

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Rebecca Stirnemann
Project title	Saving the Manumea: Samoa's iconic native bird
RSG reference	12396-2
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£5757
Your email address	rstirnemann@gmail.com
Date of this report	19 Jul 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
Gain a picture of the Manumea to help gain support				A picture of a juvenile Manumea was taken which was wonderful but will not gain the support that a picture of an adult bird will. So, we still aim for the latter.
Add to the available information on the ecology of and threats to this species opportunistically.				We continue to collect information on this topic but have increased our understanding
Is to build a sense of pride and ownership for the endemic birds of Samoa, while raising awareness of how individuals can help in our efforts to save these and other endemic and endangered species in Samoa. In addition, the conservation education component also aims to reduce hunting in key areas where this species is still found and preserve key forest areas.				Awareness has increased but there is still lots to do to reduce hunting of this species particularly for the population in Savaii where the juvenile was observed, and people still hunt Manumea.
To determine the size of the population remaining for conservation management of the species to be implemented				Because the population appears to be so small, we could use conventional methods to do an accurate count of the population. Also, until we get a transmitter on a bird it is difficult to say how many sightings are the same individual using a large territory. However, we estimate there are less than 200 birds remaining.
Assess if predator control will be successful				We still need to find a nest of the Manumea but the density of rats and cats even high in the forest suggest it will be required and can be implemented. But further work is required.

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

The bird appears to be rarer than we first thought and therefore conventional measures to measure population size were not very effective because detectability is so low. However, we have been developing a sightings map that will aid in prioritising sites to management for the species.

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

- 1) Building support within country for the Manumea. This was largely achieved with a photo of a juvenile as well as press releases. This also led to support from an amazing artist who did an amazing painting of the bird for us to use to build support.
- 2) Added to the available information on the ecology of the species.
- 3) Isolated areas where the bird regularly is sighted where we can target continual monitoring to build community support and hopefully catch a Manumea to add a transmitter and enable us to increase the probability of finding a nest.

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

The local government has been very active in this project and have gained considerable skills and the local conservation NGO has been formed and is also gaining in strength.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, lots more needs to be done to save this species!

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

We have done media releases and will publish result in a scientific journal as well as adding information in the management plan for the species.

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

The grant has been used until the 21st July 2014 which was considerably longer than expected originally. We are continuing to work on the species because though funds end the project will continue to save the species.

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
15 Automatic sound recorders	3480	3480	0	
Fees for local –conservation education	650	650	0	
Personal/field workers Conservation education resources	190	190	0	

Fuel for car	860	860	0	
Camera	577	577	0	
Total	5757	5757	0	

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

We feel that capturing and radio tagging Manumea to get a basic understanding of the threats and biology of the species is critical to saving this species. We still have little knowledge idea about the nesting or spatial requirements of the species. Only when we know this can actual on the ground conservation begin. Because isolating birds after the cyclone was difficult because they moved off their territories.

Building further support with the key community groups is also important. We have also established a local conservation NGO, the Samoan Conservation Society, building the capacity of this NGO further would also increase conservation action within the country.

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

Yes, we did a number of stories for the media including mongabay. We always mentioned the Rufford foundation.

11. Any other comments?

Thank you for supporting this project it has made a big difference to the implementation of our work.