

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	Marina Fastigi
Project title	Critically Endangered Nesting Sea Turtles Conservation, Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration and Youth Environmental Education & Conservation activities in Carriacou, Grenada (W.I.)
RSG reference	Project I.D.: 25772-C
Reporting period	March 18, 2018 – August 31, 2019
Amount of grant	GBP 14,957.51
Your email address	marina.fastigi@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 30, 2019

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
Nesting Sea Turtle Conservation (monitoring /tagging and guide training)				<p>The total number of nesting activities from March 1st, 2018 to August 31, 2019 was 663 and is going to rise since hawksbill turtles continue to nest especially on the main nesting beach of Petit Carenage, until the end of November (see nesting turtle report attached).</p> <p>Five local Nesting Turtle Monitoring Guides were trained and employed, forming KIDO Turtle Monitoring Teams with one Research Assistant and one volunteer from UK.</p>
Youth Environmental Education & Conservation Program				<p>52 students participated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -11 sessions on "Marine Turtles' biology, toxicity & conservation and Ocean Plastic Pollution" with Biologist Piero Becker and Joseph Frame (USA), veterinary student also graduating in Education at St. George's University, Grenada and member of Exotic Wildlife Society. The sessions included one field trip to Petit Carenage for beach waste collection and two sessions decorating bags (gifts for each kid) produced with recycled sails by Creative Women of Carriacou • One session on bird conservation. • One birdwatching field trip to Petit Carenage Bird Sanctuary. • One 'Be a Turtle for a Day' beach field trip, wearing turtle carapace replicas on their back, mimicking the nesting process. • Two field trips to High North peak (956 ft) learning about keystone trees and forest wildlife. • Two mangrove restoration field trips (one for World Wetland Day). • One clean-up of Petit Carenage nesting beach. <p>Eight students and three adults were involved in the production of KIDO</p>

			<p>educational puppet movie on Climate Change 'Tale of Two Islands' https://vimeo.com/308530681, creating puppets, characters' voice recording and performing as puppeteers.</p> <p>The film was shown at the Grenadian Film Festival in Grenada in May 2019. At least 500 students in Carriacou watched the movie at the five primary schools and at KIDO, during the visit of Alpha Junior School students from Grenada.</p> <p>KIDO involved 50 youths during a SIOBMPA (Sandy Island Oyster Beds-Marine Protected area) summer camp in a Sea Turtle Conservation presentation and beach game (Turtle for a Day).</p> <p>30 additional students, teachers and parents from Westmorland School from Grenada participated in the mangrove restoration of Petit Carenage.</p> <p>KIDO guided 31 more students and teachers from Harvey Vale Government School, from Carriacou to an educational field trip on the nature trail to High North peak (956 ft) learning to identify keystone species of trees and forest wildlife.</p> <p>KIDO Summer Cat mini catamaran, entirely constructed with recycled materials in 2014 - 2015 Rufford KIDO Youth Environmental Program, was again on display at Carriacou Regatta 2019, on the request of the regatta committee, attracting much attentions and questions from youths and adults.</p> <p>Total of students involved in various degrees and initiatives with KIDO Environmental Education & Conservation program: 671 (Carriacou has about 6,000 inhabitants)</p> <p>Kids with Cameras Carriacou and Kido Foundation Facebook pages and KIDO website were updated with the project's educational and conservation activities, funded by RSG.</p>
Mangrove Restoration			<p>KIDO planted approximately 5,000 red mangroves propagules in 2 acres of selected restoration area, with a 30% replacement of damaged plants. Dario</p>

			<p>Sandrini and Turtle Guide Hansel Patrice carried out a total of 35 planting sessions. Three NGOs from Grenada (Grenada Fund for Conservation, Ocean Spirits & Education Conservation Outreach) teamed up with KIDO staff, students and the creative women of Carriacou, on World Wetland Day (Feb. 2, 2019), to plant red mangrove propagules in the selected restoration area.</p> <p>30 students, parents and teachers from Grenada Westmorland School helped in the mangrove restoration on May 17, 2019. 16 students of our Youth Environmental Education & Conservation Program helped to harvest and plant red mangrove seedlings in Petit Carenage Wetland Restoration area.</p>
--	--	--	--

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

Night transportation problem for research assistant to reach the turtle nesting beaches in time (for night and early morning patrols) was solved with the low-cost rent of a small car. KIDO's 1993 Land Rover was utilised for morning patrols in muddy-awkward to get to locations and for mangrove restoration trips, when it was not out of order.

While performing as puppeteer for filming 'Tale of Two Islands" Dr. Fastigi accidentally broke her right wrist. The accident caused a setback in the scheduled recording of the movie scenes. Fortunately, one of KIDO's students, 11 years old Noah Matthew, a talented born puppeteer, was of great help in moving the puppets. Eventually Dr. Fastigi returned backstage to help to complete the performances... 'single handed'.

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

- Sea turtle nesting activities (663) remained stable in spite of the constant threats to their survivals (hunting, pollution, beach and vegetation loss through global warming effects), with an estimate of 80.000 eggs laid and protected from poachers, no poaching activities were recorded on the main beach. In early morning patrolled beaches poaching incidents accounted for less than 0.5% of all the nesting activities
- 5,000 red mangrove propagules/seedlings were planted in the coastal restoration area, with the help of students and community members from Carriacou and Grenada, conserving nesting sea turtle and bird habitats
- KIDO nature conservation message reached a wider audience with the production of the first original Green Screen Puppet Movie (46mn) made in

Carriacou on Global Warming, with local student actors. Through the Grenada Film Festival, YouTube and Vimeo distribution the film reached a regional and some international audience, while in Carriacou a total of 671 students participated to KIDO environmental education and conservation activities.

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

Local turtle monitoring guides and facilitators in KIDO youth programmes were employed to complete this project successfully. Several educators and parents participated to KIDO conservation activities accompanying students to the restoration of Petit Carenage mangrove ecosystem, appreciating its value and benefits not only for nesting turtles and birds, but also for their coastal communities threatened by climate change. A sentence we hear among the local population is: 'When the mangroves are gone, our village too will be gone!'

The creative women of Carriacou, who pledged to conserve sea turtle population and restore the damaged mangrove ecosystem, participated and assisted KIDO in the restoration programme.

'Tale of Two Islands' puppet movie was filmed on green screen and filmed remarkable natural landscapes of Carriacou Island, used as background, promoting Carriacou as ecotourism destination. The film educated the local and regional public about climate change, its causes and the possible alternative solutions to mitigate its consequences.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

KIDO Foundation's work to conserve nesting sea turtles and their habitats (mangroves and beaches) is on-going, as well as our commitment to involve all island youths in conservation activities. Our goal is to make each forthcoming generation aware and committed to mitigate the impact of climate change in our small Caribbean island and to preserve its outstanding natural environment, wildlife and flora, as these are key elements for the population to survive. From January to April 2020 we plan to run a nature guide training course for young adults (16 to 25) with the goal to spread the conservation message and offer employment opportunities for post-schooling island youths. The Grenada Tourism Authority agreed to support this training course.

We also plan to reforest High North National Park (endangered keystone tree species as well as mangroves) to mitigate the harmful consequences of global warming, with the help of other European funding agencies.

This larger long-term conservation project is expected to employ many of the grown youths who were educated and trained as guides by KIDO.

Moreover, KIDO is actively lobbying to introduce environmental education in the curriculum of the government schooling system, aiming to bring conservation and dealing with natural ecosystems and endangered species one full step up and ahead. Then KIDO will be able to work at more complex issues in Small Tropical Island Nature Conservation, building teams of local specialists.

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

Via two Facebook pages (YWF-KIDO Foundation & Kids with Cameras Carriacou), KIDO website, local and regional newspaper articles and the distribution of 'Tale of Two islands' puppet film.

In August of this year, 2019, KIDO Foundation received the CTO (Caribbean Tourism Organisation) 2019 Nature Conservation Award. This award confirms and increases the visibility of KIDO's work, further spreading our conservation message regionally and internationally.

The video of the Award Presentation in St. Vincent can be viewed at:
<https://www.facebook.com/YWF-KIDO-FOUNDATION-202554109127/>

Related August 2019 article of Grenada newspaper mentioning KIDO's conservation efforts and award:
<https://www.nowgrenada.com/2019/08/pure-grenadas-sustainability-efforts-recognised/>

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

We were able to secure the period from March 1st, 2018 to November 30, 2019 for nesting sea turtle monitoring, because the hawksbill turtle nesting season and the hatching activities usually continue until the end of November. The actual length of the project was from June 28, 2018 to June 28, 2019

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. 1£ sterling = EC\$3,5064 (see attached Excel spread sheet for budget details)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Subsistence payment for Nesting Turtle Guides	7191	6919	-232	Spent less to compensate unforeseen increased cost for computer & printer

Food allowance for Research Assistant	1148	963	-185	Spent less to compensate unforeseen increased cost for computer & printer
Transport / Fuel	3435	3419	-16	
Equipment/ materials	2047	2485	+43	The prices of Apple MacBook Laptop with importation taxes and printer with extra cartridges was more than what we budgeted for
Payment for facilitators	1175	1170	-5	
Bankcharges		3	+3	
TOTAL	14996	14959	-37	

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

- To continue our work extending the crucial mangrove restoration area and proceed to the reforestation of the several hundred acres of High North National Park Peak plateau.
- To continue recruiting local nesting sea turtle guides and/or research assistants to effectively patrol the main turtle nesting beaches protecting our critically endangered species (hawksbills and leatherbacks).
- To continue to involve the island students in conservation activities. Many of our 'former' pupils, now in their late teenage years, participate in our present activities as facilitators and act as leading figures in their communities to save their island's natural environment and her wild creatures.
- To expand KIDO conservation education by training local nature guides, who will lead eco-tourists to High North National Park nature trails, with the opportunity to be engaged in meaningful nature conservation related jobs
- To support the recycling efforts of the creative women of Carriacou, generating income for community single mothers and at the same time helping to reduce the amount of plastic and fabrics discarded in Carriacou's land and coastal waters.

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

The Rufford Foundation logo appears in the credits section of 'Tale of Two Islands' puppet film, posted on YouTube and Vimeo channels.

KIDO conservation activities funded by Rufford are posted on YWF-KIDO Foundation Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/YWF-KIDO-FOUNDATION-202554109127/>

Rufford's logo appears on KIDO website www.liletsanctuary.com
 And on Kids with Camera Carriacou Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/KidsWithCamerasCarriacou/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

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

Marina Fastigi: project director, administrator, educator and field trip coordinator, nesting turtle guide trainer, social media manager, photographer, puppeteer and administrator of Creative Women of Carriacou., a group designing and producing grocery and fashion bags from up-cycled materials

Dario Sandrini: nesting turtle field coordinator, nesting turtle guide field trainer, mangrove restoration coordinator, educator, field trip coordinator, puppet play music composer

Piero Becker (USA marine biologist): nesting turtle monitoring research assistant, turtle guide trainer, photographer, filmmaker & "Tale of Two Islands" puppet movie director and editor in chief. Volunteer facilitator for "Sea Turtle Biology & Pathologies as health hazards for human consumption" course at KIDO.

Hansel Patrice: senior nesting sea turtle monitoring & rescue guide, mangrove restoration guide and field trip facilitator with KIDO Youth Environmental Education & Conservation program.

Donte McGillivray: nesting sea turtle monitoring guide

Antonia Peters: nesting turtle monitoring guide, classroom and field trip facilitator, photographer, trainer of Creative Women of Carriacou

Rickie Alexander: nesting turtle monitoring guide, classroom and field trip facilitator

Joseph Frame (USA, graduating at Veterinary School of St. George's University, Grenada): in charge of "Sea Turtle Biology & Pathologies as health hazards for human consumption" course within KIDO Youth Environmental Education and Conservation Program

12. Any other comments?

We thank Rufford Foundation for the opportunity and support to develop KIDO Foundation youth environmental education and nature conservation activities in Carriacou.