

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	Ricardo de Lima
Project title	The impact of changing agricultural and forestry practices on the endemic species of Sao Tome – Letting people know
RSG reference	11388-2
Reporting period	August-December 2012
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	rfaustinol@gmail.com
Date of this report	January 2013

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective				Comments
	Not achieved	Partially	Fully achieved	
Write a summary report of my thesis in Portuguese and discuss implications for land-use management and agroforestry practices with relevant stakeholders			X	The report was delivered to most key stakeholders (e.g. forestry, environment and agriculture directories, Natural Park, PAPAFA, UNDP, key agricultural companies and NGO), and to other people who have shown interest. In total, I delivered over 50 printed reports. I also left several digital copies of the report. Delivering the reports allowed interesting discussions on land-use management in STP, allowing me to gain a better understanding on the constraints to my suggestions, and therefore how these could be improved.
Discuss my work with rural communities in the vicinities of the Natural Park			X	The presentation I prepared was delivered to a total of 308 people from 13 rural communities (Nova Moka, S. Nicolau, S. Jose, Bemposta, Mt. Café, Esprinha, Sta. Jenny, Aguas Sampaio, Mt. Carmo, S. Joao, Dona Augusta, Claudino Faro and Bernardo Faro). I also presented it to c. 50 people at the "2 nd International Meeting on Local Development". Discussions gave precious insights on how people from these communities understand environmental problems and potential solutions.
Disseminate key messages to the general public			X	A press release was distributed to over 15 media, which resulted in online and on paper publications, two interviews on National Radio (over 5 minutes in total) and one on National TV (around 4 minutes).
Present and discuss my work in key schools		X		My work was presented at "Instituto Diocesano de Formação" (capital), at Mt. Café primary school, at Saudade and S. Nicolau kindergartens and at Maria Manuela Margarido High School (Trindade). It reached c. 2000 students and teachers. These presentations allowed gaining an interesting insight into what schools are teaching, namely on what children (and teachers) from different backgrounds know about STP endemic species. A special presentation was delivered to all "environmental education" and "natural sciences" teachers from São Tomé (c.30), to ensure key issues are being addressed in these classes. This session greatly increased the number of students I could reach (up to an estimated total of 7500).
Organise a public presentation of my work, to identify strategies to improve land-use management		X		Attendance was very low (c.30 – notably with no one representing the sector of agriculture), despite a strong effort inviting stakeholders. Nevertheless, it provided a 4 minute report on national television and a useful discussion on the constraints to improve land-use management for STP endemic species.

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

It was not exactly unforeseen, as I knew it from my previous experience in the country, but it was extremely difficult to follow schedules in order to achieve the ambitious range of activities I had proposed in short time of my visit to São Tomé: (1) some people were hard to reach; (2) plans were often changed last time; (3) some people did not keep their word (e.g. I had invited many people linked to agriculture, some of which showed interest and said they would attend, but in the end none came to the final discussion); and finally (4) there was a very strong delay linked to heavy protocols and bureaucracy (e.g. to work with the c. 230 kids from Mt. Café primary school I had to ask the teachers, then the head of school, write him a letter asking for availability, address a schedule of visit to the National Director of Primary Teaching in the capital, to meet her in person and explain my goals). To overcome these delays and make sure I kept on time, I had to employ two people to help me organise activities (instead of one as initially predicted). I also had to be very flexible to make sure I could reach the largest number possible of people in the different target publics. For instance, once I realised visiting schools was a very bureaucratic process I focused on key schools which had not been previously visited by California Academy of Sciences campaign (with whom I was in contact) and arranged a session to reach key teachers, and therefore make sure that they could help me spread the word about my findings.

I was also expecting to be difficult to engage with people in rural communities, not necessarily because they are not used to receive people lecturing them on different subjects, but mainly because most of them were not used to give their opinions on someone else's work – as it was my intention. In this regard, I had the valuable help from my assistants from the local NGO Monte Pico, who helped create and adapt an interactive presentation that people could simultaneously understand and get involved with. By using a language and format adapted to this public, most sessions ended in a very heated debate – enthusiasm during the session itself varied greatly between communities, but discussion would normally continue after the session was finished.

The lack of attendance to the final public discussion is certainly linked to the political crisis the country was experiencing. The opposition, which held the majority of seats in parliament, brought the government down a week before the public discussion, and during that week the president of the parliament was also replaced. Due to this crisis, several public demonstrations of support were organised, and this obviously captivated the attention of public and media. Some representatives' agendas were also affected by the crisis. Given that my stay in the country was close to an end, there was no chance to reschedule the event, so besides putting pressure on the media and invited stakeholders, there was little that could be done to ensure a higher attendance.

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

This project allowed:

- (1) disseminating the findings of my PhD research,
- (2) contributed for the awareness and discussion on how best to manage land ensuring that human development does not compromise the future of STP endemic species
- (3) gaining a better understanding on the perspectives of different groups in STP on this matter, and also on how they can be involved in a discussion to define strategies for conservation.

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

The opinion of local communities was heard during the presentations, giving valuable insights on how they view activities threatening ST biodiversity and on what measures they propose to tackle these threats. During my work I have also employed two people from rural communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, early in October 2012, I received confirmation that my proposal to keep working in STP as a post-doc researcher was accepted. At the moment I'm based in Centre for Environmental Biology at Lisbon University, and have a 3-year contract with the Portuguese "Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia", which is renewable for up to 6 years. I am currently looking for external funding to increase the reach and scale of my post-doc research, namely in collaboration with the forestry department – a partnership that grew stronger during my stay in ST during these last few months. The experience gained with this work, and namely the links that I have built, will allow me improving strategies to reach the different sector of Santomean population, regarding my future work.

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

I will keep publishing the results of my research about STP, both in scientific literature (at least another article will be submitted within the next month) and for the general public (an interview for RDP2 Portuguese Radio programme "CientificaMente" is scheduled for January 2013). I will keep on growing partnerships and promoting outreach, based on the links and experience I gained during this visit funded by RSG, namely in collaboration with Monte Pico, the forestry department, PAPAFA and the "environmental awareness" teachers.

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

I started using RSG in August 2012, to buy equipment and flights, and have left STP in early December, which coincides with the proposed schedule.

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
Travel	2200	2202.84	-2.84	Including flights, visa, airport taxes and malaria medication.
Accommodation	400	500	-100	Became more expensive than in previous visits.
Printing	1300	1537.31	-237.31	Printing posters and leaflets was much more expensive than what I had budgeted. I reduced the number of posters, but it still surpassed the predicted value.
Venues	200	0	200	I found a great venue that did not charge booking
Phone	100	73.47	26.53	
Equipment	300	253	47	Budgeted model was not available, so I had to buy a cheaper projector, which still performed

				great.
Stationery	100	63.64	36.36	
Catering	1000	415.92	584.08	I cut back on expenditure with catering after I realized I would have to expend more on accommodation, printing and assistants that what I had budgeted for.
Assistants	400	1000	-600	I had to employ an extra person and to extend the duration of the contract
Total	6000	6046.18	-46.18	Santomean dobra has a fixed exchange rate to the euro (24,500STD=1EUR). Values in euro were converted to sterling at the exchange rate 0.836GBP=1EUR.

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

Future conservation work in STP should focus on getting more information on its biodiversity, specially on how it is distributed within the islands and on the effects of key threats, such as land-use intensification, illegal logging, hunting and invasive species. Alongside, there should be a continuous concerted effort to raise awareness of STP's unique biodiversity, both within and outside the country, bringing key stakeholders together to identify feasible strategies to improve current practices and ensure that human development and conservation go hand in hand.

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?

All material produced for this project had the RSGF logo (summary report, presentations, press release, posters, invitations and letters). Furthermore, the RSGF was acknowledged during my interviews to the media.