Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Segun Olayinka Oladipo
Project Title	Distribution, conservation status and environmental correlates of a poorly known and most threatened stingray (*Fontitrygon margarita*) in Nigeria
Application ID	33377-1
Grant Amount	£6000
Email Address	olayinka_sgn@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this Report	11/01/2022

1. 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
Meeting with the relevant stakeholders				In this project, information from the head of fisher folks, community representatives and head of schools has been collected. Each of these stakeholders had a proven interest in managing the fish resources, diversity and conserving of Lagos lagoon complex located in Badagry and Epe through community-based initiatives.
Social Survey				Oral Interviews were conducted to document the occurrence and historical distribution pattern of the daisy stingray. The fishermen and the market women were selected for this purpose using questionnaires
Ecological Field survey, morphometrics and eDNA barcoding.				Six locals were trained from each location with two undergraduate students of Kwara State University, Malete were trained to carry out comprehensive field surveys of daisy stingray in both Badagry and Epe of Lagos Lagoon. The morphometric of selected individual fishes were examined and the DNA barcode were used in confirming the identification from a closely related species of stingrays.
Species distribution Modelling				The occurrence of daisy stingray using both ecological and social survey approaches with literature searches were carried out. But further and comprehensive data using combined morphological, ecological and genetic to confirm daisy stingray from other related stingray for correct species distribution and modelling.

Community-based conservation program				For this objective, we have targeted the local community, secondary schools and university; in this outreach programme we focused mainly on community-based conservation education geared towards improving understanding on the need for the conservation of daisy stingray within our sampling locations on the coastal fringes of Nigerian Lagos lagoon complex located in Badagry and Epe. During this programme, many undergraduate students and two host communities with over 150 members were reached and included in the project. In addition, two secondary schools with about 600 students reached so far. This progress had widened the awareness and the targeted group for the purpose of the conservation.

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

None.

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

1. The project is first to provide the occurrence, ecological location and biodiversity assessment of daisy stingray in Nigeria.

2. The first conservation awareness and education programmes of daisy stingrays in the host communities and schools.

3. The project is first to describe daisy stingray using combined morphological, ecological and genetic (DNA barcoding) to confirm and differentiate from another related stingray in Nigeria.

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

The local communities were directly and indirectly involved during the project. This includes the training to participate in the ecological and social survey. Likewise, local community heads and members were involved in the community-based conservation awareness programmes. The outreach involved participation of market women, fishermen, children and traditional leaders. In addition, the students in the community were also engaged for scientific and local knowledge in the conservation education and awareness in this local community. This project helps in

setting many myths right in the host communities, clarifying the law and show them resources in Badagary and Epe to facilitate management.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we have plans to continue this project. Firstly, we plan to further projects that would give comprehensive data for occurrence needed for conservation using combined morphological, ecological and genetic to confirm daisy stingray and other related stingray in Nigerian coaster water. In addition, we plan to continue works towards the conservation of the critically threatened stingrays in Nigeria. Again, funding is needed to secure this momentum

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

From the sponsored project, a manuscript had been drafted titled "Occurrence, Morphological and Molecular Characterization of Daisy Stingray's (Family Dasyatidae) in Nigeria" and currently under review in international, peer-reviewed journals.

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

The grant was used for a period of I year, covering the time between February 2021 and January 2022. The timeline for the project was 12 months, however, the delay for the commencement of the project was due to the pandemic.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Local Transportation	£1213	£1620	-£407	The difference caused due to raising in the fuel price
Food	£878	£870	+£8	Transfer to another item
Subsistence for field assistants	£1248	£1540	-£292	The difference was caused from cost of local volunteer
Molecular Lab analyses	£2588	£1200	+£1388	The difference was transfer to conservation awareness, an important aspect of the project that

				was not captured in the budget
Communication	£73	£73		
Conservation awareness		£697	+£697	
Total	**£6000**	**£6000**		

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

The important next steps include the following:

1. Provision of comprehensive data for occurrence using combined morphological, ecological and genetic to confirm daisy stingray and other related stingray in Nigerian coastal waters.

2. Description and conservation of the critically threatened stingrays present in Nigeria.

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

The Rufford Foundation logo was used in all conservation awareness programme documents including the banners, t-shirts, notebook, questionnaire forms, etc.

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

Dr. Segun Olayinka Oladipo: Project team leader, super head the ecological research, including field work, species identification, ecological works and analyses, and questionnaire distribution, as well as community conservation programmes for the species.

Dr. Micah Lotanna Nneji: The conservation education expert, he aids in the conservation education and awareness programmes in the communities and the schools. He also carries out the DNA barcoding and genetic studies of the focal species.

Dr. Adeola Ayoola: aid in the conservation education and awareness programmes in the communities and schools.

Mr Kehinde M. Adelakun: He involved in the field work, sampling, collection and identification of fishes. He also assists in community awareness programmes in the villages.

Mr. Ndifor Kevin Wanzie: Assist in sample collection and community awareness programmes in the schools.
Prof Gabriel Salako: He involve in ecological analyses of Daisy stingray in Nigeria Lagoon

Prof. G.C. Nzeh: She supervise the field work.

Prof M.K. Mustapha: supervise the field work, species identification, as well as community conservation programmes for the species.

12. Any other comments?

We would like to express our gratitude to The Rufford Foundation for the approval and fund supporting of the project, and in particular to Jane Raymond. We also express our sincere thanks to the school management and the village heads where the conservation awareness took place.