

Project Update: November 2016

Since the grant was awarded we have made significant progress to achieve the goals of the project. During the summer of 2016 my collaborators and I will collected pre-eradication baseline data. Specifically, we established 20 2 m circular plots throughout the island where we: (1) recorded plant richness and abundance, (2) collected foliar arthropods, (3) conducted a bird census, and (4) collected soil samples. Additionally, we set up four camera traps for 2 months. So far the data show that wild boar rooting damage is extensive, on average 65% of the area of each plot was rooted. Therefore, plant cover was very low, on average only 0.5% of herbs and grasses, and 30% of shrubs. We also found on average one wild boar dropping per plot. Arthropod samples are being identified, but it is worth noting the presence of the rare stag beetle *Chiasognathus grantii* (Figure 1). By means of the bird census we identified that both species of ground-nesting birds (*Scelorchilus rubecula*, *Pteroptochos tarnii*) are still present on the island, though we don't know how egg predation is affecting them yet. More than half of the videos recorded in the camera traps were from wild boar (Figure 2). However, we also recorded several birds, and the presence of the world's smallest deer pudu (*Pudu puda*, Figure 3). We didn't expect to find the near threaten pudu deer on the island, thus now it is even more important to restore the island integrity. Lastly, we identified eight active sites for huillin (*Lontra provocax*) suggesting a chance for huillin to increase the use of the island coasts.

We bought the fence materials managed to coordinate the construction. The fence is now up and tight (Figure 4, 5, and 6). The culling program have just started, thus park rangers are still removing wild boar. We expect the eradication will be completed by the end of the year 2016, while surveys will begin in 2017. We bought four camera traps (we are planning on buying more), and a scale. We also selected a doctoral student who will be involved in the project.



Figure 1: *Chiasognathus grantii* (Stag beetle)



Figure 2: Wild boar



Figure 3: Pudu deer



Figure 4, 5, and 6: Fence