

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	Maria Flavia Caruso
Project title	Social Attitudes and Perceptions of Protected Areas and its Impact on the Conservation of Jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>) in northwestern Argentina.
RSG reference	15378-1
Reporting period	June 2014- June 2015
Amount of grant	£5,500
Your email address	flavicl@hotmail.com
Date of this report	May 31th ,2015

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
1 Assess the perceptions of local people towards PA and the jaguar in north-western Argentina			X	We identify positive or negative perceptions of local people towards the PA and the jaguar.
2 Compare how the level of integration of the local population in the management of PA influences their attitudes and perceptions.			X	We classify the PAs with more participatory and less participatory management based on several factors: 1. Human settlements before the creation of the PA, 2. PA Creation process, 3. Reasons of the conflict, 4. Current presence of settlers, 5. Initial Ratio PA-residents, 6. Current ratio PA-residents, 7. Reasons for amendments, 8. Settler's perception of the PA, 9. Settlers level of participation, 10. Environmental education level and 11. Management Plan implementation.

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

There were not any difficulties to tackle during the realisation of the project.

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

More people living next to PA with less participatory management lack knowledge about what are protected areas (59% of interviewed neighbours) than next to PA with more participatory management (43%, Chi 2 = 9.14, df = 2, p < 0.05).

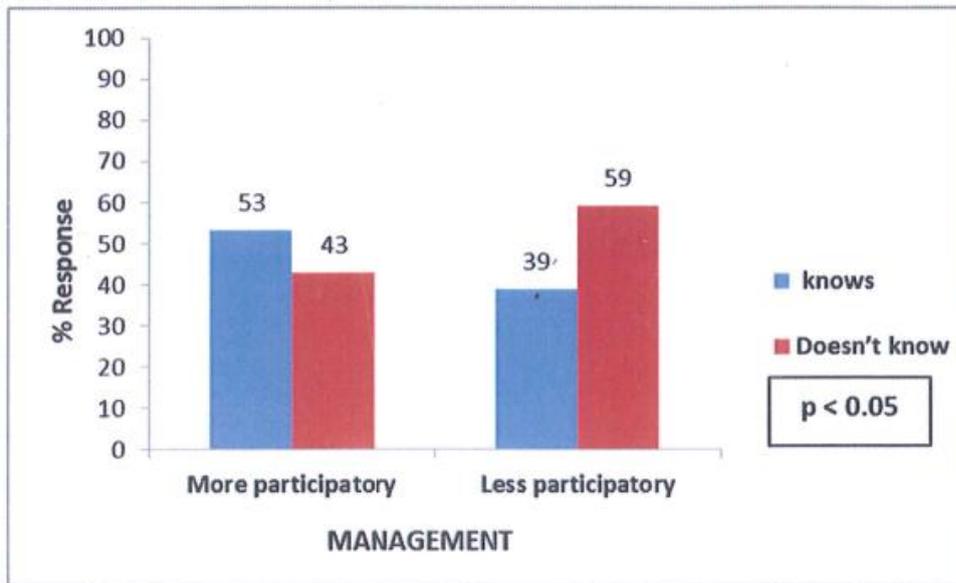


Figure 1: Percentage of interviewees who understand what protected areas are according to different levels of participation

The majority of the residents interviewed (81%) AP less participatory management knows no geographical boundaries, compared with 64% who do not know the limits of the AP in areas with more participatory management (Chi 2 = 9.01, df = 1, p < 0.05).

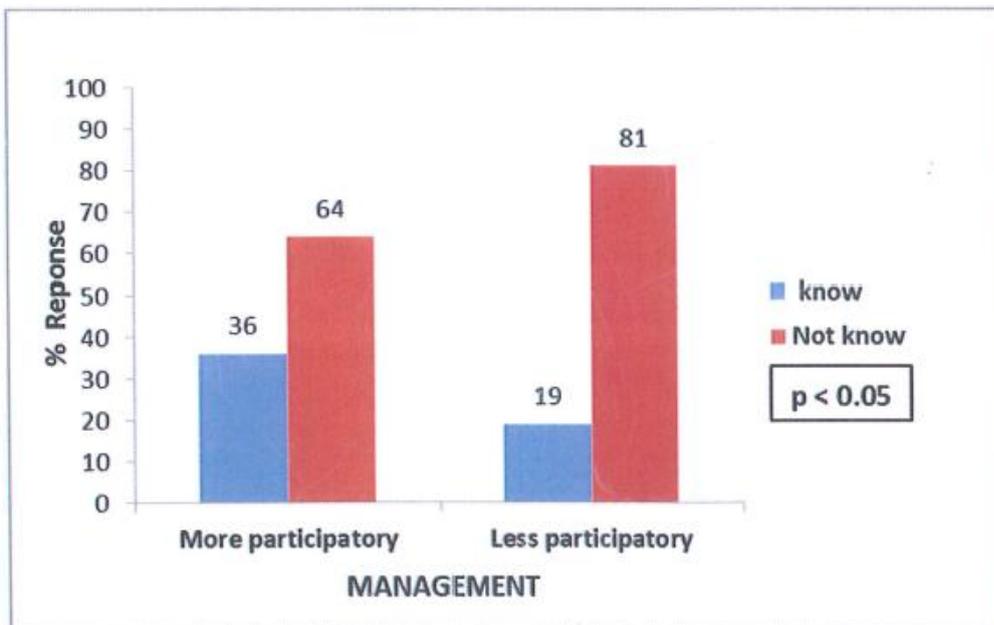


Figure 2: Percentage of respondents who know the geographic boundaries of the PA according to the different levels of participation

The 57% of respondents AP neighbours more participatory management said the jaguar plays a key ecological role, compared with 44% in the areas with less participatory management (Chi 2 = 32.47,

. df = 3, p <0.05).

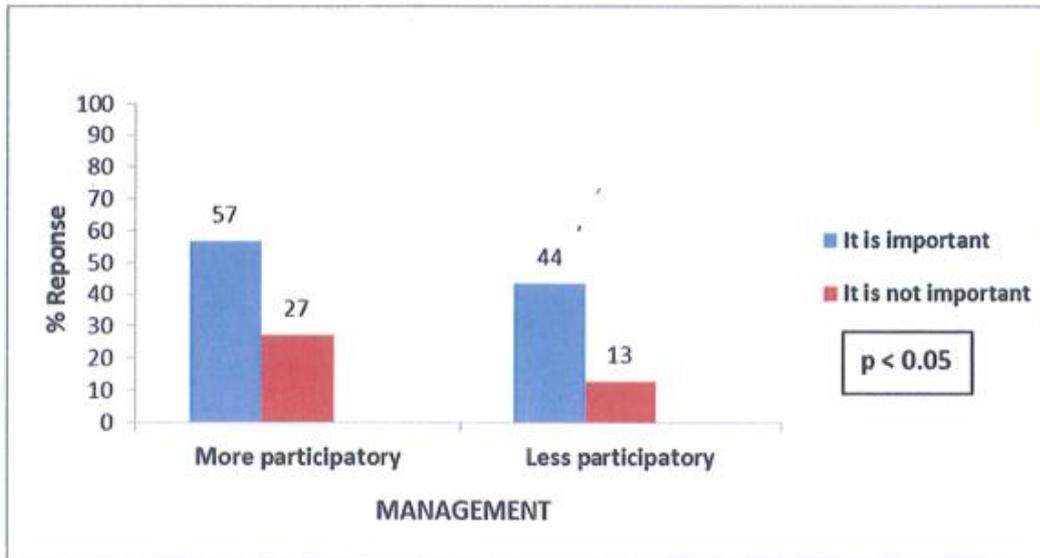


Figure 3: Percentage of respondents who recognized the ecological function of the jaguar in relation to the different levels of participation in the PA.

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

Involvement of local residents

In the decades of 70 and 80, the creation of the protected areas (PA) and the imposition of the rules of use of natural resources (including hunting, firewood, poles, wood, etc.) in the protected areas PA were imposed to local communities without notice, without environmental education and without offering economic alternatives. Currently, in Argentina these processes are changing. Adults have had for the first time, the opportunity to explain, in our fluid and informal interviews (more like a visit than a survey), how their life have changed since the creation of the neighbouring protected area (with more participatory or less participatory management), how they feel about the presence of the area, pros and cons of the PA, which was their financial status before and after the creation of the PA and which are their current needs.

Benefits received by locals

For the first time in north-western Argentina, we are investigating the causes of the attitudes and perceptions of the people towards the neighbouring PA and its impact on the jaguar conservation. We learned a lot about their needs, perceptions and attitudes towards nature. This work is allowing us to recognise key patterns of management of both environments and species. We consider that these patterns are currently absent and that their application could directly benefit local communities, especially if they are considered before planning and managing, as they could determine a complete

success or failure of the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this work is ongoing and we have the intention of taking it to the central and north-eastern Argentinian areas (Figure 4). This large and biOdiverse region does not count with previous studies of this type, so a multidisciplinary team like ours, that addresses the current problems faced by PAs, jaguars and society is urgently needed. This region desperately needs the intervention of scientists, technicians and local actors, working together; to find guidelines for biodiversity conservation which involve and benefit local communities and, at the same time, create ties with governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

Thus, the next step to be taken is to extend our findings, to maintain and to expand the network of interactions with the different institutions involved.

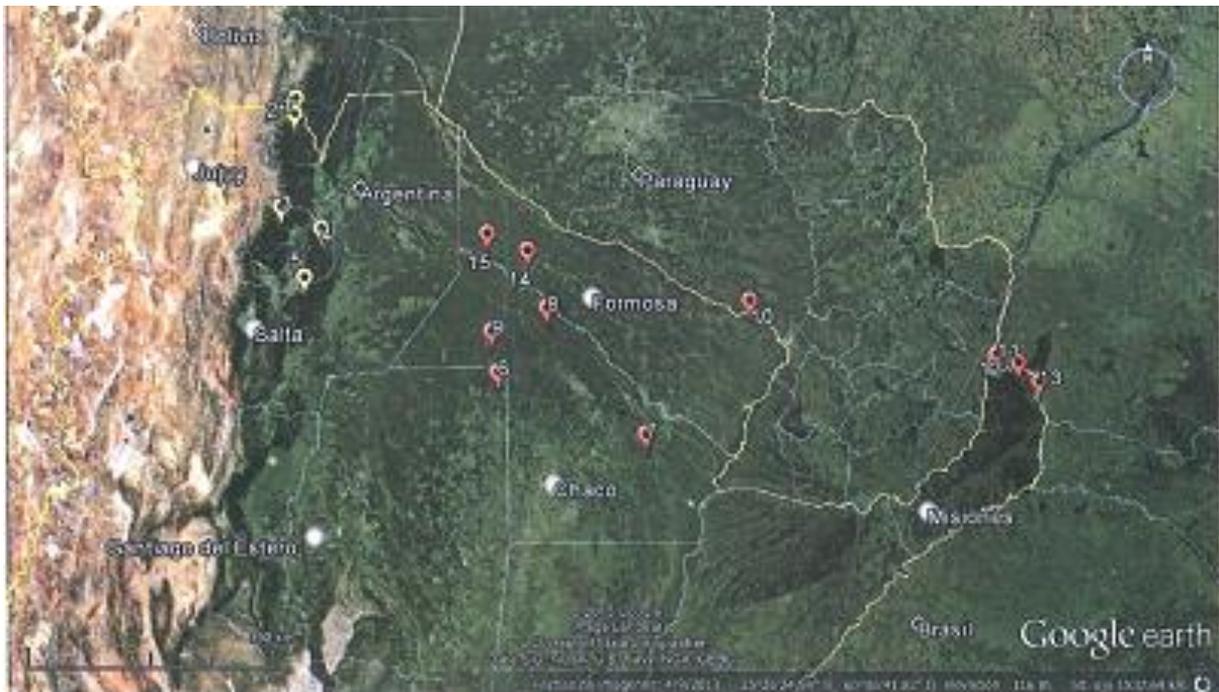


Figure 4: Study site: PA yellow north-western Argentina: 1 Nogalar Toldos National Reserve, National Park Baritu 2-, 3-Calilegua National Park; 4- Provincial Reserve Las Lancitas; 5- El Rey National Park. In red, the PA central and north eastern Argentina where we plan to replicate our research: 6- Capo National Park; 7-Chaco National Park; 8-The Impenetrable National Park , 9- Provincial park talking parrot, 10- Pilcomayo River National Park, 11- Iguazu National Park; 12- Uruguaf Provincial Reserve; 13- San Antonio Nature Reserve, 14- Formosa National Reserve and 15- Teuquito Provincial Reserve. Fuente: Google Earth TM 2015.

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

1. Partial and final results of this study have been submitted to the authorities of the Ministry of Environment of the provinces of Salta and Jujuy and to the authorities of the National Parks Administration, Regional Delegation Northwest Argentina during 2014 and 2015.
2. The results of this study were an essential part of our presentation at the National Conference on Protected Areas on 20th-22nd May, 2015 in San Juan, Argentina. A report, also, has been submitted to the regional office of PA management. In addition, results will be published in local environmental NGOs bulletins and newsletters and as a scientific paper in an international peer conservation journal.
3. We intend to continue to share our findings with society, politic authorities and local people through different types of reports.
4. Scientific Papers: An article is being written now and we expect to publish it before December 2015.

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

Although the funds were paid during June 2014, we started our working period in March using my personal funds. The project was expected to last 1 year.

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.

Important Note: Budgeted amount was £ 5,500; we received from RSGF £5,500.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Gasoline - £ 0,82/L, 10 km/L*1,000 km = £ 820	500	800	-390	Prices and costs of many items raised during the project period
Field assistant - £ 13/day * 217 days = £ 2,821	1000	3000	-2000	We covered this difference with another grant
Field expenses, food and lodging - £	1000	2020	-1020	We covered this difference with

9/day * 217 days =£ 1,953				another grant
Rent vehicle for field trips - £ 35/day * 217/days=£ 7,600	2000	8000	-6000	We covered this difference with another grant
Vehicle maintenance	1000	1500	-500	We covered this difference with another grant
Total	5500	15410	9910	Budgeted amount was £ 5,500. We received from RSGF £ 5,500. Budgeted items not funded by this organization were covered using other funding sources.

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

1. To replicate this study in PAs located in central and north-western Argentina, in order to identify and describe the socioeconomic determinants of social attitudes and perceptions in all the range of jaguar distribution in Argentina.
2. The results of this study could be used as a starting point for the creation of future protected areas and the development of their management which indirectly would impact on the conservation of jaguar.
3. To go on disseminating this project's results in different spheres: radio, TV, local newspapers, etc. and to interact with different stakeholders for our findings to be applied.
4. To start an environmental education campaign, aimed at PA neighbouring residents, to explain them why is important that PAs exist, what they are, what are their uses; and to transmit information on ecological importance of wildlife in general and the jaguar in particular.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, every material produced in this investigation had the RSGF logo. The logo was displayed on every public presentation and written material and I intend to continue to do this in future works. I also promoted the RSGF logo at the presentations I had to perform before a university public as part of my PhD.

11. Any other comments?

We feel an enormous gratitude and want to thank Rufford Small Grants' support. These results would have not been possible without this organisation's support.