

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	Renata Leite Pitman
Project title	Leaving passages for wildlife where the Interoceanic Highway will cross the Vilcabamba-Amboro corridor
RSG reference	I-123
Reporting period	Oct 19, 2007 - May 2011
Amount of grant	£50,000
Your email address	Renata.leite@duke.edu
Date of this report	September 25th 2012

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
Build capacity in local biologists, schoolteachers, park guards and tourist guides			x	We trained 15 biologists/forestry engineers/ ecotourism students/park guards and 96 schoolteachers from 90 schools located along the highway.
Production and widespread distribution of education material		x		We produced the educational material as expected, but we printed and distributed less than we expected: our budget was enough to reach 5185 school kids.
Production of map showing the core corridors for animal crossing, based on our database of road kills and animal signs;			x	
Production of a plan to minimize the impacts of the highway towards our focal species (fences, underground corridors, etc.)			x	
Production of status reports of areas used by Spectacled Bears, Jaguars and Giant Otters on both sides of the highway.			x	

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

Several unexpected difficulties arose during the project. The major ones are listed below, with an explanation of how we managed them.

- 1) Delays in paving the road: paving was originally planned to be completed in 2009, but only got done in 2011 (a 2-year delay). This happened for several reasons, including bad weather and landslides.

- 2) Although we collected over 400 scat samples of carnivores for genetic analysis and negotiated an agreement to analyse them free of cost in the USA, we couldn't get an export permit despite several applications to the relevant agencies in the Peruvian government. This happened because our applications were submitted at a time when new procedures were being adopted by the Peruvian government. This caused a major delay in our project, meant that a significant time investment went to waste, and was a great source of frustration. The only samples for which we were able to proceed with the genetic analysis were those that we suspected to be from Andean Cats. Those specimens were sent to a Peruvian specialist who already had an exportation licence. This seems to be a common problem in Peru, since I have other colleagues who also failed to get this permit. The price of performing the genetic analyses in Peru was very high, and we couldn't afford it with our budget.
- 3) We didn't get the committed external funding to print all the environmental education material we produced, so we used the budget originally requested for genetic analyses to print a portion of that material.
- 4) We didn't include in the budget funds to cover the importation costs of equipment, and it took us much more effort than we expected to find friends who could bring the cameras to Peru for us.
- 5) It was almost impossible to get camera trap data near the highway due to camera theft, and we were unable to find a solution to the problem.

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

We got the road builders and the Transportation Ministry involved and engaged with our project. Because of this, our wildlife signs were approved by the Transportation Ministry and installed by CONIRSA and our bridges project was expanded to 160 wildlife corridors along the highway; Focal species and road kills were surveyed along and next to the highway; Local people's perception toward carnivores was surveyed and our Environmental Education plan for Andean Cats, Spectacled Bears, Jaguars and Giant Otters partially achieved.

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

The involvement of local communities was the foundation for this project and benefits were shared in several ways. It was very important to have the project supported by a local NGO (Frankfurt Zoological Society-AVISA/PERU) actively working on the area, so that in the case something impeded my own ability to conclude the project, there was a NGO prepared to carry it on. Also, it was very helpful to have a local NGO to help manage finances, and the accounting personnel of the Frankfurt Zoological Society-AVISA/PERU were incredibly helpful in managing this grant. Perhaps the most important benefit of all was involving local biologists and educators from the Frankfurt Zoological Society-AVISA/PERU and local universities in the project, to collect data and carry out the environmental education component. Most of the field work was led by two young local Peruvian women: Larissa Silva, a biologist from the Frankfurt Zoological Society, and Yessenia Apaza, a Forestry Engineer from Puerto Maldonado. Since field work ended, they have continued their careers in wildlife conservation: Larissa based at the FZS, and Yessenia at the Amazon Conservation Association.

We interviewed 865 school students from 90 schools along the highway, plus 312 farmers and ranchers and 46 miners about their perceptions of our focal species. The results were presented at the First Congress of the Peruvian Mastozoology Society, held in 2008 in Cusco and we are preparing a scientific article with this data.

Our environmental education plan reached 96 local professors from about 90 schools located along the highway from Cusco to Puerto Maldonado and 5185 school kids. This environmental education plan was carried out by a local Peruvian educator, who has been working for several years with the Frankfurt Zoological Society/AVISA-Peru in local environmental education programmes.

We helped the Giant Otter Festival, an initiative of the Frankfurt Zoological Society-AVISA/Peru, an initiative that resulted in the official recognition of the species as a symbol of the Madre de Dios region, and brought together 2000 people around this event (mostly locals).

We also participated in the AMO Amazonia Festival, 13-20 November 2010, by displaying in the main square of Puerto Maldonado huge images of wildlife that we took with camera traps. The images were projected onto the city's largest building and were seen by a large portion of the city's population (about 20.000 people).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

A continuation of this project is needed. Animal use of the underpasses and roadkill should be monitored on a regular basis by a governmental programme. Considering that threatened species are living next to the highway, it is important to find support to avoid deforestation around the highway and that is the most important measure to take.

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

Through interviews to the media (local and international), through our environmental education work and collaboration with other environmental education projects, and through local reports and scientific papers. Below I list what we have done to date:

1) Premio reportaje CI 2008 Biodiversidad
(<http://www.premioreportaje.org/article.sub?docId=27027&c=Peru&cRef=Peru&year=2008&date=septiembre%202007>)

2) Report in a local newspaper Nov 2007:
<http://www.larepublica.pe/09-11-2007/aquicito-nomas-una-firma-por-la-interoceanica>

3) Participation in a bi-national workshop on spectacled bear conservation, Nov. 2008, highlighting the importance of bear conservation around the highway

(http://www.google.com.br/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CFIQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fprograms.wcs.org%2FDesktopModules%2FBring2mind%2FDMX%2FDownload.aspx%3Flanguage%3Des-ES%26Command%3DCore_Download%26EntryId%3D5657%26PortalId%3D53%26TabId%3D3971&ei=nPHkT5GdEoWI8QS35LTvDg&usq=AFQjCNE0ovK4jw3ZDtBYIN3tt9gkiTC5JQ&sig2=s_qrp7HKSCyLe77p3txfTw)

- 4) Participation in the 1st congress of the Peruvian Mastozoology Society – Nov. 2008 (Leite Pitman, R., Y. Apaza, P. Romel, E. Jurado & S. Rubio. 2008. Percepción local sobre carnívoros en la carretera interoceánica. I Congreso de la Sociedad Peruana de Mastozoología. Libro de Resúmenes. 72 pp.)
- 5) Article showing findings about carnivores around the highway in a local group report, Oct.2009, Leite Pitman, R, Farfan, D. Williams, R. Silva, J. 2009. Presencia y Distribución de Carnívoros Amenazados y Emblemáticos a lo Largo del tramo 2,3 y 4 de la Carretera Interoceánica BOLETIN INFORMATIVO NRO 1 Grupo de Trabajo de la Sociedad Civil Interoceánica Sur Cusco
- 6) Article in the Brazilian media: Projeto preserva a fauna que vive ao redor da Estrada do Pacífico, no Peru May 27, 2009 <http://noticias.uol.com.br/ultnot/bichos/ultnot/ult295u2875.jhtm>
- 7) Through wildlife road signs installed on the road in Sept. 2010
- 8) Through the participation in the organisation of the Giant Otter Festival in May 2011:
<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150259082825851&oid=162910180427612&comments>
<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10150201399168596&oid=162910180427612&comments>
http://www.minam.gob.pe/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1355%3A madre-de-dios-celebrara-primer-festival-del-lobo-derio&catid=1%3Anoticias&Itemid=21&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=o.162910180427612>
- 9) Publication of the Andean cat book supported by our project: <http://alianza-gato-andino.blogspot.com.br/2010/12/libro-para-pintar-qa-el-gato-andino.html>
- 10) Award from the IUCN: http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/newsletters/cmc/april_11.cfm
- 11) Manuscript published in an IUCN Journal: http://www.canids.org/canidnews/15/Maned_wolf_in_Peru.pdf
- 12) Participation in a scientific article about the knowledge of carnivores in Peru: <http://revistasinvestigacion.unmsm.edu.pe/index.php/rpb/article/view/783>

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

October 2007-May 2011. Although most of our activities were conducted in the first year of the project, unexpected delays in road building, official permits to export samples (that we didn't get), and health problems made us extend it.

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
Part time salary for Renata Leite Pitman for training personnel, coordinating animal movement studies and the production of publications (at £750 per month for 12 months)	9000	9000		I worked for 2 years on this project for free
2 Full time salary for one local biologist (at £ 260 per month for 12 months).	6240	21240	15000	We have biologists working for 2 years, and we have hired an environmental educator. We got the funds by selling the car and use Conirsas' transportation, kindly offered to us by the company.
2 Full time salary for one local field guide (at £ 215 per month for 12 months).	5160	5160		
Hotels and meals (at £ 7.5 per day/12 mo/2 person)	5400	6800	1400	
In-country transportation	10400	15000	4600	
Publications (brochures, calendars, leaflets, reports)	3000	3000	4500	
Genetic analysis	7200	0		We used these funds on publications
Camera traps, film, and batteries	3600	5000		
TOTAL	5000			

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

Getting the government to monitor road kills

Making the government implement more structures to avoid animal fatalities

Making the government implement an environmental education plan

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?

Yes, we used the Rufford logo on the car, on all the printed material we produced, and at both the Giant Otter and AMO Amazonia festivals.