

## 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. 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Luis Rafael Volkmann
<b>Project title</b>	Distribution and conservation of butterfly species in the Pampean hills.
<b>RSG reference</b>	16.02.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	Final report
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£4,260
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Volkmann2009@hotmail.com">Volkmann2009@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Volkmann@digitalcoop.com.ar">Volkmann@digitalcoop.com.ar</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	June 2010

**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
1) To create an updated inventory of species in Central Argentina.			x	We have now an updated and detailed inventory of the lepidoptera present in the study area. We also have a comprehensive knowledge of their habitats and sites where they can be found, as well as quantity and biology. A scientific publication has been sent to specialised magazines.
2) To establish an ecological niche model for endemic and rare or threatened species.		x		Thanks to the data gathered in the field, we have found species that function as bioindicators in forests and grasslands, both modified and well preserved. In spite of our research, we still do not have enough geographical information on the several target species. We plan to continue working in the next summer campaign.
3) To make an illustrated guide of butterflies of central Argentine woodlands.			x	We published the first <i>Guide of Butterflies in Central Argentina</i> . The book has an outstanding printing and photographic quality. It includes new records of the ecology and biology of many species.
4) To implement educational actions.			x	Open chats with the public in general and lectures in primary and secondary schools and universities. Schools contests. Exploratory excursions with public participation. Presentations of the butterfly guide. Broadcast and TV presentations, at local and provincial level. These presentations will continue through the whole year.

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

Actual Argentine inflation rate approaches 15%. As a consequence, the expenses of the field investigation were higher than planned. Publishing expenses increased excessively, due both to inflation and the inclusion of more species than expected.

The book was delayed by the publishing designer more than planned.

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

1. We have got a complete and updated knowledge of the lepidopteran fauna in the study area. We found new information on the ecology of many species, nutritious host plants and distribution.
2. We made the first specific guide of butterflies for this region. It includes formerly unpublished records and data, 57 species of the Papilionidae, Pieridae, Lycaenidae and Riodinade families and 140 full colour pages. We made 1000 copies (the original budget was for 500 copies). The guide was well received by the community.
3. We are generating funds to continue the investigation and the conservation actions. Sales of the first volume will generate the funds needed to publish the second volume (Nymphalidae and Hesperidae families), and for new field works and educational actions.

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

Thanks to the project, teachers and educational workers have acquired more interest in butterfly diversity, ecology and conservation. We expect them to pass this knowledge to their students. Our lists of butterfly species are already been used as additional argument for the creation of new protected areas. We are presently advising local governments.

We have contacts with journalists who generate articles about some 'protected' areas (where we have studied butterflies) that need more real protection.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

- We are in the process of generating our own funds, and will publish the second volume of the guide.
- We plan to study several sites and search for scarcely known species.
- We plan to determine the diversity and richness of butterflies in preserved environments and compare them with conditions in altered environments.
- We will support the creation of new local protected areas.

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

The guide offers information to other professionals and interested people. Our activities in the educational field is another form of sharing results, as well as our role as advisors of some provincial

administrative offices. We collaborate with some NGOs that have a site in internet where we can provide information as requested.

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

It was used mostly during 2009. Last funds were applied to the guide publishing expenses at the beginning of 2010.

The funds and support of the Rufford Small Grants Foundation were essential to achieve the present extension of 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.**

Budget based on exchange rate 1£ = 6.40 AR\$

Actual exchange rate: 1£ = 5, 92 AR\$

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Cost of impression of the guide of butterflies	1700	2,702.70	+1,002.70	We decided to make a priority of the guide publishing, transferring funds to this purpose from professional fees. We thus intended to continue our task of investigation and preservation.
Travel	900	994.46	+94.46	
Subsistence payments and professional works	1,460	253.38	-1,206.62	
General expenses	200	334.90	+134.90	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,260</b>	<b>4,285.44</b>	<b>+25.44</b>	

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

Answered in question 5.

Community must acquire more information and learn to appreciate the biodiversity.

We need more ecological information about some species (in particular, of butterflies) and the response of these species to human impact.

We must generate more local or regional protected areas.

**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?**

Yes, I am sending by regular post service a copy of the guide.