

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	Jorge Valenzuela
Project title	Forest harvest effects on bird communities in Chiloé Archipelagos: implications in small, medium and large island respect to human activities
RSG reference	Jane Raymond
Reporting period	2008
Amount of grant	£4400
Your email address	jvalenzu@cecpan.org
Date of this report	19 – 05 - 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
Demonstrate the effect on the bird diversity resulting from the habitat lost in the naturally fragmented islands		●		The effects of fragmentation and extinction of species on the islands could be demonstrated though there are still other variables to be examined during the next season to consolidate alternative hypotheses for events
Evaluating the actual state of the insular ecosystem			●	Data collected in the islands permitted to prove the level of human alteration of each one of them.
Provide managers with the information necessary to make more informed management decisions			●	The importance of reverting critical situations affecting conservation in the islands was possible by being transmitted through different meetings with public entities and diffusion workshops.
Search for an alternative use of the forest to obtain construction material and to fire the homes and industries		●		Proposals tending towards the use of renewable energy arose as part of the joint plans made with state institutions involved in environmental issues, though preparing a technical report stating those measures is still missing. This is planned to be carried out with the support of another organization experienced in the topic.

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

Firstly, an unforeseen problem arising from € Euro devaluation, currency used in the country for £ Sterling Pound, occurred. That currency dropped approximately 20% during the time between the proposal presentation and funds delivery (a higher than expected amount foreseen in the item 'incidental expenses'); which produced some logistics modifications due to expenses re-structuring. Nevertheless, these changes were partially solved thanks to additional cooperation from Municipalities, such as transport and materials delivery. Thus, urgent expenditures were covered by CECPAN through their funds.

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

- It was possible to verify in the field the effect on birds of the shrinkage in woodland cover and by the barriers against dispersal of some species caused by fiords and channels, thus constraining them from repopulating islands that have already lost their vegetation.
- Consolidation of an important network with different associate public institutions (basically municipalities and their offices related to environment and production) who began to

incorporate additional considerations, based on the results of this study, into their plans of life quality improvement for insular population.

- Incentive for the development of further studies on the archipelagos, by consolidating agreements with researchers from other institutions and universities for the monitoring of other groups of flora and fauna that could give further evidence about the conservation status of insular natural resources.

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

This study was very well received by local people as the geographical area where research was carried out is barely known or explored by environmental professionals, a highly interesting fact for schools and social groups.

People in general were shown to be receptive and sensitive concerning topics related to conservation of insular natural resources, even though they were lacking in alternatives for energy supplies for household heating and building materials, which are the main problems threatening biodiversity in the archipelago.

Considering the above, next season people will be expectant about the results of on-going studies, which will deliver fundamental information about the status of the archipelagos' flora and fauna. Highly important material will be delivered to the Regional Government as part of an action plan for the conservation of insular natural resources.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Studies will continue next season, looking at some environmental variables that were not included in the initial proposal due to the logistics they require in relatively short sampling periods.

Another two study groups have been included and sampling has already started on the islands and will continue with similar actions next season. Among them, vegetation, fungi, mammals, and water and littoral invertebrate's studies will be done on each one of the isles of Chiloé Archipelago. These are being done by professionals from Universidad de Chile, Universidad Austral, ONG Aumén and professionals from other areas of research of CECPAN.

Agreements with public institutions who we met during the project agreed that CECPAN would deliver a final report containing basic information about biodiversity and measures supporting the development of an archipelago action plan. This will be used as consulting material for any territorial planning fixed by the Municipalities on the isles and affecting forestry and water resources, which logically have a direct effect on the local biodiversity.

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

Presently inside the CECPAN work plan, we have an organizational outline that includes the diffusion of any research developed by our organization on Chiloé Island and in other areas of the country. This will be included in the programme "itinerant sample of local science" ("muestra itinerante de la ciencia local") that will be carried out by means of a mobile and exposition stations in different schools and towns of Chiloé.

Delivering reports to Municipalities and institutions such as Forestry National Corporation (Corporación Nacional Forestal, CONAF) and National Commission for the Environment (Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente, CONAMA) constitutes a part of the diffusion initially agreed.

Any report or publication summary resulting from this work will be available free on the web page of CECPAN.

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

Resources obtained from RSG were used during a gradual period. Due to changes in sampling seasons, operational costs were low though they increased as field work started. The main period of resource expenditure was between November 2008 and February 2009; there was an initial period of expenditure between July and September 2008 when prospective visits to some islands were carried out. Between February and June 2008 expenditure was minimal, only referring to those derived from visits to municipalities and to government offices in other areas of Chiloé Island. Due to the estimate character of costs and their dependence on private leasers, the total amount was greater than that initially stated.

This amount was inferior to that estimated and was re-distributed to support another item. Incidental expenses were over budget (£ 200 approx.) due to the Euro devaluation, a loss that had to be faced.

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
Boats rent	£ 2250	£2460	(+) £ 210	Because it was an estimated cost and not a regular business the prices vary according to boat lessor
Food expenses	£ 800	£ 740	(-) £ 60	This amount was less than estimated and it was redistributing to cover others items
Lodging and accommodation	£ 1000	£ 800	(-) £ 200	This amount was less than estimated and it was redistributing to cover others items
Office and unforeseen expenses	£ 350	£ 850	(+) £ 500	Unforeseen expenses was much more than estimated (£ 200 approximately.)because the currency devaluation, therefore this need could not be absorb by the whole item
£ 1 = 1.050 Chilean pesos (CLP)	£ 4400	£ 4850	£ 450	
TOTAL		£ 4850		

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

The establishment of a permanent site for biodiversity monitoring in the area of Butachauques Islands (Fig.1) was possible owing to the excellent reception of this study by municipalities. Here there will be a place where scientists can stay while future further studies are carried out on the changes occurring on some groups of flora and fauna. Initially the bird observatory was established here; birds will be ringed during indefinite seasons, and this will allow us to elucidate further theories about stocking of avifauna and its distribution in the archipelagos.

Likewise, worthy to be mentioned is the support of public institutions; cooperation agreements were achieved with them that will start working as soon as higher monitoring activities about insular activities are developed.

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 permanently used on the CECPAN pick-up and during the public presentations of the project. Furthermore, it has been on our web page since the beginning, and within some days it will be shown together with the summarized and up-dated results.

11. Any other comments?

We have only to thank your trusting in us, and expect our relationship does not finish here, after the ending of this project; making the compromise to deliver, in a near future, the global results obtained from the private initiative generated, based on a study of birds and their habitat.

Right now by means of this report, we are asking you to permit us the incorporation of RSGF logo in the informative panel that will be installed on Butachauques Islands, concerning the establishment of a bird observatory and monitoring station for biodiversity in this geographical area. All this, since we consider that the essential root of this project lies on the trust deposited on CECPAN by RSGF; whose support generated a chain of compromises with government institutions that ended up in agreements that, on their turn, became the extension of studies on the isles of Chiloé Archipelago.