

## 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>	Torbjørn Haugaasen
<b>Project title</b>	Nutty livelihoods: efforts to save rural incomes and a crucial extractive industry in the Amazon
<b>RSG reference</b>	<b>09.02.07</b>
<b>Reporting period</b>	June 2007 – September 2008
<b>Amount of grant</b>	4672
<b>Your email address</b>	Primary: <a href="mailto:torbjorn.haugaasen@umb.no">torbjorn.haugaasen@umb.no</a> ; (Secondary: <a href="mailto:T.Haugaasen@uea.ac.uk">T.Haugaasen@uea.ac.uk</a> )
<b>Date of this report</b>	23.01.09

**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
Seed dispersal experiments			x	3 experiments using more than 3000 marked seeds were carried out
Mapping Brazil nut trees			x	We mapped approx. 1200 trees from 6 different Brazil nut stands
Seedling searches			x	24 hectares of forest searched
Immature fruit predation			x	Macaws, primates and woodpeckers are important predators of immature fruits
Soil analysis			x	No differences in soil conditions between areas with and without Brazil nut trees were found
Genetic analysis		x		DNA has been extracted from 272 individuals and genotyping is under way
Information exchange and planning		x		Meetings in local communities were done, but we aim to provide more educational material
Data analysis and writing		x		This is under way with one article already in press

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

We had trouble with primates stealing our marked fruits and nuts. Nothing we could do about this. We also had great trouble with our genetic analysis due to primers not working. We eventually had to purchase a new batch of primers, but the delay was massive. These analyses are therefore still ongoing.

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

1. Ideas for management of Brazil nuts
2. Better understanding of Brazil nut seed dispersal
3. Community enlightenment and involvement

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

Local assistants were involved in every aspect of the work and several other individuals from the local community were contracted short-term to give us a hand. In this way they learnt a lot about the biology of the Brazil nut tree and this information was also distributed to the remaining villagers by us or them. They benefitted financially of course, but our results also provide a basis for long-term sustained harvest of Brazil nuts which is beneficial to the community. Our work with reserve managers has provided a better financial return for local people selling Brazil nuts and a new regional nut factory has been established with support from the reserve management.

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

This work is continuing and will continue in the foreseeable future depending on available funding.

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

This work has already been profiled on national and regional television, radio and on the internet. In addition, several articles are currently being prepared for publication, the first of which will be published in March. We have also presented results at international conferences. We have already provided detailed reports to the central Brazilian government and the local institutions which run the reserve where the work was carried out. Meetings have been done to the benefit of the local population and we are currently nurturing the idea of producing posters to be erected in village schools and some additional educational material.

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

June 2007 – September 2008. This is approximately what was anticipated.

**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
Two local field assistants	2115	2115	0	Because Rufford provided funds towards a bigger budget, I was able to use the money provided exactly how it was stated in the application.
Fuel and oil for outboard and generator	960	960	0	
Equipment and supplies	352	352	0	
Food supplies	1245	1245	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	4672	4672	0	

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

The next step is to maintain our good working relationship with the local people in the region. We should continue to provide help and support, while trying to implement certain actions based on our findings to safeguard the Brazil nut harvest for future generations. We would also like to expand our educational efforts and put to practice implementations in communities throughout the rest of the reserve which cover more than 1 million hectares of forest – and beyond if possible. In our initial application we pointed to the aim that the continued harvest strategy should be handed over to the local people involved and continued education and implementation will aid us to **fully** achieve this goal.

We also said in our initial application that we hoped to establish a strategy for selling locally harvested nuts by bypassing several middle-men and thus gaining higher prices for the product. In

this way we hoped that the project could be hugely beneficial to the local communities. The building of a new nut factory in the region was an important first step, but we need continued follow-up. During our work on the biology of the Brazil nut tree we also stumbled across some new and exciting avenues that should be pursued to fully understand the biology of the species and thereby better safe-guard this resource for the future.

**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 RSGF logo was used in the presentation at international conferences. Otherwise the RSGF name will be used in forthcoming publications and presentations.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are really grateful to RSGF for providing us with these funds. This meant that we could get this project to a level that we can really be proud of and produce work of the highest quality. We now have a much better basis on which to provide a strategy for safe guarding this resource than we would have achieved without RSGF support.