

Final Evaluation Report

| Your Details | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Full Name | Arlet Quirós Calvo |
| Project Title | Distribution and habitat quality of the endangered squirrel monkey (<i>Saimiri oerstedii oerstedii</i>) in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica: a preliminary effort |
| Application ID | 33179 |
| Grant Amount | 4995 |
| Email Address | quirosarlet@gmail.com ; aquiros@fundacionsaimiri.org |
| Date of this Report | January 1st, 2022 |

1. 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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Arrange an initial workshop with original site landowners: presentation, explaining research method | | | | We decided to do this initial process through social networks and also visiting some communities; we received several calls from interested parties in various communities. Because of COVID19 restrictions, an initial presentational workshop couldn't be arranged. |
| Interviewing landowners, farmers, workers and informants to utilise their knowledge of the species presence and possible sighting locations. | | | | We were able to locate new troops of squirrel monkeys though in some of the last communities we visited, we were unable to access them through unpaved roads and river crossings - these communities were on the edge of the study area and are more related to a region we will survey in the future, as part of Terraba-Sierpe wetlands. |
| Employ detection - non-detection survey sampling and direct observations to locate the squirrel monkey species | | | | We were unable to detect squirrel monkeys in many communities, due to many reasons (such as geographical barriers and historical distribution). In some communities, for example Drake Bay, there was an introduction of some individuals into the forest that occurred between 1984 and 2000. Also, some of the elders said squirrel monkeys were found back in the 1970s but were captured for commerce. |
| Survey sampling and direct observations 4 species | | | | Other species of monkeys were observed during the surveys. Most commonly, the white-faced monkey (<i>Cebus imitator</i>), followed by the howler monkey (<i>Alouatta palliata</i>) and the least common, the endangered spider monkey (<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>). Squirrel monkeys were the least observed monkeys in the study area. |

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|--|--|--|--|---|
| GIS map for all sites | | | | General map with all the locations of the squirrel monkeys, as well as the other monkeys found in the Osa peninsula were produced. |
| Final workshop and results presentation to present the project's findings and achievements | | | | Virtual workshop with all the public through social networks to communicate the results obtained as well as relevant data of the squirrel monkeys, trying to raise awareness among the inhabitants not only where the interviews were made, but also to be able to include other interested stakeholders, for example, environmental authorities, among others. |
| Video production for the project | | | | We were able to produce five videos that will be shared in January and February 2022 to raise awareness about our findings as well as the importance of preserving squirrel monkeys. |
| A workshop for local Authorities to present a local | | | | We were able to meet with 18 park rangers, managers of the protected areas and other employees of the Osa Conservation Area, who were extremely helpful. We engaged them on our activities, and we were able to define three important lines of work together to benefit squirrel monkey conservation. |

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

When we started the project, the main objective was to find squirrel monkey (*Saimiri oerstedii*) and be able to improve the information about its current distribution. Although in the past we had heard the squirrel monkeys were not common in the study area, we were not sure if a lack of surveys was the reason, so we started the field work. It was a little bit overwhelming to not see many monkeys and have no records or direct observations of them. We kept searching for squirrel monkeys and they were reported in some communities in the northern extreme of our study area, where they were more common. Other primates were detected during the surveys, which is important information, as well as to have records of no detection.

Another situation that was complicated was the pandemic. We were surveying during some of the Costa Rican COVID-19 waves. When visiting landowners, sometimes they were reluctant to give information or to grant access to their forest and land, probably because of the risk of getting COVID-19. But once they saw we

were following all mandatory protocols and keeping our distance, wearing a mask and cleaning our hands, eventually, people gave us important information and we could walk around their properties. We always kept a safe distance.

Occurrence of squirrel monkeys was less than expected and at the same time we knew beforehand that in many communities they were not present. It was very important to work with people as they lack a lot of knowledge about the species. We were able to explain the basic natural history of the species and even show them pictures of the monkeys, giving them ideas of what might be threats to them in general.

To be able to know if people were telling us steady information, we repeated the questions several times to be able to tell if they were consistent with the given information.

It was not possible to reach all the communities, due to the rains and the difficulty of access due the poor road infrastructure, for example, the communities did not have an asphalt road, so it became complicated and took longer than we expected as well as many landowners have big farms and more difficult to find to grant access to their land. Landowners can be far from each other, we led to a lower number of interviewed individuals than we expected, but enough to be able to reach our goals.

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

1. Increase the historical and ecological knowledge of the squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri oerstedii oerstedii*) in the Osa Peninsula, mainly on their geographic distribution but also about their current anthropogenic threats. As well as knowledge on the other three species' occurrence.
2. Make the Osa Peninsula's inhabitants aware of the threats that exist in the area regarding squirrel monkeys and other species in general, especially because from their perspective there is no danger for them in the area, without taking into account deforestation, forest fragmentation, hunting, electrocutions.
3. Bringing communities closer to the foundation's work, and everything related to protecting monkeys as well as the environmental authorities. This could be one of the greatest outcomes for the projects as it will mean a continuation of this project with the help of environmental authorities and communities.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Generating more general information about the squirrel monkeys in the local communities where they commonly disregard their conservation, and even more in places where they existed but did not return or were introduced by humans. Communicating the results to the inhabitants of the communities, so that they have a

general perspective of what they contributed with the interview, and also letting them know about Saimiri Foundation projects, and they will be connected with the foundation goals and environmental protection priorities. We also hired a local person as a field assistant during the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, our idea for the future is to collaborate with the action plan and update the distribution of the squirrel monkeys, including Corcovado National Park and Alto Laguna Indigenous Reserve, Piedras Blancas National Park, Golfito Private Reserve to complete the interviews in the southern region, and slowly being able to assess their entire distribution in the country.

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

We have shared information on social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), and virtual meetings to show results and achievements with the local people and also have meetings with public and private stakeholders in order to create policies to protect the squirrel monkeys in the area. We have produced five short videos and were able to give a workshop to the environmental authorities. We also presented the preliminary results on Rufford Conference El Salvador, on the Mesoamerican Symposium and in the International Primatological Society conference in Quito, Ecuador in January 2022.

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

We started the project in January 2021, as soon as the funds were transferred to our organisation. The project used the time we anticipated we would need, and we finished in January 2022 as anticipated.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

| Item | Budgeted Amount | Actual Amount | Difference | Comments |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Subsistence (board & food) | 273 | 420 | +147 | we had a superavit as we did not stop for meals or the places where we surveyed were isolated so we couldn't find where to eat and had a superavit to be used for video production |

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|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|---|
| Travel (including fuel): Fuel for vehicle for interviews, field work, events, logistics; | 592 | 538 | -54 | as we moved faster and had to stay over in many places, we were able to use less gasoline |
| GIS Professional | 1850 | 600 | -1250 | we spent what we had budgeted |
| Senior Primate Researcher | 1650 | 1823 | +173 | we spent what we had budgeted |
| Stipend for field assistant | 430 | 513 | +83 | Sometimes the senior primate researcher went by itself to the field, although we recommend being always with a field assistant for security. |
| Facilitator | 200 | 100 | -100 | |
| Sub-total | 4995 | 3994 | -1001 | |
| Workshop with Environmental Agency | | 140 | +140 | we had a superavit on several categories and where able to change budget for a final workshop with environmental authorities – agreed by The Rufford Foundation |
| Vehicle maintenance and rental | | 250 | -200 | we have used our own transportation means and had a superavit to be used on video production |
| Video production | | 570 | +570 | we had a superavit on several categories and where able to change budget for production of videos |
| TOTAL | 4995 | 4954 | -41 | |

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

It is very important to fill the gaps and continue surveying the distribution of squirrel monkey and its subspecies throughout the country.

The role of communities is crucial, and we will promote participatory biological monitoring on squirrel monkey troops as well as other primates in the Osa Peninsula. Building local capacity in the visited communities as well as establishing a series of talks about primates is very important to raise knowledge about the importance of these forest gardeners.

To keep the environmental agency engaged it's very important to enhance the results and recommendations to succeed.

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

Yes, we used the logo in printed interview form. We also made publications on our social media.

You can look at some the publications on the following links or use the hashtags #fundaciónsaimiri #ruffordsmallgrants #rufford as well as we will be publishing more post after the end of this grant:

INSTAGRAM

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CKy9G1Hghnm/>
https://www.instagram.com/p/CKpF_dtg6wU/
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CM10KuDgRaS/>
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CM4hllGgE4i/>
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FACEBOOK

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<https://www.facebook.com/fundacion.saimiri/photos/a.131228653592140/3576264942421810/>

TWITTER

https://twitter.com/FSaimiri/status/1448121576197705728?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1448121576197705728%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_c10&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublish.twitter.com%2F%3Fquery%3Dhttps3A2F2Ftwitter.com2FFSaimiri2Fstatus2F1448121576197705728widget%3DTweet

VIDEOS

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xr2cr5f0hv67far/AABGrd1ZcWJjCMrZvznjWiFNa?dl=0>

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

Principal Investigator and Primatologist:

Arlet Quirós-Calvo
Daniela Solano Rojas

GIS Specialist:

Daniel Jenking

Field assistants:

Marvin Lopez
Edwin Aguero
Jose Bernini

Facilitators:

Florencia Lathrop
Carmen Díaz

12. Any other comments?

We appreciate so much the support of The Rufford Foundation, we were able to do a very important work.

We are also very grateful that changes were accepted as we normally don't change budgets or activities, but it is a very challenging study area and also with COVID-19 it can be more challenging.

We feel that with this grant we were able to achieve more credibility with the environmental authorities and able to commit to work with them in areas that will enhance primate conservation.