

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	Pedro Guillermo Méndez-Carvajal
Project title	Study and conservation of <i>Ateles fusciceps rufiventris</i> at Chucanti Nature Reserve, Darien, Panama
RSG reference	16021-2
Reporting period	Final Report
Amount of grant	£4000
Your email address	fcprimatespanama@gmail.com
Date of this report	July 3, 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
Detect arboreal and nocturnal fauna			X	Diversity of arboreal mammals
Improve information of <i>A.f.rufiventris</i>			X	Habitat use, monitor groups, habitat conservation
Apply environmental education			X	Involving local people to our studies as field assistants and distribution of educational material

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

No difficulties. However, camera traps are sensitive to humidity and water, so this two factors have been affecting the life time of the camera traps at the reserve, and as a consequence cameras that were previously in need for expand observations, some new cameras have been used to replace old ones but at the same observation point.

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

The three more important objectives were achieved; the diversity of the arboreal mammals at Chucanti Nature Reserve confirmed presence of *Saguinus geoffroyi* previously (tamarin monkey) reported only as anecdotal (Mendez-Carvajal, 2012). However, data resulting from our Orion Camera System, did not detected any presence of *Aotus zonalis* (night monkey). Other arboreal mammals that were detected sharing forest space with *Ateles fusciceps rufiventris* were: *Potos flavus*, *Eira barbara*, *Sciurus granatensis*, *Tamandua mexicana*, *Choloepus hoffmanni*, *Coendou rothschildi*, *Marmosa robinsoni*, *Tylomys panamensis* published in Méndez-Carvajal (2014) and Méndez-Carvajal *et al.* (2015). The re-discovery of *Tylomys panamensis* was our main success since this endemic rat from Darien is considered Data Deficient under IUCN, and information about circadian activity, measurements and presence, will help to up to date its status expanding its actual distribution. Regarding new information about *A.f. rufiventris*, we recognised places of their preferences, not only into the reserves but outside the forest, including high impacted zones near to farming areas as living fences and gallery forest at lowlands.

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

Environmental education was exposed to local people, which served as field assistants (four persons), two of them learned how to set the camera traps at canopy and how to review and change batteries of the cameras. Photographic material was showed to local people and impacted in a positive way in their appreciation for what they are doing, protecting the forest. We distributed bookmarks with information about the black spider monkey in areas near to the Chucanti Nature Reserve (restaurants and fondas), but also takes advantages to distribute them when river was high

and cars has to wait until current slowdown. Informal and passive environmental education was also applicable during casual interviews, while traveling at public cars near the reserve, or in horses.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This is a long-term project to monitor *A.f. rufiventris*, and other arboreal and terrestrial mammals, our next targets will be to complete information about general diversity of mammals, including potential pollinators like volant mammals (bats). It is important for us to recognise the pollinators in the reserve as we can determine capacity of natural regeneration of the forest comparing other areas in Panama.

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

Publications have been released at international levels by Mesoamericana scientific journal from the Mesoamerican Society of Biology and Conservation, but also Tecnociencia, a national scientific journal from the University of Panama. Other media as webpage fcprimatespanama.org and atelesaz for youtube videos are open to access our activities. informative videos about Chucanti Nature Reserve and our project with *A. f. rufiventris* have been produced thanks to the cooperation of Conserv-action <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tf5VzK0yTA> and Odebrecht Rana Dorada Award 2015, where we obtained finalist position as one of the five best conservation project in Panama for this competition: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqkLEUKvq8s> . Results about camera traps were presented at Oxford Brookes University, in their monthly research colloquium, at Oxford, UK and for the anthropology staff of the Primatology Group of Durham University, UK.

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

The 2nd RSG support was used in a combination with other supporters for a year period, and it is under the normal basic length we normally expend for a year in Chucanti Nature Reserve.

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.

Notes to Budget

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Bushnell Trophy Cam	1500	1500	0	
Orion Camera System	900	900	0	
Batteries	160	160	0	
Educational material	200	200	0	
Equipment for camping	340	340	0	
Laptop	700	900	200	price change and taxes
TOTAL	4000	4000		

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

N/A

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?

RSGF logo is in our two webpages, newsletters, and the name of the organisation is always well recognised in acknowledgments in any publication we release or is published for a journal.

11. Any other comments?

FCPP would like to thank RSGF for the support in this project, your contribution has been really important to keep on vigilance one of the few protected zones that still hold a viable population of *A. f. rufiventris*. Thank you very much for your support.