

Preliminary Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Manuel Leonardo Fonseca Aldana
Project Title	Conservation Genetics and Illegal Wildlife Trade of the Red Howler Monkey (<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>) and the Cotton-top Tamarin (<i>Saguinus oedipus</i>)
Application ID	37942-2
Date of this Report	23-01-24

Achievements to date:

1. Map the genetic structure of red howler monkeys and cotton-top tamarins populations – still in progress.
2. Assessing the functional genetic connectivity among populations taking deforestation and habitat loss into account – still in progress.
3. Map the hotspots of IWT and the geographic areas of origin of traded individuals – still in progress.

Difficulties to date:

Primate samples are under the CITES Appendix II Protection - obtaining the permits to export the collected samples from Colombia to Germany has been extremely slow and challenging. It has taken over 7 months to obtain this permit which has been a major setback in the timeline and eventually progress of the project.

Community involvement to date:

Local communities have been closely involved with the project - they have been crucial in the times of collecting the samples and data. We have worked closely with hunters and locals involved in the illegal wildlife trade (IWT). Some of them have been our guides and we have been able to exchange thoughts and experiences on these activities. Locals have been also very interested in the project especially when we explain to them the methods we are using. They have shown interest in how non-invasive samples such as scats can be used in developing tools for conservation.

So far, local people have benefited directly from obtaining a compensation payment for their services such as guiding, meals, lodging and transportation. We have maintained contact with the leaders of the communities we have visited and look forward to sharing our results with them, this information will be also useful to them and their territorial action plans.

Future plans:

Yes. I look forward to continuing developing projects with some of the communities that I have visited during this project, as well as with local institutes, students and field assistants that have joined the project. The main ideas for which we are working in the near future are:

- The Instituto von Humboldt is working on giving workshops for detecting fauna and flora that come from IWT using next generation sequencing. We have talked about the possibility of using the experience of this project in the workshops that will be directed to several local communities and authorities.
- A Master's student has been interested in continuing to work with the cotton-top tamarins under my supervision. She is interested in understanding the anthropogenic barriers to the genetic flow of a possible different population of cotton-top tamarins, something I will not test in this project, but the samples collected in this project will be complementary to her work.
- We have established contact and open communication with local communities in La Macarena, Guaviare and Guainia where IWT and hunting

are evident, and we evaluate possibilities to work together in conservation projects created mainly by the local people.

Sharing results:

I plan to make two big meetings for sharing the results with the local communities, the place will be central so people can join with also the possibility for them to join online. Additionally, as promised to each of the communities I will send a report of the results with an emphasis on the local area.

The work will be also published separately in three scientific journals as part of the commitments of the PhD program, and I will pursue to be able to get diffusion of our results in journalistic media.

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

Right now, the next main steps are processing the collected samples and analysing the result in order to fulfil all the commitments to several communities and institutions.

Use of Rufford logo:

Yes, the Rufford logo has been used when I go to conferences to talk about the first project where I got support from the Rufford Foundation but for this project specifically I will in the near future.

Team:

Manuel Fonseca	Main Researcher	Henri Thomassen	Advisor
Maria Fernanda Salazar	Field Assistant	Sebastián Hamoy	Field Assistant
Andrés Link	Collaborator	Pablo Stevenson	Collaborator
Mariana Gomez	Collaborator	Nelson Galvis	Collaborator
Sebastián Montilla	Collaborator	Alejandra Moreno	Collaborator
Iván Soto	Collaborator	Nestor Roncancio	Collaborator
Luis Miguel Leyton	Collaborator	Cindy	Veterinarian
Victor Silva	Local Guide and Coauthor	Tito	Local Guide
Arcangel Agapito	Local Collaborator	Daniel Diaz	Local Guide
Jeremias Tumay	Local Guide	Andrés Salgado	Boat Driver and Guide
Jeisson Mora	Local Guide	Marcos Melo	Local Guide
Mamerto del Águila	Local Guide	Casemiro del Águila	
Diego Do Santos	Local Guide	Raúl Do Santos	Local Guide
Diego Gómez	Local Guide		