

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	Ana Cinti
Project title	Assessing the performance of institutional arrangements to reconcile conservation and small-scale fisheries in Marine Protected Areas: Cases from Latin-America
RSG reference	11240-1
Reporting period	July 2012-December 2013
Amount of grant	£5067
Your email address	cinti@cenpat.edu.ar ; acinti@email.arizona.edu
Date of this report	December 2013

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
<p>Generation of knowledge with direct applicability to management and conservation</p>			v	<p>I consider this objective as fully achieved since a significant amount of valuable knowledge for management and conservation purposes has been generated in both countries (Brazil and Argentina) throughout the grant period. However, there were proposed activities for which the proposed time and activities were underestimated in terms of the work that they would entail.</p> <p>The activities proposed in Brazil were fully accomplished, being able to undertake further than expected, and we are planning to continue this type of work in another Reserva Extrativista in 2014-2015 (Resex Itaipú, in Rio) as part of the doctoral thesis of the student (Msc. Luciana Loto) who gathered information on rules in use on the Arraial do Cabo Reserve, in Rio (see attached report), and also at Caravelas, Bahia, through the doctoral thesis of another student (Danieli Nobre).</p> <p>The proposed activities in the Natural Protected Area Peninsula Valdés were partially achieved up to December 2013 (50% of interviews performed and continuing; analyses and dissemination to come in the following months). Interviewing took more time and effort to undertake in part due to long geographic distances (logistical reasons), and also for personal reasons of the recipient of the grant (I had a child in February 2013 and was unable to stick to the proposed timeline for the research in Peninsula Valdés).</p> <p>However, in the case of Peninsula Valdés, the information that we were able to gather during the course of the grant, especially in the case of an artisanal fishery with long history in the area (coastal gatherers of octopus), motivated the interaction among researchers and students with diverse disciplinary background (biology, anthropology, geography and history), fishers and managers, and the initiation of another research project which will run in parallel and complementarily to this one. This project will explore the history, local knowledge, rules in</p>

				<p>use by coastal octopus gatherers, and the effectiveness of current formal laws (including MPAs legal framework and functioning) in a region that includes sectors with status of marine protected areas and sectors without protection status in two Argentinean provinces, Chubut and Rio Negro, including Peninsula Valdés. A scholarship is being requested for a doctoral student to dedicate full time to this topic. A small remaining portion of the RSG grant (435 GBP) was devoted this December 2013 (15-18th) to conduct an exploratory trip along a portion of the above region, from Las Grutas to Fuerte Argentino (approximately 30 km of coastline in the Rio Negro province), together with the prospective student and an experienced coastal gatherer (grandson of the first octopus gatherers in this sector of the coast) to explore the area and start collecting historical information about the fishing activity (who was and is involved, fishing practices, traditional knowledge about the resource, major conflicts in the past and at present regarding the use of the coast) with spatial specificity. The work in this particular area (including Peninsula Valdés) is expected to continue through 2014-2017.</p>
<p>Exchange of researchers with diverse disciplines and training of students during the project</p>			<p>V</p>	<p>I consider this objective as fully achieved since the courses were imparted with high participation of graduate student from diverse backgrounds (law, biology, environmental sciences and sociology), and we have attracted the attention of three students (two in Brazil) and one in Argentina which will develop graduate studies in the following years on topics related to this initial project (2014-). The topics will explore issues of governance of small-scale fisheries inside marine protected areas, with a focus on local knowledge and practices and on how these can be used for management/conservation purposes. The exchange of researchers has been significant (mainly colleagues from Brazil, Mexico and Argentina) and will continue through new projects and collaborations that are now being established for the following years.</p>

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

Nothing relevant.

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

1. Training of human resources:

- Dictation of two courses (1 week duration each) for graduate students on “The theory of the commons and its application to small-scale fisheries and marine protected areas”. One of the courses was taught at Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) in Niteroi, Rio (22 students), main contact: Dr. Ronaldo Lobão, ronaldolobao@yahoo.com.br; and the other at Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (UESC) in Ilheus, Bahia (9 students), main contact: Dr. Alexandre Schiavetti, aleschi@hotmail.com).
- Donation of 4-5 books to each research team on the commons, traditional ecological knowledge, and small-scale fisheries (five books to UFF, main contact: Dr. Ronaldo Lobão, ronaldolobao@yahoo.com.br; and four books to UESC, main contact: Dr. Alexandre Schiavetti, aleschi@hotmail.com)
- Provision of advice to a masters student at UESC (Danieli Nobre), and acted as member of the thesis’ defence committee of a master’s student at UFF during my visit (Luciana Loto).
- A modified version of the course given in Brazil is now being imparted at Universidad Austral in Caleta Olivia, Santa Cruz province (to be finished in February 2014), Argentina, together with other two professors (Dr. Hebe Vessuri, UNAM, Mexico; and Dr. Julio Vesub, CENPAT).

2. Generation of knowledge with applicability to management and conservation:

- Exploratory research in Brazil: In September and October 2012 conducted exploratory field work in several Reservas extrativistas marinhas (RESEX) to observe and learn about how they are working in practice, including Resex Arraial do Cabo (A. do Cabo, Rio), Resex Cassurubá (Caravelas, Bahia), Resex Corumbau (Bahia), and Resex Canavieiras (Canavieiras, Bahia). I had conversations with key stakeholders in each of this Resex about its performance, main strengths and weaknesses, participated in some important meetings, observed directly the fisheries and other activities taking place inside these reserves and had a sense of its natural and social environment.
- In-depth research in Brazil: I recruited a student who performed a more in-depth study in March and April 2013 to update the current informal practices and institutional arrangements used to allocate access and resource use inside the Arraial do Cabo Resex, and analysed how these arrangements combine with the formal rules established for the management of the reserve. This work was supervised by the Dr Ronaldo Lobão (UFF) and me. Results were reported to the Núcleo de Pesquisas sobre Práticas e Instituições Jurídicas (NUPIJ), Faculdade de Direito, Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF), as a preliminary step to have it reviewed by this team of experienced researchers before presenting the findings to the Reserve authorities and fishers. We (the student who collected the data, Dr Ronaldo Lobão and the recipient of the grant) are currently working on a draft document for a peer reviewed publication.
- In depth research in Peninsula Valdés: a significant amount of legal document pertaining to the Natural Protected Area (NPA) Peninsula Valdés, its fisheries, and other activities within the NPA were obtained and compiled. About 60 interviews were performed including fishers, NPA administrators and fisheries authorities, and participant observation took place though participating in meetings, and spending time on the coast to observe social

interactions and NPA performance. Once interviews are finished (in January and February 2014), results will be disseminated in a series of presentations to major stakeholders and a written report. A peer reviewed publication will be produced in 2014.

- Exploratory research in areas north of Peninsula Valdés in the context of a complementary project that will explore the history, local knowledge, rules in use by coastal octopus gatherers, and the effectiveness of current formal laws (including MPAs legal framework and functioning) in a region that includes sectors with status of marine protected areas and sectors without protection status in two Argentinean provinces, Chubut and Rio Negro, including Peninsula Valdés. This December we carried out an exploratory three days trip from Las Grutas to Fuerte Argentino (see figure 1 below) (approximately 30 km of coastline in the Rio Negro province), to explore the area and start collecting historical information about the fishing activity since the 1930s (who was and is involved, fishing practices, traditional knowledge about the resource and the environment, major conflicts in the past and at present regarding the use of the coast and the management of the area) with spatial specificity. The trip was done with the prospective doctoral student who will dedicate full time to this topic and an experienced coastal gatherer (grandson of the first octopus gatherers in this sector of the coast) who guided the expedition (see attached pictures). The sector we visited is only a small portion of a larger coastal sector that expands from Las Grutas to Riacho San Jose (in Peninsula Valdés), which was, and still is, used since the 1930s by coastal octopus gatherers as primary fishing zones, and coexist at present with other activities like tourism, cattle ranching and real estate development. Some of the fishing areas are inside marine protected areas and some outside. A small remaining portion of the RSG grant (£435) was devoted this December 2013 (15-18th) to conduct this exploratory trip, funds that were instrumental to give a motivating start to this project because we still do not count with resources as to perform field activities.

- 3. An informal interdisciplinary network of researchers and students with interest in social, economic, institutional, biological and environmental aspects of natural resources use and conservation has been promoted, with colleagues from Mexico, Brazil, Chile and Argentina.** This network has been a starting point for the development of future collaborative projects in the proposed sites and others, with concrete interactions developed and to come in the following years in the above countries.



Figure 1: study area in Chubut and Rio Negro provinces (Las Grutas – Riacho in Peninsula Valdés).

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

Local communities have provided consent for the development of these research projects, and have collaborated through providing support through its formal organizations in the case of Peninsula Valdés (Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales de Puerto Madryn, contact Marta Piñeiro, martapineiro@yahoo.com.ar, and Asociación de Pescadores Artesanales y Recolectores Costeros de El Riacho San José, contact: Gloria Mariño, glorianoemim@hotmail.com).

In the case of Brazil, RESEX authorities and fishers which were interviewed also provided consent for the development of this project activities. Communities have and will continue to participate in the coproduction of the information that we as a group gather, though participating in research, meetings and workshops and through providing feedback to the results that we present to them. Although we have not been able to present the results of this project to the major stakeholders yet (the proposed time was unrealistic as to be able to disseminate results during the grant period), we are processing the information and dissemination of results at the local level is the following step to be accomplished in the first and second half of 2014.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, definitely.

In Argentina we are continuing the work in Peninsula Valdés and northern areas (Rio Negro province), and also to the south (in the Marine Park “Parque Interjurisdiccional Marino Costero Patagonia Austral”, Chubut province), with a strong focus on institutional performance, including rules in use, fishers knowledge regarding marine resources, fishing practices and regulatory aspects; effectiveness of formal legal frameworks of MPAs, and major conflicts of the coastal zone. This information will be a seed for trying to improve the design, implementation and functioning of the management and conservation tools now in use in these areas.

We are continuing work in Brazil through the work of two students who will explore governance issues in Reservas extrativistas marinas in Itaipú (Rio) (student Luciana Loto) (main contact Dr Ronaldo Lobão), and Caravelas (Bahia) (student Danieli Nobre) (main contact A. Schiavetti) as part of their doctoral dissertations (I will be part of their dissertation committees). Both students’ dissertation topics will have a strong focus on local knowledge and informal rules and how they can be incorporated into the formal arena of management of these marine reserves.

The recipient of the grant plans to start work in Chile during the second half of 2014 and 2015 with similar objectives to the above.

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

Results from Brazil will be shared through a report delivered to the Resex authorities, and a peer reviewed publication to be produced in 2014.

In Argentina, results will be disseminated through written material (report) to be delivered to the NPA administrative body, fisheries and tourism provincial authorities, and formal organisations of fishers. Oral presentations will be led by the recipient of the grant to present the results directly to the users of the NPA and decision makers, as to provide a participatory arena for reflection, critical

discussion, and posterior action. Our local team (at CENPAT) will work on providing technical support to accompany the transformative processes that could emerge after this first integrative evaluation. We will also produce publications intended to reach wider management and academic audiences.

Ana Cinti will present part of the results of the work done in Peninsula Valdés at the 2nd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress: 21-25 September, Merida, Mexico, 2014.

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

The RSG was used over a period of 18 months, which was the anticipated length of the project. However, the project was too ambitious for the time we proposed, and we were unable to perform the last set of activities, particularly the ones involving preparation of the information gathered and dissemination of results. This is our next step for 2014.

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.

Note: I have calculated an estimate based on the actual exchange rate (1 USD= 0.611 GBP) and an average exchange value of 5 Argentinean pesos=1 USD since the local value of USDs have fluctuated largely over the last year. I have lost –I suppose- a significant amount in successive conversions from pounds to USD and to Argentinean pesos as to be able to use the grant, but I have not estimated it.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel from Argentina to Brazil.	1912	1834	78	Was able to do only one trip to Brazil but have visited more Reserves than initially expected. Have included the cost of travelling inside Brazil in this budget (includes car rental for 30 days and gasoline).
Travel inside Argentina	1800	2060	-260	Includes £435 allocated to the exploratory trip north of Peninsula Valdes (from Las Grutas to Fuerte Argentino).
Stipend for field assistant in Brazil	955	917	38	
Books for graduate courses	400	470	-70	Bought 4-5 books for each Brazilian University (UFF and UESC) and four books for my lab for imparting classes and for students at CENPAT.
Total	5067	5281		

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

Disseminating the results obtained at the local level, this is the most important next step for our team. Sharing results with local stakeholders will motivate actions to try to improve the things that the same stakeholders have identified as problems, threats or opportunities for change, and we as a



team will work on technically supporting (from each of our disciplines) the transformation processes that could (surely will) emerge from this first evaluation. We will also produce publications intended to reach wider management and academic audiences.

It is also important to continue research in the area since the topic of interest has not been studied before in this particular area and work on “the commons” is quite novel for Argentina in general, especially in marine environments.

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?

Yes. I used the logo of the foundation in the posters advertising the graduate courses imparted in Brazil at UFF and UESC, in a report presented to the Núcleo de Pesquisas sobre Práticas e Instituições Jurídicas (NUPIJ) at UFF. I will use the logo of the foundation in the presentations to come and in the written materials to be prepared and published in 2014 and after.

11. Any other comments?

Just to thank very much the foundation for the support received. It has been instrumental for the successful development of the project.