

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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 | Mauro N. Tammone |
| Project title | Population monitoring and effects of livestock on persistence of colonial tuco-tucos (<i>Ctenomys sociabilis</i>) in Nahuel Huapi National Park, Patagonia, Argentina |
| RSG reference | 21266-1 |
| Reporting period | 2017 |
| Amount of grant | £4,950 |
| Your email address | mtammone@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 04/2018 |

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 |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Construction of enclosures | | | | Two fence of 1 ha each were constructed as treatment |
| Control area delimitation | | | | Two 1 ha areas were delimited as controls |
| Set-up of camera traps | | | | Eight cameras were installed, two per plot (enclosures and control area) |
| Habitat conditions baseline data | | | | Completed in 2017 |
| Habitat conditions monitoring | | | | Season 2017 is done; Season 2018 will be completed in December. |
| Tuco-tuco population monitoring | | | | Season 2017 is done; Season 2018 will be completed in December. |

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

Fortunately, we did not have any unforeseen difficulty during the establishment and data collection of the project, only some delays with the construction of the enclosures, but not really relevant.

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

During the first year, we evaluated habitat conditions based on baseline data collection in the two sites selected before the livestock was moved into each site. This data showed that no differences exists *a priori* in habitat conditions at both selected sites when control and enclosure areas were compared. This result is important for the future outcomes.

This project will have important outcomes after the next reproductive season of the tuco-tucos, during season 2018-2019, when we will measure the effect of excluding the livestock on the abundance of tuco-tucos. More specifically, the outcomes of this project will be strengthened with long-term data, as trends for the tuco-tuco population will be clearer after 2-3 generations. After this time, we can also assess independently the effects of livestock exclusion from other effects such as climate variability.

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

People at Estancia Fortin Chacabuco, the location where the project is running, is very pleased and interested on the results of this project, not only to evaluate the effect of livestock on the tuco-tuco populations, but also its impact on the general habitat conditions (including vegetation and soil features).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project will be active for the next 3 years and is intended to continue to get long-term data as long as possible.

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

I have written a report for the Estancia that also is planned to be used in future communications. It will be used for symposiums, conferences and meetings, and for future scientific publications.

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

The RGS grant was used through all periods, from the beginning of the project. The grant was essential to get the materials and equipment used during field surveys, and fortunately, we were capable to save some money to be use for travel and get field supplies for the 2018 season.

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 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| GPS eTrex® | 250 | 250 | | |
| Fuel (field truck) | 400 | 200 | +200 | The fuel was budgeted to solve two years of field surveys |
| Field assistant (£250 per month x 6 months) | 1500 | | +1500 | Field assistant was not required |
| Enclosure materials and labour (£650 x 2 enclosures) | 1000 | 1000 | | |
| Plastic survey stake (£2.3 x 100 units) | 230 | 230 | | |
| Wire flags (£0.05 x | 30 | 30 | | |

| | | | | |
|--|------|-----|-------|---|
| 600 units) | | | | |
| Data logger | 1040 | 732 | +308 | We got 4 Onset HOBO data logger instead of iButtons |
| Camera traps | 400 | 400 | | |
| Field and lab supplies | 100 | 100 | | |
| Batteries, SD cards, animal safe security cases for camera traps | | 210 | -210 | |
| Net total | | | +1798 | To be used during 2018' field surveys |

Local exchange rate used £1 = US\$ 1, 43 = ARG\$ 28, 80

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

As mentioned above and in the original project, most relevant results will emerge with long-term data, thus our target is to maintain the project running as long as it can.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The Rufford Foundation logo has been used in an internal report provided to the Estancia Fortin Chacabuco. We will also acknowledge funding in future scientific manuscripts and any material produced by this project.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

M. Noelia Barrios-Garcia: Noelia helped in the sampling design, particularly with habitat condition sampling, and will provide advice on data analysis and manuscript/reports elaboration.

Eileen A. Lacey: Eileen helped in the sampling design, particularly with the tuco-tuco monitoring, and will provide advice on data analysis and manuscript/reports elaboration.

12. Any other comments?

With this form is attached an internal report provided to the Estancia Fortin Chacabuco, in which is summarised the activities and preliminary results obtained during 2017.