

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	Ana Filipa Mateus Ramos Marques Palmeirim
Project title	Ecological impacts of an archipelagic landscape induced by a hydroelectric dam on the local communities of small mammals in the Central Brazilian Amazon
RSG reference	13675-1
Reporting period	01-02-2014 until 20-11-2014
Amount of grant	£4800
Your email address	anafilipapalmeirim@gmail.com
Date of this report	15-01-2015

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
Sampling the small mammals community within 30 hydroelectric islands and three mainland regions		X		The low capture rate did not allow us to get a satisfactory number of animals captured per sampled site so additional fieldwork is still needed (so far we captured 380 small mammals belonging to at least 20 species, including one new species to be described).
Give knowledge about hydroelectric dams impact on the local communities			X	The local community in Balbina village took knowledge about the present project in a talk, including the preliminary results and its importance as well as a brief description on the ecological impacts of hydroelectric dams.

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

The hardest part in the fieldwork of this study raised from the difficulty in capture the target animal species, so we had to double the number of days per trapping session. This means that instead of 8 trapping days, we were trapping small mammals during 16 days plus 4 to 5 days of placing and removing the traps from the sampling sites. Unfortunately, we also had to reduce the number of islands to be sampled.

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

The data analysis of my project was not carried out yet, however, in my opinion the three most important outcomes of my project were: 1) only the large-size hydroelectric islands still retain much of the species of the small mammals community; so at the majority of the archipelagic landscape of the hydroelectric lake the small mammals community is depleted, further negatively affecting the ecosystem functioning therein; 2) even in those hydroelectric islands there are species unknown to the science (we got one new rodent species to describe which was collected in a large-size hydroelectric island); and, 3) we got lizards species occurring only in the mainland and, therein, near the streams, that means that a set of lizard species had been vanished from the archipelagic landscape, probably because they used the riparian habitat that has been inundated after damming the river to construct the hydroelectric dam.

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

The project got the local community involved by employing always field assistants from the local village. Also, we had the chance of present the preliminary results of the project in a talk to the local community.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We still need to repeat the sampling of this work to get more individual captures from each of the sampling sites, which is crucial to observe patterns within the data set. Moreover, other projects are also going to be carried out at the same sampling sites using other organisms as the target species (e.g. bats and birds).

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

I will share the results of my work with others firstly by presenting them in congresses and then by publishing them in scientific journals. Also, whenever possible, I will try to share it in the social media.

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 Rufford Foundation grant was used during the entire period of field work (from March to November 2014), including during the pilot study (in February 2014). This timescale was changed comparing to the actual length of the project. I was planning to carry out trapping sessions of 8 days each but due to the very low animals capture rate, I increased the trapping session to 16 days each. So, instead of 6 months, I spent 8 months doing fieldwork. Apart from that, our logistical support from the Biological Reserve Uatumã (particularly for fuel) was broken after the first 3 months of fieldwork (the Biological Reserve run out of funds to provide logistical support for researchers). Because of this and because I actually spent a higher amount on field assistants, I was not able to use the RSG to repeat one second season of fieldwork as had been predicted before.

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
Permanent field assistant	4 800	2 215	- 2 585	We performed 7 months of fieldwork when trapping
Extra field assistants (2 persons)	0	1107	+ 1107	We needed the help of two extra people to help us to carry and place the traps in the sampling sites in the beginning and at the end of each trapping session
Field assistants for the pilot study (3 persons)	0	949	+ 949	We spent one month preparing the plot on the sampling site by re-open trails and digging the burrows for the

				100 L buckets
Fuel	0	1 200	+ 1200	The Biological Reserve of Uatumã did not provide us with fuel during the last 4 months of field work
Total (exchange rate: 1 £ = R\$ 3.793)	4 800	5 470	+ 670	This extra amount was provided by my post-graduation programme at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

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

It is important to get more funding to repeat the sampling by performing a second season of fieldwork. This is crucial to get a valuable data set and clearly identify the patterns regarding the ecological impacts of the hydroelectric landscape on the small mammal's communities. In the meantime, we are also going to use those data on genetic analysis to complement the objectives of this project. Furthermore, during the small mammals trapping, we got data on the herpetofauna that was captured on the same buckets that were being used to capture the small mammals. Therefore, after finishing the data collection, I will perform the data analysis and write up the scientific papers regarding this research.

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?

I used The Rufford Foundation logo at the Acknowledgements section in the talks that I gave about this project (at the moment, I had only given divulgation talks presenting the project's importance and its preliminary results).