

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 | Alí Jefferson Altamirano Sierra |
| Project title | Mortality rates of Humboldt penguins near major breeding sites in Peru |
| RSG reference | 10245-1 |
| Reporting period | September 2011 – September 2012 |
| Amount of grant | £ 3,989.77 |
| Your email address | eraexcusa@yahoo.es |
| Date of this report | 17 February, 2013 |

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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| Updated information of the mortality near major breeding sites in Peru | | | X | |
| Contacting local environmental authorities at the Paracas National Reserve during the project activities | | | X | |
| Contacting the Penguin Census Team for the annual Humboldt Penguin census at Paracas National Reserve | | | X | |

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

The main difficulties were in the southern part of the study area, during the survey along the coast. Part of the trip was interrupted by social conflicts that involved highway blocks, precluding to reach some of the planned localities to visit. In some cases the level of protest was significantly low, and it was possible after some time to go through in the way, however in some points this was not possible.

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

1. Updated information of the mortality of the Humboldt Penguin in the Paracas National Reserve. As a result of the project, the mortality of Humboldt penguins reached 325 birds in the study area, a number similar to the number of penguins counted during the past census in the Tres Puertas cove. This is the highest mortality determined for the area, and raise concern about the level of interactions with the local fisheries and the stability of the Humboldt penguin population within the limits of one of the main marine protected areas in Peru.
2. Information regarding the local marine fauna. Besides the penguin mortality estimations, other marine birds such as the Guanay cormorant (*Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*), Peruvian booby (*Sula variegata*) and Peruvian pelican (*Pelecanus thagus*) were found in high numbers. The critically endangered Peruvian diving petrel (*Pelecanoides garnotii*) was also found along the surveyed beaches. An event of great importance was the reporting of the Cocoli heron (*Ardea cocoi*) at the Paracas National Reserve. This is a new bird species record for the local ornithological fauna that increase the biodiversity recorded in the Reserve.
3. Contacting of local authorities. Before starting the project activities at the Paracas National Reserve, contacts were made with the Head office of the Reserve, administered by the National Natural Protected Areas Service (SERNANP). At the end of the project, a full report detailing the findings and recommendations was submitted to the reserve administration as a contribution to management of penguin populations within this marine protected area.

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

During the surveys, questions were asked to the local fishermen in the localities visited. Through informal interviews and talks, the questions were in regard to their knowledge about the Humboldt

penguins trapped in fishing gear or sightings of this species in the area. In turn, they received information on the Humboldt penguin conservation status and the need to get more people- including fishermen- participating in the mitigation of threats to this species.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

As the Paracas National Reserve has the highest mortality of Humboldt penguins in the area, monitoring of the main concentration sites within the Reserve should continue on a yearly basis. This can help to discern the fluctuations in the population observed during the annual Humboldt penguin census, and thus will contribute to understand the dynamics and effects of the interaction between penguins and local fisheries in order to improve the conservation status of the species.

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

A full report detailing the project activities and outcomes will be sent to the Paracas National Reserve as stated in the permit requirements. In addition the information is been share with other Humboldt penguin researchers and environmentalist, in particular with the team that carry out the annual Humboldt Penguin Census in Peru.

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 during the 12 months planned for the project activities.

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 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|--|
| Field equipment | 124.76 | 124.76 | 0 | |
| Transport | 2093.44 | 2332.20 | 238.76 | The transport cost were higher than expected |
| Communications | 112.28 | 112.28 | 0 | |
| Office equipment | 31.19 | 31.19 | 0 | |
| Permits | 131.00 | 131.00 | 0 | |
| Responsible of project activities | 1497.10 | 1258.34 | - 238.76 | |
| Total | 3989.77 | 3989.77 | 0 | |

Exchange rate: 1£ = US\$1.6083

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

As indicated before, monitoring of the mortality of penguins in areas with high concentration of these birds (as established in the annual censuses) should continue. Besides, work should be done to inform the main public involved (fishermen, authorities, local guides, etc.) about the need to contribute from their area of work to mitigate the threats to Humboldt penguin populations. This can be reached through informative programmes or working directly in the update of management plans for the marine protected areas holding populations of Humboldt penguins.

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 acknowledged in the corresponding section in the publication about the new record of the Cooi Heron at the Paracas National Reserve, published in the Bulletin of the Peruvian Union of Ornithologist.