

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	M. Noelia Barrios-Garcia
Project title	Ecosystem recovery after European wild boar eradication on Cachal Huapi Island, Nahuel Huapi National Park, Patagonia
RSG reference	19060-1
Reporting period	1 year
Amount of grant	£4900
Your email address	noeliabarrios@gmail.com
Date of this report	11/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
Pre-eradication census				In March 2016, we conducted a plant community composition and structure survey, a soil and arthropod sampling, and a bird census.
Fence construction				The main fence diving the island in half is up since September 2016.
Wild boar Eradication				Hunting is not permitted during the summer due to conflicts with tourism, thus removal is not complete yet. We anticipate the removal will be complete in the next 4 months.
Recovery census				Given the delay in the eradication program, we re-schedule the recovery assessment for summer 2017.

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

The main difficulty we had with the project is the delay in the eradication of wild boar. Unfortunately, hunting is not permitted during the austral summer (December 2016 - March 2017) due to the high number of tourists and fisherman visiting Patagonia, and thus removal of wild boar is not complete yet. However, eradication should be completed in the next 4 months (September 2017).

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

Through the installation of the camera traps and the surveys on the island, we detected the presence of the endangered southern river otter "huillin" (*Lontra provocax*), the near threatened deer pudu (*Pudu puda*), and the rare stag beetle (*Chiasognathus grantii*). Until our surveys, there were no records of these three species on the island. Furthermore, park rangers are now patrolling the area more frequently, and recently sighted two huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*), highlighting the conservation value of Lago Espejo. While the progress is slow, this is the first conservation project implemented by the joint effort of managers from the Nahuel Huapi National Park and scientist from the National Research Consul. Therefore, this project has helped to strengthen the interaction of different governmental agencies.

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

The local community is benefited from the project because Lago Espejo and Cachal Huapi Island, are now consider a high priority conservation area in the national park, where efforts will be allocated to better preserve the area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we will conduct the recovery measurements in 2017, and to that end we have incorporated a PhD student to the team. She will be working on the recovery of insect and bird communities, as well as associated ecosystem services: pollination and seed dispersal rates.

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

We plan on sharing the results of this project to scientists and the local community by different means. To reach scientists, we will publish the results in national and international journals, as well as in conferences; while we plan on sharing the information with the local community through newspaper articles and workshops.

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

Given that the project is still in progress we have not used the entire budget. We anticipate the actual length of the project will be 2 years.

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
Camera traps (batteries and memories)	1000	870	+ 130	1 £ \cong 19 Argentine Peso We bought 6 Bushnell 14 MP Trophy HD cameras and plan on buying two more.
Binoculars	300	400	-100	We bought a pair of Nikon 8x42 Monach binoculars, they are more expensive in Argentina
Fuel	400	200	+ 200	We are not done with measurements
Field assistance	750	100	+ 650	We are not done with measurements
Fencing materials and	1000	1000	0	

labour				
Elements of hardware	200	200	0	
Lens for digital camera	200	200	0	We bought a AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR II to register the field work for future visual presentations
Soil analyses	400	200	+200	We are not done with measurements
Digital soil moisture and temperature	400	400	0	We bought a Delmhorst KS-D1 Digital Soil Moisture Tester
Field and lab supplies	250	100	+150	We are not done with measurements
Total	4900	3670	+1230	

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

Removing the wild boar on the island is critical for us to progress with the project. Park rangers are now working full time to move forward with the project.

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?

Yes, we gave an oral presentation to all the participants of the project (park rangers, conservations agents, hunters, directors) and used the logo of The Rufford Foundation.

11. Any other comments?

As stated above, wild boar removal is still on progress, thus we are delayed on the timeline of the project. However, we are actively working towards achieving the proposed goals.