

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Angela María Maldonado Rodríguez
Project title	Locally based monitoring of wildlife utilisation at the Colombian-Peruvian border: Enforcing international wildlife trade regulations
RSG reference	31.07.09
Reporting period	January-December 2010
Amount of grant	£5,989
Your email address	llugens@gmail.com
Date of this report	8 th January 2011

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
Transfer monitoring methods implemented by Colombian Tikunas to their neighbouring Peruvian communities subject to intense extraction of wildlife.			X	With the participation of two Colombian Tikuna co-investigators, Francisco del Aguila from Mocagua and Arturo Naranjo from San Martin, and a team of 10 volunteers we trained a total of 42 Peruvian co-investigators: • Vista Alegre: 34 trained co-investigators (23 men (six ex-traders of night monkeys), 11 women). • Chineria: eight trained co-investigators (2 ex-traders of night monkeys).
Maintain the census and harvest database for the hunting-target species recorded by local co-investigators			X	We conducted nocturnal and diurnal census fieldwork at five sampling sites and completed the trail system. From the analyses of census data until October 2010 we produced: one publication, two reports, one international and two national oral presentations. We also prepared one scientific article in Spanish that will be submitted in January 2011.
Submit quantitative data on the harvest of wildlife to the Colombian and Peruvian authorities in order to enforce international wildlife trade regulations			X	We submitted one complete report for Colombian stakeholders (Ministry of Environment, Colombian Park system, two Tikuna communities): trade and densities of night monkeys. • We have also submitted a complete report for Peruvian Environmental authorities (See Appendix 1).
Establish permanent vegetation plots for the monitoring of the local forest			X	We have established an initial one hectare permanent plot for the study of the local forest in the Calderón River area.

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

The dry season of 2010 has been the driest reported over the last 40 years¹, and the extremely low level of the Amazon River made transportation to sampling sites very difficult. Therefore, we had to

¹ <http://www.informador.com.mx/internacional/2010/230764/6/rio-amazonas-en-peru-en-menor-nivel-en-40-anos.htm>

carry out census fieldwork simultaneously at three to four sampling sites from July to November in order to achieve the planned sample size used in estimating densities. Fortunately, we had a total of 11 volunteers (see Appendix 2) which allowed diurnal and nocturnal census fieldwork at the same time. This was also made possible thanks to additional funding obtained during the second semester of 2010.

Potable water is an issue in the area, making it difficult for indigenous people to focus on conservation while they have other urgent needs. This shortage in potable water also made it hard for the research team to conduct fieldwork. In 2011, we will be looking at ways of establishing basic potable water and recycling systems at local level in order to overcome this.

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

- A total of 34 Peruvian co-investigators, trained by Colombian Tikunas, learnt the basics of biology necessary for conducting census fieldwork and are now able to fill the census format correctly. They are currently learning scientific names of the most common wildlife.
- The most complete database (and the only one available) on wildlife densities across the Peruvian-Colombian border area in Amazonia.
- Hunting and trapping ban for night monkeys in Vista Alegre and Chineria, Peru.
- The international issue of illegal trade in night monkeys for biomedical research is well known at national and international level (see point 6). We provided to Colombian and Peruvian authorities with the necessary information regarding the trade and the population status of night monkeys in order to take conservation action.

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

- Local authorities in Vista Alegre and Chineria (Peru) have decided to declare the trapping of night monkeys illegal as they realise the detrimental effect this trade has on the habitat and populations of night monkeys. In Vista Alegre, we are conducting training sessions with women for the elaboration of handcrafts, looking for further economic alternatives.
- The Aotus Project is providing an income to local ex-traders and their families as they now form part of the research team.
- We are searching, with local people and their authorities, for sustainable economic alternatives that will replace the income obtained from the exploitation of natural resources. Furthermore, we intend to fundraise in order to provide local communities with potable water to overcome their needs in the next dry season.
- The Aotus Project is the only project providing training and an income to local women.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, in 2011 we are planning to conduct the feasibility study for the implementation of a freeze-drying facility in the area in order to commercialise, with local people, forest fruit at a fair price. We will continue the census of wildlife in the area in order to compare fauna densities at Colombian and Peruvian sampling sites.

In August 2010, A. Maldonado started a law case against the laboratory conducting the illegal trade in night monkeys (FIDIC). This will need a follow up. Furthermore, we are currently waiting for the

response of Colombian environmental authorities regarding the trade and how they intend to tackle it. In the case they do not come back to us, we will start a law case against them (CORPOAMAZONIA and other involved governmental organisations).

Trapping of night monkeys will be repeated during 2011. We also expect to conduct DNA analyses (pending permit for access to genetic resources from Peruvian authorities).

Permanent plot establishment for the systematic monitoring of the local forest will continue during 2011 with the expansion of the Calderón River plot as well as the establishment of a permanent plot in Otra Parte private reserve near Leticia. Initial characterisation of the local forest and recording of information on key forest fruit species will initiate in the Peruvian communities during 2011.

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

We already started the dissemination of results:

Oral Presentations:

- International Congress of Primatology, Kyoto, Japan: Oral presentation: "Trade in night monkeys *Aotus* spp. in the Brazil-Colombia-Peru tri-border area: International wildlife trade regulations are ineffectively enforced".
- Congreso Colombiano de Zoología, Medellín, Colombia, 21-26 November, 2010: Oral presentations: i) Tráfico de monos nocturnos *Aotus* spp. en la frontera amazónica entre Colombia, Perú y Brasil: Inefectividad en la aplicación de las regulaciones del comercio internacional de fauna estipuladas por CITES. ii) Áreas Protegidas y Resguardos Indígenas: Retos para la Conservación de las Comunidades de Primates.

Publications:

[Parathian HE, Maldonado AM. 2010. Human-nonhuman primate interactions amongst Tikuna people: perceptions and local initiatives for resources management in Amacayacu in the Colombian Amazon. American Journal of Primatology 71:1-11.](#)

[Maldonado AM, Botero S. 2009². Possible evidence of male dispersal in common woolly monkeys \(*Lagothrix lagotricha*\). Neotropical Primates 16\(2\):76-78.](#)

Reports & other documents:

[Maldonado AM. 2010. Evaluación del estado de conservación de la comunidad de grandes vertebrados en las áreas de traslape entre el Parque Nacional Natural Amacayacu y las comunidades Tikuna Mocagua y San Martín de Amacayacu, Colombia. Leticia: Fundación Entropika. 131 p.](#)
[Maldonado AM. 2010. The Impact of Subsistence Hunting by Tikunas on Game Species in Amacayacu National Park, Colombian Amazon \[PhD thesis\]. Oxford: Oxford Brookes University. 311 p.](#)

Popular publications related to the trade in night monkeys:

<http://www.elespectador.com/articulo-239855-angela-maldonado>
<http://www.caracoltv.com/noticias/cronicas/video-198127-mujeres-luchan-la-selva>

² The actual date of publication of the issue 16 (2) of Neotropical Primates was August 2010.

[Los Angeles Times, 10th July 2010, In Colombia, activist works to preserve monkeys by Chris Kraul.](#)
[El Tiempo, 15th May 2010, Dos aliados de la fauna en peligro by Javier Silva.](#)

http://www.gulf-times.com/mritems/streams/2010/7/15/2_374488_1_255.pdf
http://www.change.org/petitions/view/protect_night_monkeys_from_being_captured_for_labs
<http://www.caracol.com.co/nota.aspx?id=1297646>
[El Tiempo, 13th May 2010, Colombiana ganó el "Óscar verde" by Javier Silva.](#)

[The Telegraph, 13th May 2010, Attenborough backs award for fight to save night monkeys by Louise Gray.](#)

<http://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=1dd5df3070baa27a847f14e3f&id=9135229fa8&e=9bbfd9ebf6>
[The Scientist, 1st November 2009, Wild-type work by Cassandra Willyard.](#)

During 2011 we will implement an awareness campaign with Colombian and Peruvian communities located along the Amazon River where traffic of wildlife is high.

We also expect to have 2 BSc biology dissertations in 2011: one from a Colombian student and another from a Peruvian student.

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

The funding obtained from the RSG was used from the end of January until the end of September for the reasons explained in point 2 and point 8.

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. Following I am providing the actual funding received in January 2010 in Colombian Pesos (COP), as the exchange rate provided in the initial application (1£ = \$3,400 COP) changed considerably when we received it (1£ = \$2,900-COP; 1USD= 1.853 COP).

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount (converted from COP)	Difference	Comments
Salaries local co-investigators	1,681	1434	-247	
Food local co-investigators	772	658	-114	
Living expenses volunteer team	1741	1345	-396	We moved from this item £140 to be used in living expenses for the Peruvian team
Transport	270	230	-40	
Materials	150	128	-22	
Travel expenses Peruvian team for trapping night monkeys (3 people)	580	495	-495	
Living expenses Peruvian team	795	818	23	
Total	5,989	5,108	881	

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

In point 5, I described what we consider to be the important next steps of the project. In addition, we believe that looking for feasible ways in which to acquire potable water for local people is crucial. We consider it a priority to help the local communities that are part of the project to improve their basic living conditions.

Ultimately, we expect to be able to stop the illegal trade in night monkeys for biomedical research in the frontier between Colombia and Peru. Furthermore, we hope to collaborate in the revision of a part of the Colombian environmental legislation regarding the use of wild caught animals for research and providing technical and financial recommendations for the implementation of captive breed colonies to conduct ethical biomedical research, as is currently done elsewhere.

Continuous systematic data collection and monitoring on the local forest is the baseline for identifying economic alternatives related to the sustainable use of non-timber forest products such as fruit surpluses for the implementation of a freeze dry facility in the area.

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, we did. The RSGF logo was used in all the PowerPoint presentations given at national and international congresses. We also used the logo in a T-shirt we give to local co-investigators and school children. We include RSGF in the acknowledgements of all publications, reports and A. Maldonado's PhD thesis.

11. Any other comments?

If you have any further questions regarding the results and further work of the Aotus Project, please do not hesitate in letting us know. If you require the detailed expenses covered by RSGF and/or copy of the receipts we will provide them.

We are deeply grateful to RSGF for its continuous support. We are very proud of being part of the long-term funded projects by the RSGF and we hope that in the near future we will be able to continue working with RSGF for the conservation of the Colombian and Peruvian Amazon.

Appendix 2

AOTUS PROJECT: VOLUNTEER TEAM 2010

Lina Pelaez Wildlife Veterinarian	Colombia	Conducted the research on trade at the Peruvian indigenous communities and coordinated the field work for trapping night monkeys. She conducted all the veterinary procedures during the collection of blood samples for further DNA analyses.
Xyomara Carretero-MSc- Ecologist	Colombia	Coordinated and conducted fieldwork from January to June. She also trained local people in census techniques.
Nick Robl – student-wildlife veterinary	US	Conducted diurnal and nocturnal census fieldwork at the Colombian and Peruvian sampling sites. Helped during the trail marking at Otra Parte reserve.
Leila Whitehead	UK	Carried out conservation education activities with Peruvian communities and gave English lessons. Helped with census fieldwork at the Calderon site.
Abbi Kemp- photographer	UK	Took pictures and recorded videos during training activities at Vista Alegre, Peru. Helped with census fieldwork at the Calderon site.
Thomas Lafon- Mphil student-UK-climate modeling	Belgium	Designed and launched Entropika's website and he is currently maintaining the website. His research project about atmospheric moisture movements over the Amazon rainforest will be integrated at Entropika's research during 2011.
Fanny Cornejo - biologist	Peru	Part of the Peruvian team of the Aotus Project. She participated during the trapping of night monkeys for the collection of blood samples for further DNA analyses. She also participated during training sessions on research methods with local Peruvian co-investigators. She gave the talks regarding wildlife legislation and policies under Peruvian laws, during the workshops at Vista Alegre and Chineria (Peru). She is currently working on the new conservation assessments of primates in Peru for CITES authorities, including data of the Aotus Project for the evaluation of <i>Aotus nacymaae</i> .
Yenny Guevara - Geneticist	Peru	She was intended to conduct DNA analyses of night monkeys <i>in situ</i> , however she got ill and had to go back to Peru.
Mariella Güisa – Student- biology	Peru	She collected the data necessary to write up her dissertation for her BSc degree in biology at Tacna University, Peru, from July to December. She participated during the trapping of night monkeys for the collection of blood samples for further DNA analyses and conducted diurnal and nocturnal census fieldwork at the Colombian and Peruvian sampling sites. She collaborated during the training of local Peruvian co-investigators.
Xavier Echavez– Student- biology	Colombia	He is currently collecting the data necessary to write up his dissertation for his BSc degree in biology at Universidad de Sucre, in the Colombian Atlantic region. He is conducting diurnal and nocturnal census fieldwork at the Colombian and Peruvian sampling sites.
Luisa Duarte - biologist	Colombia	She is coordinating the fieldwork trips and supporting Entropika in administrative activities. She is also coordinating the training activities for local co-investigators and the training of handicrafts elaboration for local women.