

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	Milton Norman D. Medina
Project title	Plecoptera Fauna In Compostela Valley Province, Mindanao Island, Philippines
RSG reference	12881-1
Reporting period	January 2013 – January 2014
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	milton_sept19@yahoo.com
Date of this report	February 5, 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
1. Document Plecoptera fauna in Compostela Valley province			X	Through the perseverance of the team and collaboration with the different Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), Peoples Organisation, and local government agencies we manage to collect samples from different municipalities of the province. Except in the Municipalities of Mawab, Pantukan, and Maco due to high alert status, there is a possibility that anytime there will be an encounter between the government's military and anti-government armed groups.
2. Trace remaining potential potable water resource around the province for monitoring and conservation			X	This is the result of objective number 1. The team now have an idea of the remaining fluvial systems in Compostela Valley worth saving using our data.
3. Train students and other stakeholders (education) towards protection and conservation of biodiversity in Compostela Valley			X	We spent part of the fund for training and educating biology students on biodiversity research studies. We believed that this is an urgent call for us since we lack experts and scientific workers in the field. We are hoping that these students as they will become our future leaders they will have well informed decisions with regards to our environment, particularly our biodiversity.
4. Produce instructional materials for the preservation of Plecoptera fauna			X	The team have made brochures and video presentation on our project as tools in promoting and educating students on insect studies in the province. A metal billboard will be put-up within this year part of the Save Cabalinan Movement programme.
5. Produce scientific paper as reference for policy makers in making more comprehensive		X		A draft of the faunistic paper is already made and it would be finish when the remaining parcel sent to Dr Ignac Sivec will be returned.

management plan for the fluvial systems in Compostela Valley				
6. Establish partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Nabunturan Balik-Kinaiyahan Foundation, and other stakeholders for the creation of "Save Cabalanan Movement"			X	Currently, our team teamed up with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Nabunturan Balik-Kinaiyahan Foundation Incorporated (NBKFI), Biology Student Society from Assumption College of Nabunturan, and the green-brigade in launching the Save Cabalanan Movement programme this month. The PENRO office provided the seeds (indigenous trees) for tree planting, the NBKFI provided the fund for the snacks and transportation, both student groups will participate during tree planting and maintenance of the trees within the creek, and we counterpart on the making of the billboard.

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

The first unforeseen difficulty of the team was the occurrence of several typhoons that pass by the province within 2013. We did not expect this since for many years Compostela Valley is a typhoon-free province. But I guess our climate is rapidly changing. Because of this several sampling schedules were cancelled and moved causing some delays in our data gathering. Moreover, I am thankful to my team who persevere despite of the hardships and the risks we had encountered in the field. There are some cases when we were stranded in the mountains because of heavy rains and flooding. But thankfully God is so good to us for keeping us safe all throughout the duration of sampling period.

The second was the strong presence insurgence in most of the municipalities we had visited. Compostela Valley is known as the 'Red Zone' area in the country. The term applies for an area where there is a strong presence of rebels and other anti-government parties. But despite this scenario the team still managed to collect samples from the different municipalities around the province. Thankfully for almost a year of sampling the team was safe and unharmed. We believed "they" (rebels) understand that what we are doing is for the benefit of the Filipino people and mankind as a whole.

The third problem I think was the bureaucracy system in the Philippines. There was a time when we were not given the permit to proceed our expedition by the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) of the Philippines since we did not give an under-the-table payment to some officials. This is very shameful but a reality in our country, corruption from the local to national government offices.

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

The three most important outcomes of the project are:

1. Establishment of the baseline data of Plecoptera fauna in the Province of Compostela Valley.
2. Map of the fluvial systems in Compostela Valley which currently supports potable water to villagers that needs conservation and preservation efforts.
3. Trained and educate future scientific workers in the province and gained collaboration with government, academe, and non-government organisations in launching the "*Save Cabalanan Movement*". This is a programme initiated by the team in preserving Cabalanan Creek one of the sampling sites where abundant Plecoptera materials are still found.

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

Educating the field guides and local villagers. We believed that the first person who listens and understand what we are doing are the field guides and the local villagers. They are not mostly educated. They are mostly indigenous people we tapped during our field works who are more than willing enough to help (although they are paid) us in collecting Plecopteran materials. Aside from they provide security for the team, they also provide indigenous knowledge which we think very useful in designing future conservation efforts. Example of these (indigenous knowledge) are their ethnic stories behind certain waterfalls or mountain range and how these nature's gift connects with their own cultural heritage. Most of them understand that what we are doing would help them understand more of the species of flora and fauna within their locality particularly the younger generations. Hopefully we could design a conservation measures that would blend both indigenous and scientific knowledge for better protection and conservation of our biodiversity.

Small group discussions with our students. Using our designed brochure entitled 'Help Conserve Biodiversity of Compostela Valley – Plecoptera Fauna', a small group discussion was conducted by the research team and some volunteers to the college students of Assumption College of Nabunturan, particularly the biology major students. We plan to replicate this activity to other public and private schools in the province particularly the sampling sites (other municipalities) of the project. This is one of our target activities for the second round of the project 'Education for Conservation of Biodiversity of Compostela Valley' aside from conducting more field works especially to other areas not reached by the expedition team.

Forum for the conservation and protection of Cabalanan Creek and the creation of "*Save Cabalanan Movement*". This activity was held on September 18th 2013 at the AV room of the Assumption College of Nabunturan. This is the first forum with its main objective is to conserve, protect, and rehabilitate Cabalanan Creek, one of the sampling sites of the team and the current haven of *Pericnemic melansonii* a new damselfly discovered by the author and several Plecopteran (*Phanoperla* and *Neoperla*) species. This fluvial system is the source of potable water for the local villagers which is now threatened with mining and conversion of the forest areas in the vicinity of the creek into agricultural purposes. Using *P. melansonii* as banner specimen, collective ideas came out for the protection and preservation of Cabalanan Creek. Among of the main activities to be conducted in the area is the immediate tree-planting activity with endemic hardwoods near the vicinity of the creek, putting up of billboards one at the main entrance of the creek and near the Cabalanan Falls, and designing of watershed approach for conservation, protection, and

rehabilitation of the creek. The long-range plan of the team with the stakeholders is the creation of Cabalanan Creek into an eco-tourism park in Nabunturan.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project team have come up with two options of future projects/activities out of the this round. First is the Mindanao wide survey of Plecoptera where the sampling will be conducted at the main protected areas (i.e. Mt Apo National Park, Mt Kitanglad National Park, Mt Lumot, etc.) in Mindanao for Plecopteran species. The target of this project is to further increase the current list of Plecoptera species in the Philippines. Included also in this future project is the expedition of areas in Compostela Valley Province not reached by the survey team. Second is the education towards conservation on the dwindling biodiversity of Compostela Valley and strengthening the Save Cabalanan Movement. Highlight of this programme is the mass production of instructional materials for Compostela Valley which can be used in basic education, the people of Compostela Valley particularly the indigenous communities, academe, and even policy makers.

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

Currently the proponent is drafting the scientific (faunistic) paper on Plecoptera in Compostela Valley. May this endeavour, the results of the Plecoptera fauna project in Compostela Valley will be known to wider audience acknowledging the funding support from the Rufford Small Grant Foundation. The results of the mapping was already shared to the Nabunturan Balik-Kinaiyahan Foundation Incorporated (NBKFI) which we are currently working on designing programmes and activities that would lead to the preservation and protection of the remaining fluvial systems in the province.

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

Timescale	Activities (actual length of the project)	Anticipated timescale
From January to February 2013	This was the time when we secured permits from the different local government offices and the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP). Most of the materials were also purchased using the RSG fund during this period.	January – February 2013 We followed our planned timescale
March to September 2013	RSG fund was used during sampling periods to different municipalities of the province.	
October to December 2013	Sorting of materials using stereomicroscope and send-off of parcels to Dr Ignac Sivec for final identification.	

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
Materials and equipments	£2,918	£1,649.91	-£1,268.09	We save some fund in purchasing other materials and add the savings to the fare, food, accommodation, and communication of the team.
Fare, food, accomodation Communication	£382	£1777.76	£1,395.76	
Incentives / Honoraria/Field guides/Drivers/ Transportation	£2,700	£2659.21	-£40.79	
TOTAL	£6,000	£6,086.88	£86.88	

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

The important next steps of the project would be:

1. Education on the Biodiversity of Compostela Valley Province using the data on Plecoptera fauna project.
2. Extend the sampling sites to other protected areas in whole island of Mindanao. And
3. Replicate the *Save Cabalinan Movement* to other municipalities of the province where there is still pristine fluvial systems in order to conserve and protect these remaining resources in the province.

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, in every forum we conducted we used the RSGF logo. The team have made a t-shirt with the RSGF logo so that the public will know that it is the RSGF provided us the fund. It is also an eye opener to our government officials (since during our fora we always invite local government officials) they realise that other countries are willing to help conserve our biodiversity.