

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	Juan Pablo Seco Pon
Project title	Identifying high risk areas for seabirds in the Patagonian Shelf: overlap between threatened species and fisheries
RSG reference	13009-1
Reporting period	April 2013-April 2014
Amount of grant	£5930
Your email address	secoPON@yahoo.com.ar
Date of this report	March 20, 2014

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 analyse the at sea distribution of white-chinned petrels by means of remote sensing technology.	✓			The tags were ordered and purchased to Microwave Telemetry (USA) (October 2013). However, due to importation difficulties in Argentina, the tags finally arrived into the country as recently as March 2014.
To analyse the distribution of the fishing effort of several fisheries, including the environmental variability (e.g. SST, chlorophyll, distance to the shelf break, distance to nearest colony).			✓	The collation of information about the variables described (i.e. fisheries and environmental) is completed. We hold a fishery database for the period 2009-2013.
To integrated the at-sea distribution of tracked birds and fisheries and environmental data.		✓		As an example of the importance of this exercise, the data from fisheries and the environment were overlapped with the at sea distribution of the black-browed albatross <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> (Copello <i>et al.</i> 2014, Journal of Sea Research DOI: 10.1016/j.seares.2014.02.006).

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

One of the unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project was the development of the harnesses specifically built for the birds with local materials (not budgeted). Another difficulty was related to the importation process in Argentina.

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

As we have not yet deployed the satellite devices on white-chinned petrels it is difficult to mention important outcomes of the project. Nonetheless, the fact that (1) the tags are in the country and (2) the collation of the information regarding several fisheries and the environment has been completed turning these into important assets of the project.

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

The collaboration between several national agencies dealing with issues related to the conservation of marine mega fauna, particularly seabirds in fisheries, started in 2000. Nowadays, the level of commitment can be reflected in the accession of Argentina to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels in 2006 and the adoption of the National Plan of Action-Seabirds in 2010.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are plans to continue this work as we will deploy the tags on white-chinned petrels starting in April 2014 and continuing in May 2014.

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

All the information will become available to different stakeholders in the country to be used as basement guidelines for the development and improvement of the National Plan of Action-Seabirds (NPOA-S), already approved by national government (Federal Fisheries Council Resolution 15/2010, <http://www.cfp.gov.ar/resoluciones/res15-2010.pdf>). In that respect the information contained in the scientific contributions to be generated will also be converted into technical reports. From our viewpoint the “translation” of scientific data into technical information is essential to provide decision makers with accessible tools that can be ready to use for the developing and planning of conservation measures. As was performed in previous studies, the results will be useful for the development of educational programmes and communications to raise awareness in the local community and in the fishing industry.

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

The RSG is going to be used over the period April 2013 – April 2014. We anticipated deploying the tags in June 2013. However, the actual length of the project has not been affected.

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
3 (three) satellite transmitters PTT-100 18 gram – Solar PTT	5330	5250	80	We selected other tag model (solar transmitter).
1 (one) field trip (deployment of transmitters)	600	0	600	We will rent a sport fishery boat to deploy the tags starting in April 2014 and continuing May 2014.
TOTAL	5930	5250	680	

Notes to Budget: 1 Argentine Peso (ARS) = 0.076 British Pounds (GPB).

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

The important next steps are going out at sea and tagging the birds.

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?

I did not use the RSGF log in any materials produced in relation to the project. The RSGF did not receive any publicity during the course of my work. Both facts are related to the issue of not deploying the tags on the birds as scheduled. However, the RSGF logo will be use and RSGF will receive publicity after the deployment of the tags.

11. Any other comments?

The project will continue in April 2014 with the deployment of tags on birds as part of an ongoing project to assess the distribution and use of space by endangered marine top predators, such as albatrosses and petrels off Argentina.