

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

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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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Jacob Kheel
Project title	CPR Fishing Tours: Community Integration in Coral Reef Protection
RSG reference	9202-1
Reporting period	Final Report July 2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:jkheel@puntacana.com">jkheel@puntacana.com</a>
Date of this report	14 July, 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
Sign a co-management agreement between the neighbouring resorts of Cap Cana Resort, Fishing Lodge, Puntacana Resort and Club and the Dominican Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Council, CODOPESCA.			x	On September 17th 2011 a co-management agreement was signed between the cited parties. This agreement empowers the Ecological Foundation to officially lead the conservation and sustainable development programmes launched by PESCA in 2004.
Designate the co-management area in collaboration with local fishermen			x	Together with the local fishermen, the coordinates designating the limits of the co-management area were taken. The criteria used for the designation of this area were based on the habitual marine fishing ground in front of the resorts, covered by the fishermen. The data delimiting the resulting 64 km <sup>2</sup> area was submitted to CODOPESCA for its official approval.
Create no-take fishing zones in collaboration with local fishermen		x		After surveying various tentative sites inside the designated co-management area, a tentative 0.08 km <sup>2</sup> was designated as a no fishing zone .The coordinates were send to CODOPESCA for its approval.
Create CPR tours with the participation of local fishermen, thus reducing the number participating in extractive fishing	x			Due to the complexity of the steps involved in officially getting the approval to manage the area with the fishermen and the other resorts, the PCEF felt obligated to delay the initiation of the CPR tours. In order to create a long lasting support for the local fishermen community, they first needed to be organised in an association, their boats registered, painted, named, numbered and organised into a fleet. The creation of an alternative livelihood for this local community will only prove effective on the long term if it is recognised and supported by the other resorts and the government.

Increase fish and lobster population		x		<p>The organisation of the fishermen and the boats that are allowed to fish in the area enables the Foundation to better oversee the different fishing activities inside the co-management zone and helps us to more effectively involve them with our PESCA projects such as the coral restoration and lobster house exploitation programmes. Both programmes, currently in their initial phase, are being carried out in the designated “no fishing zone” and have already been proven to increase fish and lobster populations of the surroundings.</p> <p>Parallel to these programmes, fish landing data of the fishermen’s daily catch are currently being taken, thus providing us with the base information of the current fishing pressure exerted inside the area.</p>
Improve the fish population and diversity thus increasing other non- extractive recreational activities such as snorkelling and diving		x		<p>All the previously mentioned steps are of key importance in assuring the improvement of fish diversity and density. The foreseeable increase of tourism and urban development of the area will automatically increase the demand for other non- extractive recreational activities in the area.</p>
Creating alternative livelihoods for local fishermen		x		<p>The coral restoration programme, the lobster house monitoring and exploitation programme and a lionfish capture and commercialisation programme involve local fishermen. CPR tours will be the next alternative livelihood offered to them.</p>
Certification of a PCEF employee as Emergency First Response instructor			x	<p>The PCEF certified its programme coordinator as an EFR instructor, thus having among its permanent staff a person capable of training local fishermen, involved in any of the projects, as Emergency First Responders when needed.</p>
Printing best practices in a sustainable tourism manual			x	<p>A fish, lobster, turtle and conch ID booklet that includes a Catch and Release best practice guide has been created. This booklet will be available</p>

				to the tourists involved in any of the non- extractive recreational activities offered by the resorts in the co-management area.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

The permits, designating the already approved co-management area, the no-fishing zone and the lobster house exploitation, have been formally requested to the Dominican Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Council (CODOPESCA). Recently held presidential elections in the DR have slowed the process and receipt of permits has taken much longer than expected. We hope to have all approvals before the end of August.

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

- Signing of the co-management agreement with the Dominican Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture Council (CODOPESCA) and the neighbouring resorts. Designate a no fishing zone. Send the coordinates of the respective area and zone to CODOPESCA for their final approval.
- Organising the local fishermen in an association (ASOPPEJU) with their respective fishermen’s ID and their boats inventoried numbered, painted and organised as a small fleet by PCEF and CODOPESCA,
- The lobster house project, the coral restoration project and the lionfish control and commercialisation programme have begun to be fully implemented with the help of local fishermen.
- A PCEF employee has been certified as an Emergency First Response (EFR) instructor. This person will be responsible of certifying the local fishermen involved in working with any upcoming recreational activities for tourists such as the CP&R tour.

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

The 84 organised fishermen in ASOPPEJU are the only ones allowed to fish in the co-management area in front of the resorts. In the long term, all of them will benefit direct or indirectly from the co-managed area. From this group, the Foundation is addressing its alternative livelihood programmes and projects to the 35 individuals that actually fish every day for a living and have no other source of income. This group will actively participate in the monitoring and exploitation of the lobster houses, once CODOPESCA grants the permit to do so. Some of them are already working on our lionfish control and commercialisation programme, by catching and selling lionfish to two of the restaurants of the resort on a regular basis. Our coral restoration programme has expanded to the point where local manpower is needed to maintain the existing coral out plants. A first meeting with the frequent fishermen was held in order to present to them the requirements and benefits of this job alternative.

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

All the ground steps, assuring the long-term success of the co-management of the area and the involvement of the local community in the sustainable management have been completed. The different projects and programmes that aim to re-establish the natural balance of our reef are on-going and will be continued. A healthier reef will automatically create alternatives for new tourism attractions, like CP&R tours. The end goal of all the PESCA programmes is to build a sustainable business venture between the fishermen and the resorts that will allow depleted fisheries and coral reef ecosystems to recover. This goal will only be fully achieved through the continuous implementation of all its programmes.

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

- PESCA'S individual projects such as the coral restoration programme and the lionfish population control programme are already being promoted at national and international level through conferences, pamphlets, magazine articles, TV programs and presentations given to students at the local public school.
- The on-going results of PESCA and its co-management of the Puntacana area are shared with the public through the yearly national conference held in the DR on "Sustainable Marine Management." Starting 2013, a printed synthesis of the conference will also be available for the participants.

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

The RSG has only partially been used over an 18-month period since the CP&R tour as such has not started yet. The actual length of the project cannot be measured since it is an on-going project consisting of several interrelated programmes, such as the CP&R tour, the lobster house monitoring and exploitation, the coral restoration programme and the lionfish control and commercialisation programme, which partially depend on each other for their successful completion. Launching the CP&R tours should take place in 2013.

Working with governmental entities has set a different pace to the planned schedule of the development of the PESCA projects and the co-management of the Puntacana marine area.

## 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
First Aid training	807	472.47	334.53	One PCEF staff person trained as an EFR instructor who will teach the fishermen at no cost.
Basic English Instruction and Materials	835			
Boat Safety training	756			
Training by Professional Guides Richardson and	1568			

Price				
Customer Relation Training at PC Resort	717			
Fishing rods, reels and other fishing gear	456	800.57	344.57	<u>Purchase of:</u> 1 tacklebox, 1 de-hooker, 1 hand held radio, 1 rod rack, 1 landing net. <u>Additional purchase of:</u> 29 gallons of oil paint, thinner and brushes to paint the boats of the fishermen; 4 puncture proof gloves and 4 Multi-Scissor –Knives for lionfish handling; repair of 3 scuba regulators for use in the lobster house monitoring and the coral restoration programmes.
Camera and waterproof case	381			
Life vests and first aid equipment	292	788.88	496.88	<u>Purchase of:</u> 7 life vests, 1 first Aid Kit. <u>Additional purchase of:</u> 1 CPR mannequin, 20 student EFR study guides, 1 EFR instructor guide, 1 EFR DVD, bandages, face and mouth guards. Shipment costs
Printing of best practice manual	188	196.98	8.98	Online purchase of 49 marine fish, turtles, lobsters and conch pictures.
<b>Total</b>	6000	<b>2258.90</b>	3741.10.	Note: all purchases so far were made in US dollars. Exchange rate: 1.5874 dollars to pound sterling

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

- Get the DR Government to approve by Decret the suggested co-management area.
- Receive from CODOPESCA the permits to declare and control the suggested no fishing zone (expected by the end of July).
- Get “CODOPESCA’s” permission to start the lobster house monitoring and exploitation with the fishermen (expected by end of July).

### 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?

The RSG logo is been used on the fish identification booklet which will be for sale to all the tourists coming to the resorts of Puntacana, Cap Cana and Fishing Lodge and to all the participants of the different tours offered by them. RSGF support will also be publicised in the national marine conservation conference 2013 with the presentation of the outcomes of the PESCA programmes.