

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Ernesto Reyes Mouriño
Project title	Save the Cuban Kite: An educational and habitat conservation strategy to save the Cuban kite (<i>Chondrohierax wilsonii</i>) in Cuba.
RSG reference	07.09.08
Reporting period	September 2009 – September 2010
Amount of grant	£5255
Your email address	tanela@zapata.atenas.inf.cu , zapatarail2005@yahoo.es
Date of this report	September 2010

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
To identify where birds are found. Methodology: we used surveys with local people to identify what they know about raptor species and identify the evidence of the Cuban kite's presence in the visited localities.			X	The project covers the most intricate localities in Humboldt National Park from where we obtained information about the Cuban kite's presence. Local people recognised raptors as "chick's depredators", but these thoughts changed in some way after our visits during the project. We obtained a lot of information about others potential localities where birds like Cuban kites were observed or nesting activities confirmed (identified by the presence of land snails inside the nest) but we can't access due to the restrictions in the use of funds. A lot of money is necessary to plan big expeditions mainly when we need many days to stay in the field with local guides, rented transport, foods, etc.
At least three workshops will be developed to teach local people and forest guards about how they can to identify the raptor species, with emphasis in the Cuban kite.		X		We planned at least three workshops but due to transport difficulties to access the areas during the rainy season we couldn't develop the last one. In this way we plan to use funds for a couple of small expeditions to the areas where the birds were identified and observed by forest guards trained by us.
Educational talks in local schools			X	
Exploration and training of selected people to identify where to look for the birds and how they can act to preserve the species.			X	This objective was successfully achieved but we planned to provide some supplies to the forest guards like binoculars, field guides and digital cameras to develop a good work and recognition of the birds of prey. Now we are applying for some these supplies to IDEAWILD, which have been supporting us for some years.

To propose the area like a protected area to the National Protected Area System in Cuba and like an important bird area for Cuba.		X		A proposal has been presented to the authorities but it needs approval by the government.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

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

The most important outcomes of our project are:

1: Some papers will be published with information about localities, foods evidence and photos of the Cuban kites by *The Journal of the Caribbean Ornithology* and *Bird Conservation Magazine* and some short communications were published in web sites: See: <http://www.aba.org:80/bex/recipients/2009kite.html>; <http://birding.typepad.com:80/peeps/2009/12/cuban-kite-discovered-eastern-cuba.html>

2: A proposal to add new areas to Humboldt National Park was sent to the National System of Protected Areas in Cuba. The proposal includes a big area with rain forest vegetation near to Rio Toa actually designated for logging and forestry.

3: Two workshops with local people (including kids from two schools and Forest guards of the Humboldt National Park).

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

Local people understand the idea to preserve predators like hawks and especially they were conscious that will be very important to preserve the forest and animal diversity in the areas where they live. We provide two binoculars to the Forest guards in the park (still I am waiting for a stock of binoculars donated by Birder's Exchange and Optics For the Tropics to bring to the Park's Direction to distribute in some specific areas where the Cuban Kite still can exist). Lot of big "cages" with local material was made to offer chickens protection from predators (hawks).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to explore some others localities in the east of Cuba where records from Cuban kite presence had made before. Now we are in touch with some organizations like American Bird Conservancy, Optics for the Tropics and Birder's Exchange that have interest to support us in future expeditions and communitarian projects in the east of Cuba.

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

Papers and Internet. II Cuban Ornithology Workshop in November 2010 and Zoology Symposium 2011.

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

I received the Rufford Grant at mid-July 2009 and we started the project in September 2009. It ran until September 2010. We fixed the project for a year and we started it when the Rufford Grant was received, for such motive we consider our project was executed successfully.

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.

* Total amount of the Grant £ 5255 was changed in \$8442 and finally I received the money in Euros 6458. During the year the local exchange rate in Cuba has been change in accordance with the world crisis, from 1.3072 in September 2009 to 1.12 - 1.14 in 2010. Actually I have £ 903.00 that I will spend in a couple expeditions to the east of Cuba looking for new areas to explore and new localities where we can to teach local people to protect the hawks.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Workshop Budgets	2 537.6	1993.50	544.10	We planned at least three workshops but we carry out just two.
Desk Jet Combo	53.14	00.00	53.14	We do not found those items in Cuban Markets and we decide to try to import those from other country.
Desk Jet Accessories	50.00	00.00	50.00	Idem.
Desk top Computer	767.68	783.60	- 15.92	Differences due to currency changes.
Digital Camera and accessories.	797.21	500.00	297.21	I buy a used Digital Canon EOS 20D with lens.
Fuel Oil or gasoline.	336.00	587.50	- 251.50	Due to car's mechanical problems, climatic conditions in the regions where we were working (rainforest and mountains) we spend more gasoline and petrol that we planned.
Other budgets	250.00	487.40	- 237.40	We use money for an extra trip to the Humboldt National Park due to fact that forest guards called us to inform that they saw a couple of birds like Cuban kites building a nest during de breeding season, for this reason we plan an expedition to visit the place and check the area.
TOTAL	4 791.63	4352.00	439.63	

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

The most important next steps are to explore new areas in which those birds could exist and develop educational programs for local people to teach them to preserve the raptors. To add new areas to the National Protected Area System in Cuba and to carry out new projects to study the natural history, distribution and Cuban kite's ecology.

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 do it. We used the RSGF logo in our presentations and we will recognise it in ours next papers and presentations in scientist meetings in which we will be present.

11. Any other comments?

New project is starting with the cooperation of Cuban scientists with the support of Birdlife International and Peregrine Foundation.