

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details			
Your name	Sergio Nolazco		
Project title	Land-use impact on Peruvian lowland dry forest bird assemblages		
RSG reference	9003-1		
Reporting period	May 2011 – December 2011		
Amount of grant	£1370		
Your email address	sergio_atm55@hotmail.com		
Date of this report	18/12/2011		



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
Determine diversity variables declination array along a modified vegetation gradient.			Yes	Results based on data collected during four months (April-May/July-August, 2011) of field work which includes completely transformed sites to partially transformed ones (productive herb/shrub type crops, productive tree type crops, native/exotic hedgerows, recent forest and mature forest).
Determine responses of species groups categorised by traits (restricted range, threatened and foraging guilds) and changes in functional diversity to specific land modification.			Yes	Data analysed exhibit that most specialities have more than expected resilience to partial land modification as long as native vegetation is present. This particular characteristic and observations indicate that adequate management of hedgerows in agricultural fields and protected forest patches connected by these systems can work really well as effective conservation strategies.
Determination of most sensitive species to land alteration with details on specific responses.			Yes	Some species were identified as the most sensitive. I am working on basic biology and ecology of one of these species by this time (endemic and endangered Peruvian Leafcutter) to get a better understanding on its requirements for an adequate conservation. Other species required research, some of them have no information, but are expected to respond in a same direction with conservation strategies based on sensitive species already identified.
Local people, agricultural companies and farmers, related institutions, and authorities clearly advised about the actual state of their forests and trends for adequate and integrative decision making.			Yes	Besides a paper for an international scientific magazine (in preparation), we made an easy-to- read report for people in general with main results and recommendations for conservation management integrated to agricultural activities. Major of Motupe district gave us a great support providing multimedia equipment and city hall auditorium for talks. Cd-cards have been made with information on the project and were distributed for free.



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

It was really hard to find mature forest sites. We used satellite images of at least 2 years ago and it was surprisingly how fast some forested areas have become agricultural fields or were just completely destroyed for wood extraction and charcoal trade in such a short time. All mature forests were impacted by some selective wood extraction and livestock grazing, but the most dramatic scenario was the high degree of fragmentation of this type of vegetation, with km of recent forests, agricultural fields and complete deforested areas between intermediate to insignificant mature forest patches. So, finding mature forest patches take us more time than expected and in some cases, we were at risk when we visited recent deforested areas where legal problems with land appropriation was involved. Recent forest was an easy to evaluate vegetation type because it encompasses most of the landscape and agricultural fields were just a matter of permissions.

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

- Well identified responses of bird assemblage to landscape alteration.
- Determination of most sensitive bird species.
- Information shared with local people and authorities as a baseline for efficient conservation actions on forest and biodiversity preservation.

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

Most of the local people that got involved in the project were agricultural landowners. Some of them were informed for first time about conservation impacts on their activities and the forest importance as a climatic regulator; just in some cases people were well informed about this aspect, especially, in the case of agricultural companies with international environmental certifications. However, people ignored which species were sensitive to land transformation and considered that is very important to share information on this project so they can have a baseline for their activities in relation to environmental certifications.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We are currently working with one of the most endangered bird species in the region (Peruvian Leafcutter *Phytotoma raimondii*). The amount of information we already got bring us crucial insights for habitat management to ensure viability of populations. Research on this species is going to last one more year, but we think that information on a basis of species-specific research for the most sensitive birds is a next step to ensure efficient conservation efforts in the region integrating economic activities.

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

There are a lot of scientific publications on human activities impacts that never reach decision makers, because these are complex technical texts or are simple in sources not especially oriented for these people. We think it is important to have the technical specific details of our results in an article for a scientific international magazine (in preparation), but most important to share our results with local people and decision makers in a manner that is understandable for anyone. For



this purpose, we are making informative talks and distribute our results in free cd-cards accessible to anyone.

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

RSG was used for 12 months. Time in the field was of approximately 120 days and after this period of time other travels were done for coordinate talks. This last step takes us much time than expected, so some of the informative activities involved another month (December 2011) and some of them are going to be expanded for the first month of the upcoming year.

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
Transportation	705	705		
Communications	32	32		
Daily subsistence during data collection	558	558		
Field equipment	75	825	+750	Most of the field equipment (binoculars, camera, sound recorder and player) were donated by other institutions. RSG funds were used for batteries and playback accessories.
Informative talks and free distributed materials		200	+200	These costs were not requested to RSG.
Total	1370	2320	950	

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

- Effective conservation actions are a priority in dry equatorial forest lowlands due to the fast deforestation trends, and with the present information authorities now understand the importance of native forests and ways to take actions for conservation of its biodiversity as a next step.
- First baseline is already done, and now upcoming agricultural expansions expected by projects like Olmos-Tinajones irrigation are going to have information to get involve in conservation with adequate management of their lands for environmental certifications as a next step to preserve biodiversity at this unique biome.
- We need more information on the restricted range species that are the most sensitive to forest alteration to make efficient conservation actions. We already start with this, working with one of the most sensitive species, but more studies are required on other species.



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?

The logo was used in presentations and in free distributed cd-cards that contains reports of our results for local people, institutions related to agriculture and authorities. The logo was also used to inform that this project is funded by RSG foundation in the attached .pdf slides in mother tongue with basic results and recommendations for integrative agricultural activities in conservation.