

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	Mauricio Nunez-Regueiro
Project title	Are PES protecting the most threatened forest in the world from agricultural expansion? Understanding PES adverse self-selection in the Argentine chaco
RSG reference	15405-2
Reporting period	2014-2015
Amount of grant	£5919
Your email address	mregueiro@ufl.edu mnureg@yahoo.com
Date of this report	June-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
Provide the first evaluation of the Argentine PES programme behind adverse self-selection			X	Our project collected the information proposed and provides an evaluation of the Argentine PES programme.
Aid ongoing revision of the national level PES programme in Argentina by working closely with government agencies responsible for forest policy in chaco			X	I maintain contact and close communications with government officials at both the national and provincial level and we are in the process of sharing our results with them.
Produce at least one peer-reviewed publication that contributes to the growing body of knowledge related PES programmes		X		Information is being summarised and completion of a publication for peer review will be sent within before the end of this year.
Increase local knowledge about mechanisms of PES by conducting workshops with local workers and giving oral presentations to landowners			X	We have conducted two workshops and five meetings with students groups, government officials, and landowners where we discussed several aspects related with the Argentine PES programme
Encourage research groups to bridge across organisations and disciplines to study forest loss and market-based strategies for conservation from multiple perspectives			X	As we acknowledge this as a long-term objective, we have begun moving this objective forward. We conducted a course on interdisciplinary conflict management and collaboration with government officials, researchers and conservation practitioners from local NGOs. Moreover, a master student closely related to our research group is carrying research using market-based strategies to conserve endangered cats in Patagonia.
Involve undergraduate students from the National University of Salta in all aspects of the project			X	As a result of involving undergraduate students, now one senior student applied for a graduate scholarship in conservation biology, and another

				student chose conservation related themes to develop in her undergraduate thesis.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The most important difficulty was related to logistic and financial constraints. Transportation-related costs (in-town transportation, car-rentals, bus tickets, etc.) increased dramatically over the last year, which made it financially unsustainable to rent a vehicle for all trips. As a result, some sampling activities fell behind schedule. Fortunately, in-country partnerships (especially with the provincial government of Salta and with the National University of Salta) helped tackling these constraints.

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

1) Our project provided the first critical evaluation of the Argentine PES programme and identified key mechanisms behind adverse self-selection. We have compiled the first census-type of PES for the four provinces that compose the chaco forest of Argentina, one of the most threatened regions in the world. Governmental zoning of forested areas under the Argentine PES programme was envisioned to decrease deforestation by incentivising participation from high-priority conservation areas, by offering participants a higher monetary reward for their land. However, data shows that the intended objective of the programme is not being accomplished. Most participants who enrolled their land in the national PES project fall in areas with intermediate levels of conservation prioritisation. Landowners with high level of conservation prioritisation enrol much less than expected (i.e., in terms of number of participants relative to amount of surface area in each conservation prioritization zone). Most financial resources from the PES programme are destined to fund projects in areas of medium or low priority for conservation.

2) We encouraged research groups to bridge across organisations and disciplines to study forest loss and market-based strategies for conservation from multiple perspectives. A key limiting factor, as identified by stakeholders, was the lack of applied tools to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, negotiate different points of view, and manage conflict. As a consequence, we offered a 2-week long course where we introduced basic tools to collaborate, negotiate, and manage conflicts. We produced a video which reflects some thoughts on the course by participants (link to video: https://youtu.be/5iOJ_kaHW-A). Moreover, our project canalised a new project where one of our assistants will lead a study in the area of market-based strategies for conservation - she will aid the Wildlife Conservation Society in increasing demand and supply options for wildlife-friendly cashmere to protect endangered felines in Patagonia (Cristina has applied for funding to your foundation).

3) This project generated publishable scientific information that will aid the in the on-going land use planning process of Argentina and design new PES schemes. A manuscript is being written to be published in a top tier peer-reviewed scientific journal. This manuscript will serve as a basis for future investigations and also function as a document that will endorse future modifications of the current environmental policy.

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

Local members of conservation and agriculture institutions benefited from the course offered on conflict management and collaboration. Students from local universities also were involved, which helped develop their interest in conservation related areas of study, increased field experience, and augmented their knowledge about research design and statistical analyses.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are mainly two plans to continue this work. The first plan is to deepen our understanding of monetary and non-financial motivations for landowners to enrol land under PES. A future study will be envisioned to this end. I plan to use tools from the field of economics to conduct choice experiments, which will help value forests in the chaco region as well as measure acceptable incentives for landowners to enrol their land in PES. Second, I plan to conduct further landscape-scale studies aimed to provide alternative remnant forest configurations that will increase the conservation of wide ranging mammals. A key step is to study agricultural landscape designs with a system of interconnected blocks of forest remnants (as opposed to the current system of forest strips). This configuration could increase the area ratio of forest / edge, which would increase connectivity between forest blocks, and improve agricultural ecosystem services in Salta.

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

- 1) As previously noted, a YouTube video was edited to share the benefits of investing in acquiring tools for conflict management, collaboration and negotiation for professionals in the natural resources area.
- 2) Five informal workshops/meetings have been carried out to share the results of this work in local universities, governmental agencies, and in field sites.
- 3) A manuscript is in preparation to be submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific/conservation journal that includes all aspects of research design, results, and their interpretation.

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

Funds from RSG were used throughout the stipulated timeframe. Fieldwork-related activities extended a month from what was anticipated. Men's soccer world cup occurred while conducting fieldwork, which greatly slowed the pace at which meetings with participants and key stakeholders were scheduled.

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
International plane ticket (Gainesville, FL - Salta, AR)	1311	1311	0	
In-country transportation (4 trips @149/trip)	598	654	-56	Inflation increased prices of gas and transportation

Food (estimated @ 97.6/month/person) for 6 months and 3 people)	1757	1570	187	Our team spent less than expected on food because we were treated to meals by family members
Health Insurance (for one person)	183	183	0	
First aid kit for team	31	31	0	
Lodging in 4 provinces (@5.08/nigh/person) for 6 months and 2 people)	1829	1530	299	Our team spent less than expected on lodging because we sometimes lodge with family or friends
Workshop Materials (copies, printing, markers, etc)	110	130	-20	Inflation increased price of materials
Miscellaneous	100	780	-680	Most expenses in this category correspond to taxi and bus transportation inside each city. We do not have a vehicle and transport costs were high
TOTAL	5919	6189	-270	

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

Next steps include:

- 1) Finish data analysis and write manuscript for peer review-publication.
- 2) Write dissemination report based off the publication and submit it to governmental agencies and publish it on a blog.
- 3) Plan and execute ideas detailed on item #5 of this report.

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 used the RSGF logo in all oral and written presentations and workshops. In those activities RSGF received publicity.

11. Any other comments?

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further inquiries.