring was important also for them. By understanding what the data was they could be involved in any future decision making of the shark and ray fishery in the area.

Also we had a few fishermen children (local volunteers) interested in participating with the project.

By the end of the project we had 12 fishermen and 12 local volunteers (fishermen children) with the technical capacities to conduct shark and ray landing monitoring. Fishermen are aware of the fragile state of their fishery and are aware they have to change some of their fishing practice (fishing periods, fishing areas, etc.).

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

Yes, shark landing monitoring will continue in the area. We are also planning on replicating this project in different areas.

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

We will share our results via:

1. Scientific journals.
2. National and international meetings.
3. Meeting with the fishery department.
4. Social media (Facebook, webpage).

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

The grant was used over a year, the estimated 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
Transport	1386.00	1381.28	+4.72	During the first workshops personal of CONAP would assist us with transport to enter the community.
Lodging	936.00	861.11	+74.89	Sometimes we would finish workshops late in the community and stayed at fishermen houses
Food	1332.00	1285.03	+46.97	We saved on food as sometimes we ate at the community (homemade meals prepared by wife of fishermen)
Electronic equipment (GPS and camera)	650.00	598.90	+51.10	We had some saving when buying the equipment as they were on sale during purchase
Technical manuals	630.00	629.48	+0.52	We spent the amount to reproduce 35 technical manuals and 20 identification guides. Material was given to rangers, fishermen and the local volunteers.
Educational material	45.00	39.85	+5.15	When possible, we recycled material (paper, cardboards,

				etc.)during the workshops to avoid buying extra
Loss of money by bank transfer	0	183.35	-183.35	Money saved during the previous items were used to cover the loss of money during the transfer.
<b>Total</b>	4979	4979		

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

Currently, the fishing community has the technical capacity to continue the shark and ray monitoring in the area. The next step is getting fishermen and the fishery department together, as well as rangers and discuss together possible management measures.

**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?**

Yes. We used the logo in our power point presentations were results of the project were shared (local and international meetings). We also included the logo in our technical and educational material. Additionally, we thanked the RF in Fundación Mundo Azul Facebook news regarding the project, as well as in Fundación Mundo Azul webpage.

**11. Any other comments?**

I would like to thank the Rufford Foundation for their support to conduct this project, which is greatly appreciated. Marine biology studies are lacking in Guatemala, especially for sharks and rays. With the support of the RF we have been able to include the fishermen and local volunteers in collecting data and to update the current status of sharks and rays in an area that previously lacked for the Caribbean of Guatemala.