

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	Eliot Logan-Hines
Project title	Community Based Wildlife Monitoring and Management in Napo, Ecuador
RSG reference	17732-2
Reporting period	August 2015 – August 2016
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	eliot@runa.org
Date of this report	04/09/2016

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
Train community members to in camera trap and sampling protocols.			x	Community members enthusiastically participated in camera trap surveys and took on increasing roles in planning surveys and managing data.
Create community conservation committees		x		This activity is scheduled for November 2016.
Create community management plans			x	Three integrated community management plans were created. Wildlife surveys were conducted in two of them. (Please see attached management plans)
Determine presence and absence of keystone species.			x	Camera traps recorded the presence of jaguar, puma, ocelot, collared peccary and white-lipped peccary and tapir within community forests. Their presence underscored the importance of community forests towards conservation.

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

It was significantly more difficult than anticipated to formalise collaborations with other institutions. As an NGO one of our goals has been to facilitate better coordination between forest communities, government programs and educational institutions. We had originally planned to contract a consulting biologist (Dr Sara Alvarez) from IKIAM University to help create and implement the sampling methodology as well as to train citizen biologists to manage the camera traps and collect data. Beyond the expertise provided by Dr Alvarez we had hoped to facilitate a working relationship between indigenous communities and the University Future Research and educational opportunities. IKIAM is a newly established research university located in Tena,

Ecuador but to date has very few local students and generally has had very little interaction with local communities. While two of the citizen scientists did attend a 3-day training at IKIAM we were not able to come to a general agreement going forward with them due to cost, liability and the project's time constraints. Similarly, we had hoped to collaborate more closely with the Ecuadorian Ministry Environment to share data between our camera trap programmes and their monitoring programmes. Again we were unable to come to an agreement with them due to the difficulty of sharing data with a public entity as well as restrictions put on access to national protected areas.

This situation provided a silver lining in that it forced us to rely more heavily on our relationship with the actual community members to place and manage camera traps as well as to upload images data and to identify animals. This proved to be a success as they enthusiastically participated in the project and had a strong understanding of where to place camera traps in order to maximise capture rates. Community members were also able to do much of the photo identification themselves, however they did require significant assistance to review and tally images.

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

This project confirmed the presence of a number of threatened, large-mammal species within both community conservation areas and in mosaic habitats. Tapir, jaguar, white-lipped peccary, puma and spectacled-bear were all detected within the sampling area and is evidence that Ecuador's Socio Bosque Program is contributing to biodiversity conservation and that agroforestry mosaic systems provide habitat connectivity between larger forested areas. Surprisingly, some of the highest wildlife densities were found within 10 km of densely populated areas. In general, difficult topography seemed to correlate more with the presence of large-mammal species than distance from settled areas.

The creation of a citizen scientist programme within two communities was a second outcome of the project. A total of six community scientists were trained to use and maintain both camera traps and to use GPS units. Furthermore, all of the citizen scientists were trained to upload, identify and catalogue photos using a Google Drive spreadsheet. At the end of the project all of the citizen scientists received certificates of completion, which will greatly increase their chances of obtaining formal employment as park guards in the future. Within the communities themselves, the project generated interest, pride and awareness of local biodiversity issues. Despite their proximity to the forest many community members, especially young people had never been there before and had never seen the animals captured by the camera traps.

Thirdly, this project contributed to the creation of integrated land management plans. These plans specifically outline actions to sustainably manage both wildlife

and forest resources. In the coming months Fundación Runa will be working with community members to implement the management plan recommendations by drafting and implementing community based wildlife management policies.

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

With indigenous groups holding title to around 60% of the land in the Ecuadorian Amazon there is a significant need to provide capacity building for local management practices. This need is especially acute in areas like Napo, where high rural population densities and road penetration have led to significant amounts of overhunting. Ecuador's Socio Bosque programme has provided conservation funding for community owned forests, however there has been relatively little work has been done to build local capacity to monitor and manage wildlife populations. This project has addressed this need by training community members to monitor wildlife populations using camera traps. The camera trap surveys confirmed the presence of a number of rare species, previously thought to have been extirpated, including spectacled bear, puma, jaguar, tapir and white-lipped peccary. The presence of these species underscores the importance of community forest areas for wildlife management especially within highly fragmented ecosystems. Community members benefited economically by receiving stipends to manage the camera traps and upload GPS and camera data. As part of the training process the community biologists attended a 3-day course centered on wildlife monitoring using camera traps and transects held at IKIAM University. All six of the community biologists received a certificate of completion recognizing their successful participation in the program. Finally the communities received print and digital copies of the photos for use in local schools and for tourism promotion purposes.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In the future, community members will be trained to conduct line transect surveys in order to estimate population density of avian and primate species. Data from camera trap and transect surveys will be used to estimate population abundance and community hunting regulations will be created to prevent overhunting and ensure replicability.

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

The management plans will be presented to a variety of stakeholders in government agencies, NGOs, and other communities. Completed management plans will be published and shared with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and other stakeholder groups. The work will be shared with other indigenous groups in the Ecuadorian Amazon that are currently facing issues related to overhunting.

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

The project was implemented from September 2015 to August 2016. There was a slight delay to beginning the project due to the need to acquire the camera traps in the United States and the process of negotiating access to forest areas with community members. Beyond this the project has been run according to the proposed timescale.

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
Cameras	£4,000.00*	£3,150.00	-£850.00	Fewer cameras were needed to cover the study area.
Other equipment	£150.00	£150.00	-£0	
Consulting Biologist	£750.00	£0.0	-£750.00	See difficulties.
Citizen Scientist Stipends	£0	£1,250.00	£1,250.00	In the absence of a consulting biologist, the role of field technicians increased.
Total	£4,900.00	£4,550.00	-£450.00	
TOTAL	£750.00			

* A local exchange rate of .67 pounds sterling to dollars was used based on the exchange rate at the time of the proposal's submission.

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

The most important next steps are to continue working with the pilot communities to institute localised hunting regulations and to scale the adoption of hunting regulations to nearby communities. Beyond that we are looking to work in larger forested landscapes in Pastaza Province where there is conflict regarding hunting rights between much larger communities (100,000 - 300,000 ha). We would like to start working there to create a tradable, total allowable catch within a given landscape to ensure that communities can maintain stable wildlife populations as rural populations increase.



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?

The RSGF logo was use on community management plan reports (Please see attachments).

11. Any other comments?

I would be very interested in organising a South American regional grantees conference and to create a focus group to monitor and manage wildlife on communally titled areas. These areas are of critical importance to retaining Amazonian biodiversity.