

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	Graciela Alcántara-Salinas
Project title	Bird Conservation and Local Nahuatl Knowledge in Coetzapotitla, Veracruz, Mexico
RSG reference	17833-1
Reporting period	Final report
Amount of grant	£4800
Your email address	graas2703@gmail.com
Date of this report	20/09/16

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
Bird monitoring			x	We obtained 95 bird species so far, although bird record increases every visit.
Bird population and diversity data		x		We have data related endemic and threatened species populations. We believed that we have monitored the 85% of bird population species. But certainly it requires more effort of bird mist netting and more point counts.
To incorporate local knowledge to ornithological data 1) interviews, 2) free listing			x	We interviewed 52 people regarding bird nahuatl nomenclature. We obtained 75 nahuatl bird categories, 95 bird Spanish categories. On free listing technique we found that "tak tak" primavera", "pico real" and "cuetlanhuehe" features among the first 10 birds mentioned in the free listing.
Questionnaires		x		We have not applied the whole stock of questionnaires proposed. We just got 15 questionnaires. We need more data to ensure knowledge variation among gender and age.
Workshops			x	We achieved one workshop per month; workshops were divided in two main topics: 1) nine of them related on ecotourism and 2) three workshops related to environmental education.
The Ecotourism committee			x	We achieved the development of an ecotourism committee

				composed by 30 women and 14 men
The environmental committee			x	Four women and six men are now organised as the "environmental committee"
Ecotourism guide book		x		We have developed the enough information to create the ecotourism guide. This book is now in process

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

There is not any ecotourism project running in Coetzapotitla region that was a difficulty since people found this project hard to believe. Through the ecotourism workshops we have shown several pictures, videos, talks and interviews related to ecotourism projects. In doing this people have gained confidence on this project.

Due to the high humidity and the constant rainfall in the forest, we have been using more point counts than mist netting sampling effort.

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

- 1) In the research area 17 species are under any threatened status and three are endemic. Some examples are: bearded wood-partridge (*Dendrortyx barbatus*), sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), keel-billed toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*), olive-throated parakeet (*Eupsittula nana*), MacGillivray's warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*) and Sumichrast's wren (*Hylorchilus sumichrasti*).
- 2) We obtained very useful information about birds and the Nahuatl knowledge attached to those species; this information is a powerful tool to reinforce traditional knowledge for future generations. At the same time this information is substantial to produce the ecotourism guide with biological and cultural information for raising biocultural awareness.
- 3) This project was the baseline for running an ecotourism project 44 people, which means more than 100 people, if we include the whole nuclear family are involved in any activity related to ecotourism (souvenirs, designing educational pathways, appointing local bird guide, etc). The main activity for women has been the embroidery of local species flora and fauna (stressing birds) an activity called "Embroidering for conservation". Embroideries include Latin name attached to a small label including the following data: Spanish and nahuatl names, distribution and threatened status, RSGF and GEOBICOM

S.C. logos. This committee has been named: "Coetzapotitla Artisan Women" we have created a Facebook store page regarding this for selling embroideries. Embroidery plays an important role in the ecotourism project, as they raise the touristic offer. We believe this is an excellent initiative of ecotourism.

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

After a year of being working in Coetzapotitla we can affirm that people is confident about the ecotourism project. One of the main benefits of the project was the creation of the "Coetzapotitla Artisan Women" committee with 32 women engaged. Women have found embroidery as a development strategy; they are planning to buy a sewing machine to expand their production not just in embroideries, but also t-shirts, pencil and glasses bags, felt figures, etc. We have also gained the promotion of social-cultural cohesion.

Men have been doing transects with us while they explain nahuatl names, uses and meanings of fauna and vegetation in doing that we have chosen the potential pathways and the best views and places when the ecotourism project will start. In the future, we are planning to improve the paths and to build some cabins in order to have the enough infrastructures for ecotourism. Regarding environmental education, secondary children have received workshops for sustainable gardening to improve their diet.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Definitively yes, we consider it as a long term project as there are not any similar in the area. Actually, we must finish the ecotourism guide and look for funding to print this guide. We also, need funding to build appropriate infrastructure for ecotourism. We will continue supporting "Coetzapotitla Artisan Women" committee.

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

We have already started sharing this information by means of conferences, workshops, environmental fairs and other type of exhibitions in the Cordoba-Orizaba region. Another way of sharing results will be the ecotourism guide, a writing paper (explaining our experience and methodology of this ecotourism project), and the production of more books with cultural and biological information.

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 RSG was used for 1 year as it was planned. We are aware of breakthroughs gained during a year, but more work need to be done. The RSG time funded was the seed money to start this big 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. 1 £ sterling = 4.44 Nuevo Sol - We use the exchange rate from September 2015 (22.8)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
5 Researcher remuneration (15/per month for 12 months)	1200.00	1200.00		
5 mist nets (50 each)	250.00	250.00		
3 pairs of binoculars (75 each)	225.00	225.00		
5 bird guidebooks (45 each)	225.00	225.00		
1 printer	120.00	120.00		
Stationery (paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, large papers for workshop, ink for printer, etc.)	200.00	200.00		
Petrol (100/month per 12 months)	1200.00	1200.00		
Accommodation (40/month per 12 months)	480.00	480.00		
Meals (100/month per 12 months)	1200.00	1200.00		
TOTAL	4800.00	4800.00		We have used the whole RSGF amount

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

The next steps are in following order:

- 1) Continuing the bird monitoring, questionnaires and get more information of the traditional knowledge of birds.
- 2) Keeping ecotourism, environmental education and embroidery committees, alive and high motivated.
- 3) Keeping the training within each committee consolidated.

- 4) Looking for more funding to get the enough infrastructure (as diffusion, paths, signals, bird watching tower, etc.) neither national nor international to start the arriving of overseas and national tourists.
- 5) Get ready programs, souvenirs, costs, tours, disability feasibilities, etc.

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 we did, each workshops, environmental fairs and exhibitions in the Cordoba-Orizaba region we used the RSGF logo. Also, embroideries include a label with RSGF and GEOBICOM S.C. logos.

11. Any other comments?

We were very pleased for having this RSGF hopping Rufford will support us in the future