

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	Angela Maria Maldonado Rodriguez
Project title	Enhancing environmental law enforcement and conservation awareness at the Colombian-Peruvian border using the night monkeys as flagship species.
RSG reference	11546-B
Reporting period	June 2012 – June 2013
Amount of grant	£11,966
Your email address	llugens@gmail.com
Date of this report	30th June 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
1. Updated population assessment and distribution of <i>Aotus</i> and other game species at the Colombian-Peruvian border.			X	Complete database of the sustainability for the hunting of the 10 most harvested vertebrates in overlapping areas between the Amacayacu National Park (ANP) and two Tikuna communities.
2. Mapping data-base identifying the spatial pattern of pressures facing game species through the combination of satellite image analyses, species-specific habitat assessment, field surveys and hunting extraction.			X	Publication under internal revision Maldonado & Peck. <i>Owl monkeys as flagship species for enhancing environmental law enforcement at the Colombian-Peruvian border</i> . This paper describes the predicted distribution of <i>Aotus nancymae</i> in Colombia, using GIS and LandSAT satellite images, combined with the quantification of the trapping and releasing of night monkeys used for malaria research.
3. Classification of the gastro-intestinal parasites present in wild night monkeys (and other primates), to complete the veterinarian protocol for the management of <i>Aotus</i> spp., in order to improve <i>in situ</i> conservation and <i>ex situ</i> management.			X	MSc dissertation presenting the results of this objective will be submitted in August 2013.
4. Improved community-level understanding of monitoring and sustainable use of wildlife through mutual training and learning combining scientific and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).			X	Eight community workshops were carried out in order to identify/update: i) current threats for biodiversity and local livelihoods; ii) community priorities to improve living standards; and iii) possible solutions to points i & ii. Reports submitted to indigenous communities and the Amacayacu National Park (ANP) in April 2013.

5. Improved capacity building with relevant stakeholders such as the Colombian Park System, CORPOAMAZONIA ¹ , private reserves and NGOs in GIS mapping through training offered by the University of Sussex (UK).		X		During the visit of Dr. Mika Peck from the University of Sussex we carried out six workshops with relevant stakeholders. However, we did not have enough time to do the GIS training. Thus one Entropika member has been training staff members from the ANP during February-June 2013.
6. Complete portfolio (short video, photos and a report) of evidence about the trade of wildlife in the Colombian-Peruvian border for environmental authorities and CITES Colombia and Peru.			X	We submitted a complete report to CITES Peru with updated evidence about the illegal trade in night monkeys, and the use of wildlife in the tourism and pet market. In addition, we provided results of the popular action (law case) we filed in 2011 and obtained a positive first instance ruling in July 2012.
7. Enhancement of local livelihoods through the training of women and young indigenous people in the elaboration of essential oils and other products, transforming forest resources with appropriate technologies.		X		Although we conducted 4 months of training in the extraction of essential oils and other products, with three Colombian communities, we faced several obstacles for the standardisation of the essential oils. Thus, we changed our strategy in order to obtain standardised products (work in progress, please see point 2).

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

Limitations-objectives 1 & 2: Owing to the heavy rains during 2012, our fieldwork at the Peruvian communities was drastically reduced, as the trail systems were flooded. Hence, we decided to invest the time and resources doing fieldwork at the Colombian sampling sites in order to maintain our census schedule.

Limitations-objective 3: We obtained a small sample of faecal samples in the wild, as it is a difficult task, so we increased the field effort to complete the minimum sample size required to be able to conduct the parasitological study.

Limitations-objective 4: Several of the issues that are a priority to local people cannot be answered by Entropika but need to be solved by the regional government (i.e. improvement of health, education and basic sanitation, lack of coordination between regional and indigenous authorities, etc.). Entropika is taking action in helping communities to solve urgent needs so waste management and securing potable water has been our priority during 2013 (please see point 4).

Limitations-objective 7: The extraction of essential oils requires not only a permanent routine but also minimal condition to obtain standardised products, such as: i) availability of potable water, ii) adequate working space for oil extraction, and iii) permanent availability of forest products. Although local people were attending the training sessions and were engaged in the activities, they did not gather the minimum amount of forest products required for the extraction of the oils. On the other hand the lack of potable water limited the quality and quantity of the oils extracted. To overcome these limitations we did an agreement with the Ecological Park “Mundo Amazonico” located at 7 km from Leticia, where currently standardisation tests are carried out. Mundo Amazonico (amazoniapark.blogspot.com/) is providing potable water, electricity and a suitable space for the extraction of the oils. We expect to continue with the training at the communities once potable water is available (please see point 4). We also expect to have the production protocols in order to set standards for the production in local communities. In the meanwhile indigenous people from the community km 6 are trained at Mundo Amazonico, while oil extraction is carried out. We are preparing a training booklet for indigenous people.

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

i) We obtained a positive first instance ruling for our popular action: In July 2012 the permit granted to the FIDIC’s biomedical laboratory for capturing night monkeys for the elaboration of a malaria vaccine was revoked by the Tribunal Administrativo de Cundinamarca. This measure stops the legal and illegal trade of more than 3,000 monkeys as the lab had a permit to collect 800 night monkeys annually, until 2015. This also stops the deforestation of approximately 20,000-60,000 adult trees over the same period, which would have been cut down to capture the monkeys.

ii) **Strategic alliances:** March 2013: We sign the first written agreement between Fundación Entropika and the indigenous association of ATICOYA (Association of Tikuna, Cocama and Yagua indigenous groups), to conduct an assessment of the ecological and financial impacts of the trade in owl monkeys in 11 Colombian indigenous communities that were legally involved in the capturing of the animals. This is a big achievement as ATICOYA’s authorities for years have been bribed by the FIDIC biomedical lab in order to stop our work with indigenous communities. We are aware that they change sides all the time, but as formal written agreements had been signed, it will give transparency and liability to the processes with ATICOYA.

Thanks to our collaborative work with the Police in Leticia, they confiscated night monkeys from a Peruvian trader who was going to sell them to the FIDIC lab in March 2013. Currently, the Police submitted a penal case for international trade of wildlife.

iii) Dissemination

International: During the Congress of the International Primatological Society (Mexico, August 2012), the case of the illegal trade in night monkeys was discussed during the general assembly and as a result, the IPS provided us with a supporting letter that was submitted to the court for the second stage of the popular action.

Release of the international campaign promoted by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV-UK), as a result of a collaborative under-covered research in Peru and Colombia.

[BUAV reveals a cruel and illegal trade in owl monkeys for research](#)

Work funded by the RSG from 2005 was published in the form of a book available for sale on Amazon.com. The book also contains recommendations to improve the use of wildlife at local level and proposes economic alternatives to improve local livelihoods.

[Maldonado AM. 2012. Hunting by Tikunas in the Southern Colombian Amazon. Assessing the impact of subsistence hunting by Tikunas on game species in Amacayacu National Park, Colombian Amazon. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing GmbH & Co. KG. 235 p.](#)

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

As our focus is community-based research, from the design to the implementation of our project, local people have an active role. The funding granted by the RSG has been invested mainly in local salaries, helping family income of our co-investigators. As mentioned in point 1 objective 4, we continuously gather with the communities we work with, in order to maintain open communication. As requested by local leaders during our workshops, waste and water management and capacity building are priorities for them. To assist them on this, we had been implementing waste management facilities at family level and for 6 months we are working at local schools doing recycling and hand-craft elaboration from recycled materials. Regarding potable water, we secured funding for the implementation of a well in San Martin, this will improve water availability and we also could continue with the training in the essential oils extraction. Our continuous contact with the communities facilitates their participation and engagement in conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We would like to conduct an assessment of the effects of the trade in night monkeys in the 11 communities that were involved in this business from the ATICOYA association, and to assess the number of affected families through the implementation of a socio-economic pilot study. In addition we would like to determine deforestation rates associated to the invasive trapping methods. With the result of this assessment, we aim at identifying mechanisms to improve local living standards and habitat restoration. We might achieve this through a combination of strategies: i) go through with penal actions against the environmental authorities who participated/allowed the current levels of deforestation; ii) making alliances with governmental organisations in order to apply for bigger funding that will focus on the restoration of local livelihoods (this will bring several challenges owing to the bureaucratic delays engendered by the participation of a governmental institution), and iii) a combination of points i and ii.

Law enforcement: Taking advantage that the first instance ruling is in our favour, we will continue with the follow up of the popular action. We are confident that the final results of this law case will leave a permanent and significant precedent in law enforcement, wildlife conservation and exposure of government corruption, as well as strengthening the action of civil society in environmental issues. We are confident that we will definitively eradicate the illegal trade in wild caught night monkeys in the area, as well as win penal cases against staff members of environmental authorities and make them respond for more than 30 years of over-extraction of resources in the Amazonian frontier between Colombia and Peru.

Species conservation: It is critical for Entropika to embark on the next step of our local study in night monkeys. We intend to start an ecological study in order to gather baseline information on their ecology (use of space, group composition and diet, if possible). For this, we are planning to use radio-tracking. This will help us to understand basic concepts for this genus at local level such as: minimum vital area, home range and, if possible, food preference. This information is critical to the design of a conservation plan for *Aotus* in the Colombian-Peruvian frontier.

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

We will continue publishing in peer reviewed journals, presenting our results at national and international congresses, working with the media, preparing report for stakeholders and at local level, conducting workshops with local communities and school. In September 2013 A Maldonado will present the results of this work at the Congress of the European Federation of Primatology in Belgium.

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

The RSG covered the period June 2012 – June 2013. As the RSG has been a continuous support since we started in situ conservation using primates as flagship species, we can see how it has been possible to achieve the planed outcomes over the last eight years. Follow up will continue in the long term.

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
Census fieldwork-Colombia	2,079	2,602	-523	Please see explanation in point 2.
Census fieldwork-Peru	1,123	600	523	Please see explanation in point 2.
Food -fieldwork	1,286	1,200	86	
Public river transport	354	420	-66	
Public river transport of food and materials	107	200	-93	
Petrol for transport to sampling sites	321	510	-189	We expend more funding in petrol as river levels were higher than expected.

Miscellaneous at ANP	107	107	0	
Materials	214	250	-36	
Living expenses research team	4,750	4,750	0	
GIS Training: Peck living expenses	536	-	536	We obtained a scoping Grant from the Darwin Initiative to cover these expenses.
GIS Training: Refreshments	107	200	-93	
GIS licence for Entropika	68	99	-31	The price of the licence increased.
Materials local livelihoods	714	714	0	
Living expenses technician during training essential oils x 6months	200	314	-114	Although the technician only stayed at the communities for four months, the workshops were longer than expected (6 days in each community instead of 4 days).
Total	11,966	11,966		

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

As stated in point 5 species and habitat conservation and the follow up of the popular action need a constant follow up in order to definitely eradicate the trade of wild caught night monkeys for the biomedical research market, and we will do so.

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, we included the logo of the RSGF in all our oral presentations, and stated that the RSGF funded our research in the acknowledgements of publications.

11. Any other comments?

In situ conservation is a challenging task and results can only be measured over long periods of time. Thanks to the long term support of the RSGF we had been able to achieve considerable results, such as revoking trapping permits for night monkeys, which is directly benefiting the species and their ecosystems. The pivotal role of the RSGF funding had also assist Entropika to guarantee the long term follow up of our research consolidating a complete wildlife data base for estimating populations and to be close to local people. I would like to deeply thank you for helping us to actively achieve conservation.