

## 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. 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. 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Stephen Taranto
<b>Project title</b>	Chulumani Conservation Garden
<b>RSG reference</b>	06.07.07
<b>Reporting period</b>	
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£2700
<b>Your email address</b>	info@lapazonfoot.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	December 2, 2008

**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
Curriculum Development			X	The conservation garden curriculum for primary school students was fully developed and executed
Trail Improvement		X		Costs of trail improvement were underestimated in the original proposal; two short stone staircases remain to be built and an eco-bathroom
Flora and Fauna Inventory			X	Complete bird and plant inventories were carried out, however seasonal updates should be conducted
Alternative Technology Stations			X	The greenhouse, chicken tractors and organic compost stations were fully developed
Coordination with Schools			X	Relationships with schools were developed and are positive; interest is extremely high
Opening of Conservation Garden		X		The conservation will be inaugurated publicly in January 2009; the end of the school year made an inauguration during 2008 impossible

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

- ✦ The funds provided by Rufford were changed into dollars (the bank we use does not accept pounds) and then into bolivianos (the local currency) just as the dollar devalued sharply. This reduced the amount of money available to carry out project activities, especially the infrastructure improvements mentioned in the proposal.
- ✦ The cost of construction materials (wood, cement, stone, metal) also began to rise sharply as the project began, also requiring some of the trail building to be eliminated.
- ✦ Coordination with the local school was very positive, however we were not expecting such high demand for the conservation garden's program. We actually had to reject visits from the school due to lack of capacity to receive so many school children.
- ✦ The final implementation of project activities (implementation of signs, museum, etc.) occurred during the final weeks of the school year so carrying out visits with students was difficult because students were involved with their exams, end-of-year activities, etc. Despite originally having to reject visits due to lack of capacity, in the end the school cancelled visits as well due to other obligations.
- ✦ The cost of transporting materials from the city of La Paz to the town of Chulumani (where many materials are not available or are much more expensive) was costly and complicated as the garden does not have private transport, such as a truck. This unanticipated cost also made project funds less available for other components.

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

- The creation of a physical space where themes such as biodiversity, conservation, resource use and science can be explored by local schoolchildren from the Yungas region is by far the most important outcome of the project. Teachers, administrators and students are all excited about the garden and the opportunities for learning that the garden offers them. We feel that what we have been able to accomplish thus far is only a tiny start of the potential the garden presents the community and the opportunities for biodiversity conservation that the garden creates. The response of teachers and students far surpasses what we expected at the start of the project.
- The development of well-made educational materials (signs, alternative technology stations, etc.) that are attractive to children and can be used for years to come is also an important outcome.
- The consolidation of the conservation garden that occurred via project activities (plant and bird lists, trail identification and improvement, garden mapping) is the third important outcome because such activities have helped us to better understand the resource (the garden itself) and the ways in which it can be used for conservation and education activities.

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

- To date, six groups of school children have visited the garden and its museum, a total of 165 students.
- All of the area school teachers (about 45 teachers) have been informed about the conservation garden and are enthusiastic about the education opportunities it presents and are interested in participating in garden activities in the coming academic year (the academic year in Bolivia runs February to November);
- The painted signs in the front entrance to the garden (the garden is on an important local road where most residents tend to pass along during the week) has alerted locals to the existence of the garden; many of them are knocking on the gate asking when the garden will be open to the public.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, we would very much like to continue the garden's work, both for conserving local biodiversity and working with school children and community members. As mentioned above, the response of the community has been very positive and we feel that there are many ways in which the garden could become an important focal site for many kinds of conservation activities, such as guided tours of the garden, special workshops on particular themes such as composting, organic pest control, farming without use of fire, expansion of the butterfly garden, etc.

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

- ✦ More visits by more students in the 2009 academic year
- ✦ In-depth coverage on our website
- ✦ Preparation of an article for diffusion via the web and development/conservation magazines

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

The RSG was used over a one-year period, the same as proposed in the original proposal

**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
Curriculum Development	700	500	200	Due to devaluation of the \$ and underestimated costs of materials and transportation, 200£ were transferred from curriculum development to trail improvement and the museum
Trail Improvement	700	900	200	See above
Flora and Fauna Inventory	600	600	0	--
Alternative Technology	400	500	100	The alternative technology stations also required more funds for materials and transport, 100£ were transferred from the Grand Opening
Coord. with Schools	100	100	0	--
Grand Opening	200	100	100	The remaining 100£ will be used for the January Grand Opening
<b>TOTAL</b>	2700£			

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

We see the following next steps:

- Completion of infrastructure, including two small stone staircases, an eco-bathroom, and several items (television and DVD Player, microscopes, a display on bird and butterflies, and a work-table) that are still needed for the museum created via the RSG
- A training program for local schoolteachers so that they can bring their students independently
- Creation of special interest activities (after-school programs, weekend workshops, a small laboratory) that respond to the expressed interests and needs of school children
- Updating of plant and bird inventories
- Creation of a volunteer program for students, parents, teachers, and tourists so that dependence on external funding is reduced in the future and the garden can be open more to the public (using volunteer guides)
- Better diffusion of the garden in area communities and in La Paz and other important populations near the garden

**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 have used the RSGF logo on the front door of the conservation garden, on the mobile map created for the outdoor classroom, on the visitor registry and on the La Paz on Foot website

**11. Any other comments?**

Once again, we are extremely grateful for the support of the RSG we received. The results have been extremely positive and surpassed our expectations in terms of the response of the community. We hope that RSG will consider permitting the presentation of a second proposal for continued support in 2009.