

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	Monica Gonzalez (prepared by Jordan Karubian)
Project title	A science-based approach to conserving the critically endangered Ecuadorian capuchin <i>Cebus aequatorialis</i>
RSG reference	16760-1
Reporting period	July 2015 to July 2016
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	jk@tulane.edu
Date of this report	10-April-2017

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
sample 60 fragments and identify isolated populations for subsequent conservation actions				We sampled a total of 44 fragments for capuchin monkeys, and found them in three of the fragments.
complete reforestation on 24 ha of land				In early 2016 we distributed 12000 hardwood seedlings to 92 local residents known to have forest fragments on their land, and assisted them with planting.
provide a suite of award-winning educational initiatives to local residents				In December 2015, we put on an environmental fair that focused on the capuchin monkey as a species of conservation concern in the region. The fair was attended by approximately 850 local residents and featured music, dance, free lunch, and a series of environmentally themed competitions (i.e., poetry, costumes, and handicrafts). Local residents made a total of eight presentations to local community groups during the project period.
provide information to the Ministry of the Environment and other relevant conservation organizations				We met with local park guards and with Francisco Prieto, Director of Protected Areas in the Ministry of Environment, to share results of our research and training work. We also communicated results to local residents via workshops, presentations, and informal meetings
bring local stakeholders and the Ministry together to produce a 'best practices' document for conservation of the species in MCR				Although the project provided space for substantive dialog between Ministry and local residents, we were not able to successfully produce a document of best practices, In part, this is because local residents in the Reserve experience dramatically different environmental and socio-economic conditions depending on where they are located, making it difficult to produce a single consensus document.

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

The species is rarer than we had expected, and is very wary of humans in the fragments where it does occur. This made it more difficult to gather data on group size, age structure and behaviour than we had anticipated.

Both project leaders, Fernando Castillo and Monica Gonzalez, departed from our Foundation in early 2016, approximately half way through the project period for personal and professional reasons. Other long time FCAT members filled in to complete the project but this lack of continuity during the project period posed a challenge to the project.

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

First and foremost, we identified a key fragment in which the Ecuadorian capuchin occurs, and we used this information to secure funding to purchase and conserve the fragment. This fragment has an area of approximately 120 ha and also contains several other species of conservation concern, and we believe that conserving it represents a major achievement in the area.

Second, we reforested approximately xx ha pertaining to xx different private land owners. This allowed us to continue our ongoing reforestation efforts in the region.

Third, we leveraged our involvement in primate research to form collaborative links with groups working in northern Esmeraldas Province on the endangered coastal spider monkey. We had a series of visits to the Rio Canande watershed and have formed a collaboration with Fundacion Jocotoco, Fundacion Cambugan, and Ecomadera - three major land owners in the area that all have substantial spider monkey populations. We have begun collaborative research in this area on seed dispersal services provided by the spider monkeys.

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

FCAT is composed of local community members, so in that sense a small number of individuals directly involved in the project benefitted economically and in terms of technical capacity and knowledge from the project. Additionally, the broader community of local residents benefitted from the project via access to information about this species and forest fragment conservation value more generally, as well as by access to trees for reforestation projects.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, as indicated above we will continue the work in 3 ways:

First, we will directly conserve a key population via the purchase and protection of a 120 ha forest fragments.

Second, we will expand our primate research via collaborative links with groups working on spider monkeys in northern Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador.

Third, we will continue to survey additional fragments for capuchins in the project area, and to monitor those populations that we did record.

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

We have already shared results with local residents (via workshops, community presentations, a DVD, and the Environmental Fair) and Ministry of the Environment (via formal and informal meetings, a symposium, and a DVD). We plan to continue to share results via involvement in a national level network on primate research and conservation, and via publication of a report in an international, peer-reviewed journal.

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 RSG funds were used from July 2015 to July 2016 in accordance with the activities planned in the project

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
Fernando Castillo salary (\$1,000/month *12)	2040	0	0	
Fernando Castillo travel	1632	0	0	
Camera Traps	680	0	0	
Capuchin management workshops	408	0	0	
Environmental Fair	238	0	0	
TOTAL	4998			

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

The clear priority is the continued protection of the populations we found, by ensuring that forest fragments housing this species are not cut down. This in turn requires continued education and economic incentives for conservation. Focused study of the groups we found would also be appropriate, though this may be challenging given how shy the animals are of human contact.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

RSG logo was used during the Environmental Fair.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?

We are deeply grateful for this support and hope we can approach RSG in the future for a continuation grant.