

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. 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. 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	Matías Enrique Mastrangelo
Project title	Conserving Dry Tropical Forests on Agricultural Frontiers of the Gran Chaco
RSG reference	12274-1
Reporting period	5th March 2013 – 5th March 2014
Amount of grant	£1966
Your email address	matimastra@gmail.com
Date of this report	14-03-2014

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
Classify stakeholders in the expansion of agriculture into native forests in the Gran Chaco of Argentina by developing typologies of landholders on the basis of their production strategies.			Yes	I produced a typology of stakeholders in the context of agricultural frontiers of the Chaco Region. This typology is part of an article submitted to <i>Ecology and Society</i> under the title: "From biophysical to socio-ecological trade-offs: integrating biodiversity conservation and agricultural production in the Argentine Dry Chaco", which is currently under review.
Evaluate the influence of environmental beliefs, perceptions and values on landholders' decisions and intentions to conserve native forests by testing psycho-social models of pro-conservation behaviour.			Yes	I evaluated the influence of psycho-social factors on landholders' intentions to conserve remnant forest fragments in their landholdings. This evaluation is published in <i>Conservation Letters</i> under the title: "Psycho-social factors influencing forest conservation intentions on the agricultural frontier"
Project scenarios of land-use change in the agricultural frontier by mapping landholders' intentions to use their land under alternative futures.		Yes		In our research team, we are developing a protocol for the spatially-explicit projection of landholders' typologies and land-use intentions in order to produce alternative future scenarios. Therefore, I'm still in the design phase regarding the completion of this objective.

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

There were no unforeseen difficulties during the project.

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

1. The most important outcome was the implementation of a trans-disciplinary research project, as it entailed the participation of researchers, rural extension agents, cattle ranchers and soy farmers.

2. Secondly, a trans-disciplinary approach allowed for a better understanding of the human and social dimension of agricultural expansion through an evaluation of the psycho-social factors influencing landholders' decisions to conserve remnant forest fragments in their landholdings. These results have important implications for the design of bottom-up conservation interventions.
3. Finally, the formation of an extensive database on characteristics of a large sample of landholders will be a valuable input for future studies.

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

Local stakeholders (cattle ranchers and soy farmers) were involved from the beginning of the project in the piloting of the survey instrument and until the end of it in the validation of survey results. Participation of ranchers and farmers in interviews and focus groups allowed them to reflect and discuss on the causes and consequences of agricultural expansion and intensification. A report summarising the main findings and implications of this project is being delivered to landholders of the study area via rural extension agents.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work in at least two complimentary directions. First, I will work in the spatially-explicit projection of landholder typologies and their land-use intentions in order to map the human and social dimension of agricultural frontier expansion. Second, I will work towards expanding models of landholders' conservation behaviour in order to explore the relationships between endogenous (psycho-social) and exogenous (socio-economic and institutional) factors influencing land-use decisions.

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

The results of this work are being shared in two ways. On one hand, results were published in top leading journals of conservation science to become available within the research and policy sectors. On the other hand, results and its implications for conservation management were summarised in a report written in Spanish which is being distributed among landholders in the study area.

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 in two fieldwork periods that took place during the 12 months of the project. The first period of fieldwork was in April-May 2013 and the second in November 2013.

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
Fuel for fieldwork	157	212	-55	Local exchange rate used for all items: 1 sterling pound = 13 argentine pesos
Living expenses	1190	1390	-200	
GIS consultancy	184	184	0	
Publishing costs	282	0	+282	
Material for surveys, workshops and focus groups	153	180	-27	
TOTAL	1966	1966	0	

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

The important next step is to spatially project the data collected using social surveys in order to produce maps showing the distribution of landholder typologies and land-use intentions. These maps will serve as a key input for the design of conservation planning interventions as well as for the implementation of participatory research approaches (e.g. co-design of future scenarios).

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 RSGF logo in my oral presentation at the 2013 International Congress for Conservation Biology held in Baltimore (US) from 21 to 25 July 2013. I participated in this congress as one of the 12 finalists of the Student Award Competition. The title of my presentation was "Understanding and influencing landholders' options for conserving dry Chaco forests at the agricultural frontier".

11. Any other comments?

Thanks for awarding the RSG. It helped me a lot in achieving my research objectives and contributing to the conservation of Chaco Dry forests in the face of agricultural frontier expansion.