

## 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>	Jose Oswaldo Cortes Herrera
<b>Project title</b>	Community Participatory Conservation of Threatened birds at Cañon del Rio Guatiquia Important Bird Area (IBA), Colombia
<b>RSG reference</b>	41.06.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	2010-2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:Oswaldo.aves@gmail.com">Oswaldo.aves@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	15-11-2011

**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
The project aims at the creation of a Community Participatory Conservation for the Conservation of the birds, where environmental education activities involving the local community of Cañon Guatiquia will be promoted.				
involve local institutions and governmental bodies in the promotion of education activities			X	Most of the team are students or voluntary. Ornithological studies in this University, ONG and corporaciones autonomas is still in growth, although there are now several research of the university and government staff and students with ornithological interests. The students themselves have organised a bird club called Birds Guatiquia. All students member and some of the volunteers in this project come from small town (Guayabetal and Quetame). The project has given the students opportunities to gain valuable research experience, not only by doing surveys in the fields but also in learning skills like using GPS and organising an expedition and environmental education. The project has also gained interest from other students (university, school). At least 60 of the volunteers that we had are from general public.
engage the community in the elaboration of conservation actions			X	Bird conservation education was conducted on March to October 2010 to three primary schools in Guayabetal. In each school, we gave presentation using PowerPoint slides that depicting the life and diversity of fauna and flora the region Guatiquia and we also we started project the ecology populations with the children. Although some children seemed uncomfortable, many were excited and curious enough to try to hold it with their own hands a project with fauna. In each school we stayed for over 6.5 hours in one class with around 42 selected children from grade 4, 5 and 6 and secondary with 8 and 9 degree. However in one school (Guayabetal) we gave

				<p>presentation to a bigger class, which comprises of almost 82 children in one class.</p> <p>Other between activities the following done:</p> <p>Chats about Nature, fauna and their conservation at Guatiquia.</p> <p>Activities with the children.</p> <p>Drawing of the landscape on cardboards and globes.</p> <p>Effecting allusive banners to the conservation.</p>
<p>Conservation status of the population of Cundinamarca Antpitta and Yellow flame parakeet</p>			X	<p>The distributional isolation, as well as the evident rarity of the Cundinamarca Antpitta and yellow flame parakeet, may suffice to cause this population to become endangered. In addition, the natural availability of suitable habitats is strictly limited in fact of a high degree of fragmentation of old growth cloud forests, caused by a diverse morphology of the high mountains. But on top of this, human impact decrease the Antpitta and parakeet chance of survival by extensive clear-cutting and grazing in the natural mountain forests in large parts of Guatiquia area, especially in eastern Guayabetal in the 1990s. Therefore it is out of doubt, that the degree of endangering of this poorly known Cundinamarca Antpitta should get rated much higher. Nowadays there is hope, because the new politics in Colombia to maintain the woodland areas and encourage reforestation (as and answer to the increasing risks by erosion and flooding) may succeed in time and could undo the aggravating fragmentation of the forests in the mountains! Regarding to the near the IBA (Guatiquia) to Natural park Chingaza can be used to plan reforestation, to create stepping stones and corridors between the remnant forest patches</p>

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

We don't have unforeseen difficulties

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

- A. Through the efforts of the outreach programme the support for conservation of Cundinamarca Antpitta and cloud forest has increased sighting of the bird in the study area. The programme has inspired the local community to actively participate in the conservation of the birds and cloud forest. This has resulted in the bird being reported from new areas.

Conservation education was one of the major aims of the project. During all expeditions educational work was held with locals in the studied area to share information about uniqueness of their native region and about the Birds (Guatiquia area) as an object of the highest ecological importance. The informal leaflets about the Cundinamarca Antpitta, uniqueness and significance for tourism development as a flagship species in Guayabeta were distributed among the locals. The questionnaire survey also had the form of private or group conversations held in the familiar situation during which the information exchange took place between us and locals.

First steps in community awareness rising in Guayabeta also included presentations and workshops with secondary school students that took place during the all work.

Public awareness is very important in the future conservational activities that are planned in the region. will also include the studied territory training in species conservation, management and marketing will be needed for those representatives of the local population who will be involved in the establishing of community based farms.

Locals can also be involved in ecotourism that is developing very fast together with the common tourism in the region. They will be the best guides for the visitors and also get interested to see more animals, e.g. cundinamarca antpitta alive and show them to tourists. Special trainings and awareness programmes are necessary for this target group as well.

Informal presentations were also prepared and held at the universities of Bogota for the students of the faculty of biology that may take interest in conservational work and namely in birds conservation in the future

- B. Identifying leaders from various stakeholder groups.
- C. Building local community support and capacity. Development and dissemination of Environmental Education programmes

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

We are going to continue the project to allow the investigation of the conservation the endangered Cundinamarca Antpitta with a Booster Grant with Rufford Small Grant.

Without doubt the importance of the nature reserve “IBA-Guatiquia” can and will increase in future, concerning to its ecological, faunistic, conservational - and also touristic value, if the unification of the forest stands, as far as could remain in the reserve, with further stands in the IBA Guatiquia finally will succeed. The adjacent Chingaza Park natural has a high potential because its size for the protection of forest birds, mammals and frogs requiring large scale territories and large space for movements and migration. To form an extended forest bridge by planting autochthones trees is one of the most vulnerable activities started some years ago. This should be continued on large scale. Start nest boxes should be set up in the cloud forest, especially in the Guayabetal area for conservation the Yellow flame parakeet.

The Cundinamarca Antpitta a globally endangered bird has lost over 90% of its habitat. Being widely distributed, it shares its habitat with communities, only a combination of a site-based approach of protected areas (private or state owned), along with a landscape approach supported by local stakeholders can ensure its survival.

We aim to conserve its population by conserving its habitat and identifying new breeding sites. Build community support through outreach programmes using infotainment, active discussion and participation. Empower local stakeholders with economically viable solutions incorporating ecotourism and natural farming.

Increase in Cundinamarca Antpitta and Yellow flame parakeet population, community participation, reward claims will help us measure programme affectivity.

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

Developing and disseminating various innovative communication products like films, graphic informative booklets, posters etc. We will prepare at least one publication for scientific journal from this result. We have sufficient quantitative data on species richness and relative abundance. We are planning to give a variety of presentations on the importance and results of this project in forms of general lectures or posters in appropriate conferences, university students’ societies meeting, or seminar groups.

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

The project aims at the creation of a Community Participatory Conservation for the Conservation of the birds, where environmental education activities involving the local community of Cañon Guatiquia was promoted.

September to December 2009:

1) Community-based discussion and analysis on the potential threats from irrational land use and management in vicinal regions and possible counter-measures to solve them.

October 2009 to April 2010:

2) Community and children participatory environment education in towns and villages to arouse people's awareness of nature protection hence contributing to conserve bird species.

December 2009 to August 2010:

3) Through participatory community appraisal such as natural resource map to promote change of awareness, conservation mechanism and activities which can also serve as basic information for further fundraising to conservation.

February to September 2010:

4) Compose ecological article to analyse relation between people, their culture and biodiversity with field work and grounded theory.

December to February 2011

5) Dissemination of results to stakeholders and other institutions.

**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
Communication (telephone, Internet) and Production of project deliverables	£ 410			
Scientific equipment Purchase of photo camera (1) Nikon Coolpix-8700 Computer (1) Pentium-4 Walkie-talkies (1 base unit + 2 handsets) BT freeway FM = 250 Order of the GIS maps of study area 2 GPS.	£ 880			
FIELD EXPENSES: Living costs (300 man-days) Fuel  Rent of house 20 days 5 person Food: 21 days for 5 person Food for team members and local guides Food stipends: 200 days for 4 people per day Transportation: Bogota to Cañon Guatiquia to Guayabetal to Villavicencio	£ 300 £ 430 £ 930 £1100			
Environmental education fun books, brochures, video, t-shirts, Caravans birds, workshops, training environmental education, birds teachers and CD (Birds Cañon Guatiquia)	£ 1950			
<b>Total</b>	£ 6000			

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

Next steps is we will build on the awareness we created to secure a sustainable future for endangered birds and mammals of the IBA Guatiquia, its wildlife, and surrounding communities. We will lobby for Environmental Protection Agency status for better protection. Strict conservation zones will be fenced to exclude grazing. Local communities need improved capacity to benefit from sustainable ecotourism. We will work with local authorities to build a visitor and education centre. We will make Cundinamarca Antpitta an example site for integrating conservation, research, restoration, environmental education, and community-based nature tourism.

Other steps is to join children and local people the IBA Guatiquia, joined to my research team in October 2010. He spent most of his time with us in the cloud forest. His conservation awareness was significantly improved during the research. And he was well trained in plant species identification, antpitta research method, bird watching, wildlife photography, and conservation education

## **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?**

We used the RSGF logo in the photo-exhibition (The research and printing supposed by the project of Rufford Small Grants Foundation).

We noted the financial support of Rufford Fund in the acknowledgement section at the end of all our articles and publications.

## **11. Any other comments?**

We are extremely grateful for Rufford Small Grant that has funded our projects, and we hope to receive more support for the research and conservation of endangered birds in Colombia. Since that time our team started work at the area of IBA "Guatiquia". We collected information about development at this area and start preliminary studies of rare bird, mammal, frog and plant populations. Rufford Small Grant gave the huge impact in our efforts. First of all, we analysed the current condition of populations of Cundinamarca Antpitta at the Guatiquia area. Our results showed that condition of populations is critically at current level of human activity. Secondly, we raised public awareness about conservation of endangered birds on the territory of Guayabetal.

Sociological survey helped us to understand the main problems and expectations of local people. So, now different groups of local community quite familiar with the main ideas of our project. We made a good contact with local administration and NGO's and we have plans for future collaboration. We made the agreement with regional department that our team and volunteers will organise constant monitoring of birds at this place. The idea of creation of nice area for environmental education and monitoring the endemic birds from Colombia raised during. Hopefully, these ideas come true!