

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Adam Hannuksela
Project title	Increased Shorebird Monitoring and Training in Sonora, Mexico
RSG reference	13886-1
Reporting period	One year
Amount of grant	£5930
Your email address	ahannuk@gmail.com
Date of this report	August 25, 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
Increase monitoring in three Southern Sonoran estuaries			X	We completed more than our hoped for minimum at all of the estuaries and detected over 150,000 birds.
Gather and synthesise a database for all waterbirds in Southern Sonora.		X		All data is in the process of being uploaded to the California Avian Data Center to share the data with other researchers and managers via the Avian Knowledge Network.
Provide capacity building opportunities for regional students and biologists.			X	We hosted 15 university students, local community members, and young biologists and paid for travel to the Navopatia Field Station for small group workshops.
Provide a stipend and travel expenses for a Mexican national to act as trainer and crew leader.			X	We were actually able to provide a stipend for two field crew leaders/trainers.
Gain a greater understanding of waterbird phenology during winter and migration.			X	By counting birds every month and every week in select locations, we were able to see other possible windows for efficient shorebirds surveys.

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

Organising transportation for workshop participants, and timing was one of the most difficult aspects. More time to plan beforehand would have helped, though most participants did not register until days before the scheduled event.

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

The most important outcomes include:

Gathering baseline data over the entire winter will be useful in the short term to help refine monitoring in the region, and in the long-term may prove invaluable to the knowledge populations over time.

The workshops and training for students and biologists opened a lot of eyes to bird biology and conservation and allowed many cross-cultural experiences between American and Mexican university students and biologist.

The ability to cover travel expenses and a stipend to not just one, but two Mexican biologists, allowed for more opportunity for cross-cultural exchange, as well as hone leadership skills for local conservationists and biologists.

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

Several local community members were hired as boatmen, guides, cooks, and given opportunities to participate in workshops and surveys. Several have developed an interest in birds and seen that there is value in protecting birds. Exposure to professional biologists from Mexico and abroad also helped others understand the international importance of local issues.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Work will be continued on a smaller scale in the coming winter field season. We will consult with regional and international partners to plan and discuss how to best scale up the monitoring effort over a larger portion of the region.

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

A report has been prepared for all interested parties. Data will be shared with the Avian Knowledge Network so other researchers, managers, and stakeholders can access the data at any time. Some results will be presented at regional and pertinent conservation groups and committees.

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

The Project had begun when Rufford funding was received in December of 2013 and the grant was used throughout the duration of the project.

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
Salaries/stipends	2424.00	2424.00	0	Rufford, Applicant, and other grant funds covered stipends and salaries.
Panga Rentals	152.	121.00	30	One boatman donated his time to assist the project.
Training Workshops	212.00	182.00	+30	One organiser was not able to attend and sent materials via email. Extra money was spent on room and board.
Room and Board/travel stipends	1273.00	1515.00	-242	Bus and airfares rose during the project time. As did some food prices.
Materials/Equipment	485.00	424.00	-100	Some equipment was donated.
Tolls/petrol	388.00	388.00	0	
Printing	45.00	45.00	0	
Total	4979.00	5099.00	120	

All amounts in Pounds Sterling with a 1.65 exchange rate.

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

To collaborate with regional partners to scale the project up to coordinate winter monitoring.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project?

Yes, in a training manual.

10a. Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

No.

11. Any other comments?

Rufford funding allowed the project to reach more people as well as contribute to more conservation and we thank you.