

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Juan Emiro Carvajal Cogollo
<b>Project title</b>	Multilevel evaluation of the effects of landscape transformation over reptile assemblages
<b>RSG reference</b>	12578-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2013/December 2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5800
<b>Your email address</b>	juancarvajalc@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	24/12/2013

**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
Assess regional level the effects of the transformation of the landscape on the assembly of reptiles in fragments of dry forest in locations of the Colombia's Caribbean region			X	We conducted six field trips (two more than the initially planned); these were completed in November of 2013.
Assess the effect of edge on the assembly of reptiles in fragments of dry forest in locations of the Colombia's Caribbean region			X	We conducted six field trips (two more than the initially planned); these were completed in November of 2013.
Collect information on perceptions, attitudes and traditional knowledge that human communities on the reptiles are in locations of the Colombia's Caribbean region.			X	We made 42 surveys (or interviews) women and 51 men and informal talks with the inhabitants of the village of El Jabo, Corazones and Guacoche.
Develop educational strategies (recreational activities, integration with the community and workshops) that promote the conservation of reptiles and their habitats in locations of the Colombia's Caribbean region.			X	We conducted four sessions of educational workshops with children of second, third and fourth grades of primary and conducted three sessions (one for each path) of socialisation of the results of the project.
Formulate an action plan with proposals that promote the conservation of reptiles and the environmental sustainability of its habitats in locations of the Colombia's Caribbean region.		X		Currently we are conducting the following activities: 1.organisation of the information of the last output field, 2. drafting technical reports, one for the biotic component and one for the social component, 3. Prioritisation of the proposals of management and conservation guidelines that will form the plan of action, under a biotic/social approach, 4. Organisation and edition of a guide

				<p>to the reptiles of the Colombian Caribbean and two informative primers for school children and for municipal environmental authorities.</p> <p>By the end of the month of January 2014 we will have full plan of action and the published diagrams of primers and guide.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

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

Led to the expansion of the livestock border that some areas initially selected (georeferenced and pre-sampled) for work were cleared for the establishment of pastures and crops of rice and palm. This delayed for 2 months the activities of the project, the solution was given after choosing other areas where is to ensure the permanence of the forest fragments and not put at risk the safety of the research team by internal problems of the country.

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

The most important results of the project are summarized into three categories.

**1. Scientific** We have evidence of the negative, positive or void effects of the transformation of the landscape on the reptiles (lizards, snakes and turtles), effects on the richness, composition and structure (abundance) of the Assembly on one of the most threatened vegetation of the tropics are known.

**2 Academic** To ensure the achievement of the objectives set were involved in the project to two undergraduate students of Universidad pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia and two master's degree from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, they developed their works of degree of each field trip, the (still ongoing) master's thesis, were: "Dynamics of assemblies of amphibians and reptiles in response to changes in the land use on the plains of the Department the Cesar-Colombia" and "Evaluation of the effect of edge on the richness, the structure and life history traits of amphibian, in fragments of seasonal tropical dry forest (Cesar-Colombia)". And the work of grade (completed) was titled "Structure and composition of the Assembly of reptiles in fragments of seasonal tropical dry forest in the Department of Cesar, Colombia".

**3. Social** Was the active participation of the community in the work of the project in relation to the supply of information about reptiles, about what you think of their biotic environment and was given an initial step to changes in attitudes and participate in conservation activities, made by them.

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

The rural communities of El Jabo, Corazones and Guacoche, participated actively, both children and adults, in the workshops, interviews, surveys, informal conversations, which was collected key information for the formulation of proposals that will make the plan of action, for the management and conservation of the local biota. They benefited in the short term because we planted in their

associations (e.g. Community Action Board), the idea of community projects focused on the protection of the natural capital of its environment. In the medium and long-term it may favour when the competent environmental authority (CORPOCESAR) start the action plan which will contain among other, programs for community development from production under the principle of sustainability projects.

#### 5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project developed represents a breakthrough in the understanding of the biological knowledge: patterns and ecological processes in group's representative of the local wildlife and in the great task to convince the inhabitants of the idea of conservation. Based on the results obtained and analysed so far, the project will continue into two ways: **1. BIOLOGICAL.** Population-based studies of the rattlesnake *Crotalus durissus* in dry forests and very dry in Valledupar, contribute to the recovery and restoration of the habitat of the turtle *Chelonoidis carbonaria*, evaluate the status of the populations of the tortoise *Mesoclemmys dahli*, critically threatened to country, regional and global level; **2. WITH THE COMMUNITIES.** Identify the valuation of the communities of a particular resource (fauna or flora) through role-playing games, to interpret the social dynamic environment to the decisions of use of a resource, perform the economic valuation of each resource used, among others.

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

The action plan will be submitted to the environmental authority of the sector and put on his website ([www.corpocezar.gov.co](http://www.corpocezar.gov.co)), in this way may be an example to be followed by other authorities of the country. Biological results will translate in theses, scientific articles for publication in national and international magazines and publicity materials such as guides and primers in a simple language for school children, and in general for all audiences, will be initially distributed on the internet and through institutional portals (Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Institute de Ciencias Naturales, CORPOCESAR, among others) and is subsequently expected to print them to libraries in rural schools of the studied municipal districts.

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

The RSGF was used throughout the activities of the project. It was used for the transportation and travel expenses of the six field trips, from the third field trip combined with the money provided by CORPOCESAR. With the exception of the initial delay budget was used according to the times set for the project activities.

#### 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
Transportation (reptiles samples) 160£ each travel * 4 travels * 4	£ 2560	£ 3785	£ 1225	After the second field trip and having as matching money for outings and travel expenses of RSGF with materials and equipment of the Institute of natural

persons				sciences, request funding to the environmental authority of the region, CORPOCESAR. They provided the difference in the field we are presenting and which could increase the field trips to six and the number of researchers to six (the research team joined two students of undergraduate of the University of pedagogy and technology of Colombia), which contributed positively to the scope of the objectives proposed in the project and others who were found in CORPOCESAR as the biotic characterization of marshes in the basin of the Cesar River and forest fragments dry in the ecopark Los Besotes in the municipality of Valledupar.
Living stipends (reptiles samples) 13,5£ daily * 60 days* 4 persons	£ 3240	£ 4590	£ 1350	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 5800</b>	<b>£ 8375</b>		

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

As an initial step is complete, deliver, and socialise the plan of action for the protection and conservation of wildlife and the dry forests of the region. The next steps include the implementation of the priority programmes of the action plan and get financing, flocking to the political will of the environmental authorities at national and regional level and maybe international institutions whose missionary objective is to contribute to the conservation of natural resources (natural capital) on a global level. Taking the funding we will continue to work on all three fronts that characterise the work team: scientific, academic and social.

### 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?

The RSGF logo has not been used in any material produced during the project. In the various sessions of socialisation and material arising from the project (guides, booklets, articles), we have given and will give thanks to the RSGF for the financing of the project, without the use of the logo.

### 11. Any other comments?

The activities initially raised and others that we add throughout the project concluded successfully, the results will be processed for the completion of the plan of action and the master's thesis. Although this is the final report of activities, once we have materialised products will send them to



you to you to contribute to the divulgation of the material and to know the final product of the grant that kindly provided us.

