

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	André Becker Saidenberg
Project title	Rewilding endangered parrots in Brazil – The Vinaceous Amazon
RSG reference	16608-1
Reporting period	November 2014 – November 2015
Amount of grant	£4675
Your email address	andre_saidenberg@yahoo.com.br
Date of this report	11/29/2015

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
Rehabilitate confiscated Vinaceous Amazons from illegal trade.			X	We have successfully treated and maintained 27 confiscated birds in 2015, with most of these being able to be trained and prepared for reintroduction (15 individuals).
Encouraging captive and reproduction and management.		X		The partner who is currently carrying out the breeding programme at another state is also willing to promote a release programme there, which means that we did not use captive bred birds for the release this year, giving priority to those that were being confiscated. Captive breeding at the Lymington Foundation where the release is being carried out is also one of the plans for the next year.
Training rehabilitated and captive bred birds to recognise wild food and avoid predators.			X	Birds were successfully trained and selected according to the level of achievement both behaviourally and physically. The recognition and use of fruits and flowers available at the release season showed the positive effects of training. Predators like large birds of prey were also recognised as a threat and appropriate reactions of staying quiet and making alarm calls/flying away were also observed.
Tracking and monitoring released birds to determine survival and movements within release areas.		X		Most parrots were easily followed from the first days after the release up to a month when a gradual dispersion was observed reaching a peak 6 to 7 months after the release. The whole valley area proved to be used by the birds and also neighbouring areas up to 5 km away. We did not manage to employ the radio tracking devices due to delays in shipping/customs clearance. However, tests around the area also showed that it may not be completely effective as the range for detection was fairly small (700 m) due to natural obstacles such as the chain of mountains. Additional tests in the birds are being planned.

Providing and managing artificial nest boxes around the release area to encourage natural reproduction, and to monitor developing nestlings to maximise the survival of the offspring that fledge.		X		The nest boxes were set around the release area recently at the start of the breeding season in August/September. One pair showed a lot of interest but there were recent problems with invasion of Africanised honeybees. Please check below for more details.
Developing an educational awareness programme aimed to eliminate the illegal nest poaching through a community outreach programme involving the local schoolchildren.		X		The local school has been reached with the educational campaign but a widespread outreach was not attempted due to the problems of dealing with the illegal settlers. Please read more about it below.

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

One problem that arose during 2015 was the advance of illegal selling of nearby lands, which are not directly connected to the Lymington Foundation grounds but are a threat to the water systems of the region besides promoting illegal deforestation. Denounces were made and the authorities were activated however with very few concrete actions to stop the selling and building of houses in the region. Due to the denounces, we at the project have to be more careful when dealing with nearby neighbours in order not to call negative attention towards the birds.

We originally had planned the release of 26 birds in 2015, but due to behavioural and physical/health analysis a total of 18 were finally selected, and after the release three were added back to captivity for additional training as they were not showing to be completely adapted. These underwent additional training in the last half of 2015 and will be deemed for a planned release at the beginning of 2016.

The nest box where a pair was showing a great deal of interest besides being observed copulating every day, unfortunately was invaded by Africanised bees and requiring cleaning, forcing the parents to abandon the nesting activities. Management of the nest boxes with a safe for vertebrates insecticide and bee lure boxes with pheromones were put in place. As the breeding season extends theoretically up to March/April there is still an opportunity for breeding inside the release area where due to accessibility of the nest these birds can be intensively monitored and chicks managed/studied.

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

Releasing 15 additional birds to the existing population. Treating and rehabilitating five additional confiscated birds. Establishing a standardised training method that helps considerably the adaptation of newly released birds.

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

The local school for children under 13 years old has received the educational materials for use in their classes. Two local people are also hired as part time keepers for the birds and encouraged to report sightings of the released birds. Two simple pocket cameras were also given as a reward for helping to locate birds and report their feeding habits.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this is an ongoing project that attempts to establish the species back in a self-sustainable way, which currently is not possible due to the low number of breeding pairs around the region.

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

We have been publishing the results for this work in informal online publications through Facebook but also through official journals and website, please check below.

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 was used throughout the year of 2015, but concentrating mostly on the first 6 months of the project. The rest of the year was mostly dedicated to monitoring of the released parrots and maintenance of the captive ones.

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 – exchange rate 1.00 £ equals to an average 5.00 reais	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Keeper	100.00 £	100.00 £	-	-
Flight aviary maintenance	100.00 £	100.00 £	-	-
Medicines/veterinary equipment	900.00 £	650.00 £	250.00 £	It was possible to save money with this item due to the favourable exchange rate.
Health tests	600.00 £	655.00 £	55.00 £	More expenses were necessary with this item due to the original group and new individuals in need of going through the screening process.
Food for the birds	500.00 £	590.00 £	90.00 £	More expenses were necessary due to the current Brazilian inflation affecting food items especially fruits and

				vegetables.
Field equipments	1000.00 £	900.00 £	100.00 £	Less expenses were possible due to the favourable exchange rate.
Field activities	900.00 £	900.00 £	-	-
Incubator maintenance	100.00 £	-	100.00 £	Since no captive bred birds were directly selected for the project this item has not been included.
Leg bands, microchips	100.00 £	100.00 £	-	-
Environmental awareness manager	200.00 £	200.00 £	-	-
Educational materials	175.00 £	100.00 £	75.00 £	Less money was spent on this item due to partnerships with the environmental state agency which helped with some of the printing costs.
Total	4675.00 £	4295.00 £	380.00 £	-

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

It will be important to try to guarantee a self-sustainable population of breeding pairs in the nearby regions as the birds are dispersing a lot in a very large area. This means that even when they breed, it is more difficult for new individuals reaching sexual maturity to find new flocks. The dispersion is also observed with other parrot species in the region and a common behaviour that tends to follow the seasonal availability of food. We did provide supplemental food during the whole year to try to keep as many birds close to the site, only lowering the amount when leftovers were being accounted everyday meaning less dependency on our intervention. Hopefully the presence of just a few pairs that choose by their own to stay in the immediate region will be able to counterbalance this natural dispersion.

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?

We did not use the logo but did mention the Rufford in the published work for the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Journal, and in the World Parrot Trust website. Please check it here <http://www.parrots.org/projects/vinaceous-amazon> and the attachment of the in press publication.

11. Any other comments?

We have plans to continue this project either resubmitting another grant request to Rufford and/or with partner organisations with whom we have been working successfully.