

RUFFORD FOUNDATION

PROGRESS REPORT

Name: Clara Ortiz Alvarez

Project title: Marine otter (*Lontra felina*) monitoring along the Peruvian coast and population genetics using mitochondrial DNA markers

RSG reference: 20079-1

Here I present my first report on this project conducted in collaboration with the NGO Pro Delphinus and BioAl laboratories, both Peruvian institutions. The reporting period covered is between July 1st and September 30th 2016.

During this period 10 locations have been visited from three regions in Southern Peru. The locations visited were Catarindo, Matarani, Quilca and Ocoña in Arequipa; Fundición and Ilo in Moquegua; and Vila Vila, Morro Sama, Tres cruces and Quebrada de los Burros in Tacna. Monitoring surveys were conducted in each location, covering a total of approximately 50 km of coastline.

Fifty scat samples have been collected from these 10 locations, 10 of which are considered as fresh (less than 1 day old before collection). All samples are now at the BioAl laboratory where the DNA extraction protocol is being standardized. The next field trip to the Ica Region is scheduled for the first week of November and we plan to conduct field surveys in at least 5 locations.

Regarding the project's educational component, in July two Primary schools from Ilo, Moquegua, were visited. Enrique Meiggs was the first school where 29 children from 4th and 5th grade received a talk about marine biodiversity. In the second school, San Luis, 23 children from 3rd grade, 25 from 4th grade and 19 children from 6th grade received this same talk. The last school visited in September was Daniel Becerra Ocampo, also located in Ilo. In this school a total of 226 students from grades 1 to 5 received a talk about marine biodiversity. In November 2016 we plan to conduct additional talks at schools from the Ica Region on Peru's central coast.



Figure 1. Marine Biodiversity talks conducted in 3 primary schools, San Luis, Enrique Meiggs and Daniel Becerra.



Figure 2. Marine otter (*Lontra felina*) spotted in the transect from Catarindo to Mollendo, Arequipa.



Figure 3. Scat samples in Morro Sama, Tacna



Figure 4. Scat sample collection process