

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	Jose Arias Bustamante
Project title	Contested lands and climate change: the case of Mapuche communities and transnational forest companies in Chile
RSG reference	17209-1
Reporting period	March 2016-August 2016
Amount of grant	£4825
Your email address	joarias@alumni.ubc.ca
Date of this report	February 27, 2017

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
<p>Explore the underlying reasons related to the failure of the land restitution system in Chile that impedes a peaceful resolution to the long-sustained Mapuche conflict.</p>				<p>I was able to carry out 14 in-depth interviews with Mapuche people from different communities, which involved talking to 16 interviewees, as some of the interviews were group interviews. Also participated in several informal and private meetings, as well as traditional ceremonies. Unfortunately, I was not allowed to take any pictures or videos about these ceremonies, as they are considered sacred, and therefore no cameras are permitted. From these interviews, I was able to identify three main type of communities, the ones that are able to get land on their own traditional and ancestral territories, the ones that are relocated outside of their traditional territories, and finally those that have been standstill in the process for more than eight years. One of the main issues identified during the interviews, is the fact that once communities are able to get land back, in most of the cases not in their traditional territories, they are by themselves. This means, they have to look for funding sources, to make the newly acquired land habitable. For instance, housing, potable water, electricity, etc.</p>
<p>Identify the priorities and needs of Mapuche</p>				<p>This was partially achieved, as it was not possible to carry out the</p>

<p>communities under different future climate change scenarios, as well as what drives their preferences under these future scenarios</p>			<p>workshops as they were proposed. Basically, because the current situation in the communities doesn't allow the interaction between the different stakeholders. Despite this inconvenient, three workshops were carried out in three different communities just with Mapuche people.</p>
<p>Assess the perceptions of government and private institutions regarding Indigenous participation in the policy development regarding lands, forests, and climate change</p>			<p>In addition to the 14 interviews with Mapuche people, I was able to interview 17 experts and professionals from different institutions, including government (CONAF, INDAP, CONADI, INIA), Universities (UFRO, UCT, UACH, UCH), and NGOs (AIFBN, Bosques Modelo Alto Malleco - BMAAM).</p> <p>Although there are intentions to include a more binding participation of Indigenous communities regarding policy development, in reality it is not more than just a mere consultation process. And thus, it is not binding, which end up creating more distrust from the communities undermining their participation, as most of the communities prefer not to waste their time.</p> <p>I do not have more details, as the transcription process is taking longer than expected. But hopefully, once analysis is completed, more insights on these issues should be revealed.</p>

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

Communication with communities was really difficult given the constant persecution of Chilean judicial system and police forces with leaders from the different communities I was working with. Some of the strategies taken by police forces are the intervention of community leaders' phones and constant raids to different

Mapuche communities. Thus, many leaders were really hard to get a hold on, as they barely used their cell phones. And visiting the communities in person, was not really an option, as raids by the Chilean police are particularly violent, and do not differentiate between adults, kids, women or elders, and therefore these situations are extremely dangerous, for Mapuche and non-Mapuche. As a result, the communities are hesitant to let outsiders come to their territories. For this reason, I had to rely a lot on the support of the Mapuche Territorial Alliance (ATM), one of the grassroots organizations based on the ancestral territory of the Mapuche Nation in the south of Chile.

The collaboration with the ATM was of great help when identifying Mapuche communities experiencing different levels of conflict over access to land, and at the same time suffering from the impacts of climate change (e.g. water scarcity), and key actors in the field. Moreover, their network was of great value in establishing the first contact with the communities' members to create rapport and build trust. This was particularly true in areas where outsiders are literally not welcome.

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

a) Website

This report + website will include an executive summary of the project outcomes, pictures and interviews, and the final environmental conservation strategies and policy recommendations. I will use all my available channels in Chile to make this report available to the public, and particularly to the decision-makers in the Chilean Congress. In the Chilean Congress there is a special commission about the environment, my intention is to submit the mentioned report to this special commission. Some of the channels available to me are the University of Chile, the Forest Research Institute (INFOR), and the NGO Association of Foresters for the Conservation of the Native Forest (AIFBN in Spanish), the Indigenous Studies Institute, and the Mapuche Territorial Alliance (ATM in Spanish). Additionally, the report + website will allow to reach other audiences, targeting specially, elementary and high school students. In order to make the website more inclusive and culturally appropriate, it will be available in three languages: Spanish, English and Mapudungun (official language of Mapuche people).

Visit this [link](#) for updates on the website.

b) Policy paper

During the fieldwork associated with this research, I was a visiting scholar at the Indigenous Studies Institute – Instituto de Estudios Indígenas, which is a research unit

at the University of La Frontera, in Chile. As part of this position, I had access to the archives of the Indigenous Documentation Centre – Centro de Documentación Indígena (CDI) – hosted by the Institute. This documentation centre has more than 10,000 bibliographic registries, comprising one of the largest indigenous archives in Chile. This was of great value to this research, as I am examining the historical evolution of the land tenure in the region, as well as the origins of the land conflict in the Mapuche territories. I also was assigned a space in the Institute where I was able to work during the days I was not in the field. This also presented me the opportunity to meet other researchers working in the Institute with whom I had very interesting and useful conversations.

By the end of this research project, producing a policy paper in collaboration with the Institute will be one of the outcomes of this collaboration. This paper will transfer knowledge gained through this research to policy decision-makers, especially those working on the extension of Decree 701, and the evaluation of Indigenous Law 19,253. In addition, the Institute develops outreach activities such as seminars and trainings on topics of institutional interest, which will provide additional opportunities to disseminate the outputs of this research to the Institute audience.

The contact for this collaboration was the director of the Institute, Natalia Caniguan Velarde, and she can be contacted at natalia.caniguan@ufrontera.cl

c) Audio-visual material

Creation of audio-visual material to support the demands of Mapuche communities in the Region of la Araucanía. Some examples include: footage of Mapuche protest in Temuco (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PugEbaHQg-E>), footage of interviews with Mapuche elders, footage of three workshops in different communities in Curacautín City. This material is already in the hands of the collaborators, and the ATM. And part of the footage of and interview with a Mapuche elder has also been used in a video about the Mapuche struggles (<https://youtu.be/hCmAfhqBILl>). Although I have the link to the YouTube video, it has been unlisted, and therefore is not public, as my contribution was not properly acknowledged. Hopefully, soon it will be uploaded with the proper credits.

Most of the material that was created during the fieldwork, will be available in the website, which is under construction right now.

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

As I mentioned above, The Mapuche Territorial Alliance (ATM) is one of the grassroots organisations based on the ancestral territory of the Mapuche Nation in the south of Chile – the Gulu Mapu. The ATM's core mission is the full defence of Mapuche inherent rights, especially concerning the protection of the territory and the natural environment. Given its nature, the ATM is not a registered organisation under the Chilean law, and thus its leaders are unknown to the public. I explained that the ATM covers different territories of the Mapuche Nations, and therefore it collaborates with several communities that feel represented by the spirit of the ATM. As a result, the collaboration with the ATM was vital to get the involvement of several communities in this project.

Although the research area for this project was the Araucania Region, most of the fieldwork was carried out in the Curacautin area (See map bellow). As I mentioned above, I was able to talk to 16 interviewees. These interviewees come from:

- ▣ three ancestral communities
- ▣ two relocated communities

I was also able to visit other sites within the region, where I held informal meetings and talks. Unfortunately, in most of the cases I was not able to set up any formal interviews in these site (basically for the reasons explained in question 2). Sites included the following communities: Temukuykuy (Ercilla Municipality), Trapilhue (Freire Municipality, I was invited to their *Nguillatun*), Makewe (Freire Municipality, audio and video support for an interview with a Mapuche Elder), Pelewe (Teodoro

Schmidt Municipality, audio and video support for an interview with a Mapuche Elder), Millape Flores (Pitrufquen Municipality, formal interview with the leader of the community), and Puerto Saavedra Municipality (I was invited to their *We Tripantu*).

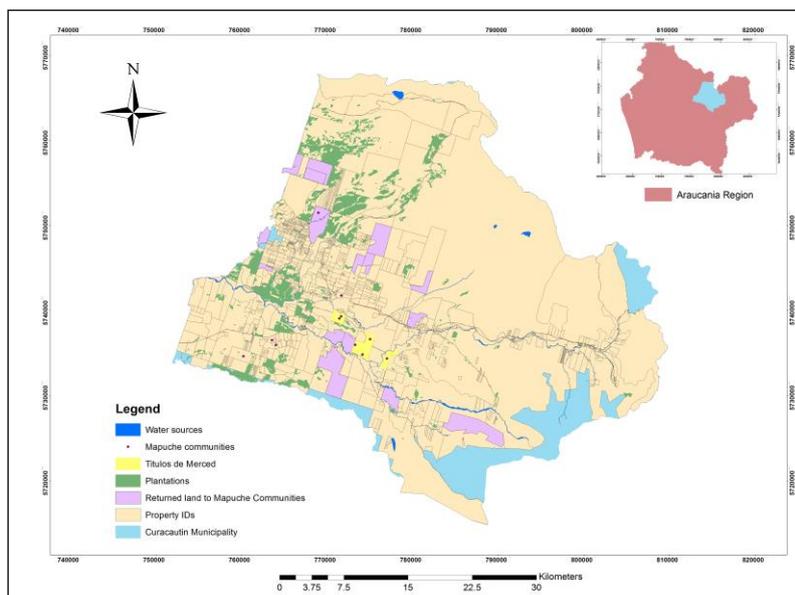


Figure 1: Map of Curacautin Municipality, Araucania Region, Chile.

I would like to add that most of the communities were very excited of this work, and were eager to collaborate participating in the interviews, but as well, inviting me to their traditional ceremonies and meetings. In doing so, I was invited to two of the most important ceremonies in the Mapuche culture, one of them is the *Nguillatun* and the other is the *We Tripantu*. The *We Tripantu* (Mapudungun tr: new sunrise) is the conclusion of the Mapuche New Year that takes place between June 21 and June 24 in the Gregorian calendar.

Hopefully, from this collaboration, the main product will be a document explaining in lay terms the results of this research. This document will be distributed among the research collaborators, in the different communities where interviews took place.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are plans to continue this work, in collaboration with the ATM, and with some alliances that I was able to establish during the fieldwork. One of these alliances is with a professor from the University of Valparaiso, who also collaborates with the ATM. Our plan is to create a Mapuche NGO, in order to be a more structured organization, and thus be able to apply for funding to keep supporting the needs of Mapuche communities, and the conservation of natural resources they depend on.

After I graduate from the PhD program, I would like to apply for a postdoctoral position before I go back to Chile. For this position, I would like to move to a different country in Europe, and apply for a position in the Forest Management and Development (ForDev) Group (<http://www.fordev.ethz.ch>), from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH). Although ForDev is dedicated to advancing the understanding of the links between Forests, Trees and Livelihoods in tropical landscapes, the group is eager to start doing research in South American Ecosystems. Moreover, the group conducts inter- and transdisciplinary research that enables better integration between social, economic, ecological and political processes. This will allow me to learn new tools such as the companion modelling approach (ComMod). The importance given to field work in this approach leads to expectations regarding tangible effects at the sites of research. Depending on the experiences and tools used, the outputs could be of three kinds: the modification of perceptions, of behaviours, or of actions. This represents a great opportunity to advance knowledge on conservation strategies in Chile.

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

In addition to the outcomes described above, this project will consider the following deliverables:

- a) Publishing three manuscripts in peer review journals, either in English such as, Journal of Environmental Management, and Journal of Latin American Studies, or in Spanish, some potential journals are Chungara: Revista de Antropología Chilena, and Polis: Revista Latinoamericana.
- b) Presenting in at least two conferences or seminars related to the issues associated to land tenure, governance of natural resources, and/or adaptation to climate change in the Latin American context. I have already presented some preliminary results at the 4th Colloquium of Chilean Researcher in Canada (January 20-21, 2016) in Montreal, Canada. I have been accepted to be a panellist in the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association 2017 Conference (June 22 to 24, 2017), to be held in Vancouver, Canada. Finally, I have submitted an abstract for the 40th Annual Conference of the Society of Ethnobiology in Montreal, Canada (May 10-13, 2017).

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

Due to the delay of my comprehensive exam, I had to delay as well, the start of my fieldwork. Therefore, instead of starting to use the grant in early March 2016 I started by the end of March. I anticipated a period of 6 months, but in the end it was five months and a half. As I had to come back to Vancouver for the start of the new year in September 2016. Although there was a delay at the beginning of the project, it did not affect considerably the length 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
Air ticket	767	767	0	
Housing	2454	1768.22	685.78	Being actually in the field, it was easier to find a place that was cheaper than looking from overseas on the Internet.
Food	1227	1876.88	-649.88	Food was more expensive than

				expected. Prices were as high as the prices in Vancouver, Canada. However, I was able to accommodate the budget accordingly, as other items were cheaper than anticipated
Transport	750	1032.96	-282.96	Transportations included everyday rides on public transportation, within the city of Temuco, and occasional rides to other big cities, to the north and south of Temuco. As well, longer trips to the Capital of the Country, Santiago.
Equipment	675	392.04	282.96	As recommended by the committee, I bought a cheaper model, the Nikon D3300, which was actually pretty good despite the price. It allowed me to capture HD Videos, as well as high quality pictures. That will be share through the website.
Health insurance	230	265.90	-35.9	Instead of the basic insurance, I bought the Package Plus without cancellation /without interruption, which was slightly better, but not that expensive.
Total	6103	6103	0	

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

One of the important next steps is sharing the results of the research with the communities that participated in project, particularly because it will support their land claims against private owner, including settlers, forest companies, and lately hydro companies. The success of their claims, in turn will benefit the conservation of forest ecosystems.

Another important step, is to produce the policy paper, and the report with the recommendations, to be shared widely, particularly with policy decision-makers, as I mentioned above, especially those working on the extension of Decree 701, and the evaluation of Indigenous Law 19,253.

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?

I haven't used it yet, but I will be using it for the conferences that are coming up this year. As well, the logo will be used in the website where the results of the research will be showcased.

Also, the consent form used during the interviews with the different collaborators, states that "This research study is being partially funded by the Rufford Foundation through its Small Grants for Nature Conservation."

Rufford Foundation will also be acknowledged in the scientific papers that will be prepared, after data analysis is done.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to acknowledge The Rufford Foundation, for the tremendous contribution it is doing towards nature conservation globally, and for making this kind of research possible. Otherwise, it could have been impossible, as funding opportunities are getting more and scarcer, especially for young researchers.

I am deeply thankful and look forward to keep working and collaborating with The Foundation.