

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Christina Hicks
Project title	An evaluation of the ecosystem services, their associated benefactors and management implications of the coral reef fisheries of the Seychelles.
RSG reference	33.02.08
Reporting period	2008-2009
Amount of grant	£1600
Your email address	Christina.c.hicks@gmail.com
Date of this report	12/11/09

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
Interview formulation			x	Questionnaires were piloted and run successfully
Primary data collection			x	Data collection was achieved in the intended time period
Analysis and write-up		x		Analysis and has been successful, resulting in a number of presentations; write-up is ongoing.
Values held by a community needs to be incorporated with scientific knowledge.		x		Due to inadequate spatial data on the fishers' mobility we were unable to link specific values to resource condition. This has been incorporated into phase two of this study, collaborating with a team of researchers from the University of East Anglia, UK, who are specifically assessing where fishers fish so that we can link together individual values, fishing location and ecological surveys.
Combine existing fisheries knowledge with the results of this study to link resource use, values and social capital in developing fisheries management plans for the Seychelles targeted to specific fisheries.		x		This data was collected and has been analysed. We are in the process of writing up the results, in collaboration with the Seychelles fisheries authority, highlighting their relevance to management.
Develop a management plan on the premise that if management is based on the values held by the resource users, strategies can focus on rebuilding areas		x		The relevant information is being disseminated to the appropriate agencies. A fishers association has been established in Praslin Island to increase communication between fishers and managers.

thought to influence the ability of a community to collectively organise and manage their resources				
Conference/presentation			x	The preliminary results have been presented in various settings; an abstract has been submitted to the International Society for Ecological Economics conference in Bremen, 2010.
Preliminary dissemination		x		The materials have been produced, the results have been disseminated to managers, and community dissemination will be in person in 2010.

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

As I was running this project alongside my job at the time it was difficult to assign as much time as I wanted, to analysis and write-up, once I had returned from Seychelles. This meant the results from the project took longer than expected. However, I maintained regular contact with the Seychelles fishing authority explaining the situation ensuring they were happy with my progress.

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

- Securing additional funding to continue this research over the next 2 years and developing local and regional, management and scientific, support and contacts to facilitate this.
- Two papers nearing completion for submission to international peer reviewed journals.
 1. Predicting ecosystem service values from socio-economic characteristics (*Ecological Economics*).
 2. Management preferences related to ecosystem service values (*Marine Policy*).
- One of the islands surveyed has now initiated a fisheries association to communicate with government agencies. This is a sign of empowerment, facilitating local conservation and management.

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

I worked with and trained members of the Seychelles fishing authority that had no previous economics experience. Interviews were conducted at the community level, eliciting respondents' aspirations for management. This information is in turn fed back into fisheries policy and development.

4. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. I am currently enrolled on a PhD program following up on this work. I was also successful in a US\$ 150,000 proposal to continue this project in Seychelles with the Seychelles Fishing Authority, and scaling it up to Madagascar, Tanzania and Kenya. The intention of this project is to identify the beneficiaries of specific management actions and will feed into regional policy.

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

I intend to present the results at a regional scientific conference. I have two publications in preparation which will be submitted to *Ecological Economics* and *Marine Policy*. The outcomes of these results have gone towards developing new methods and a research proposal. I involved a regional partner in developing a larger proposal for work in the region. This August 2009 I ran a workshop in Reunion, developing methods suitable to the region and training local researchers in those methods.

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

The RSG funds were used, as intended, between February and June 2009. However, the data analysis and write for the project continued beyond this date. Writing of the scientific papers is still ongoing and two papers, in collaboration with the Seychelles fishing authority, intend to be submitted by March 2010.

7. 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
Flights (Kenya Airways/ Emirates) Current prices	£750	£750	0	
Internal travel (boat, fuel, car, buses)	£100.00	£200.00	+£100.00	Provided by Seychelles Fishing authority
Shared, rented accommodation	£500	£750.00	+£250.00	Was more expensive than expected

Interviews refreshments/meals	£300	£100.00	-£100.00	Needed less than anticipated
Interpreter/research assistant	£500	£500.00	0	Provided by Seychelles Fishing authority
Stationary	£50	£50	0	
Food	£100	£100	0	
Total	£2300	£2450	+£150.00	GBP =16 rupees

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

For the next two and a half years I will be leading a regional study and completing my PhD on this topic. Beyond the research, I see a three critical components to this: 1) communicating the findings to policy and management; 2) building regional capacity through training, involvement in survey design, data collection, scientific papers and presentation of the results; and 3) setting up a baseline on economic valuation, and extending the notion of whose value counts.

9. 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, I used the logos on presentations I gave at James Cook University, Australia and l' Université de la Réunion, Réunion Island, when presenting the results as part of a larger project to scientists and managers from Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, Australia and the US. I also have used the logo in reporting the results to fishing communities and the Seychelles Fishing Authority; these will be distributed when I return to interview more fishers as part of a regional analysis in 2010 as well as when introducing the study to new sites in Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar in 2010.

10. Any other comments?

I believe this project was a success, enabling me to develop plans and proposals which have ensured the long-term sustainability of ecosystem services research in the region. The results within Seychelles were successful at eliciting the values and priorities of artisanal fishermen. The implications of such research have been recognised regionally and build towards a better understanding of social and cultural considerations in ecosystem services and natural resource management.