

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	Pedro Guillermo Mendez-Carvajal
Project title	Actual Distribution and Conservation Status of the <i>Ateles geoffroyi grisescens</i> , Darien Province, Panama
RSG reference	18309-B
Reporting period	1 year complete period
Amount of grant	£10,000
Your email address	fcprimatespanama@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 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
Confirm presence /absence of <i>A. g. grisescens</i>			x	Valley of the rio Tuirá Serranía del Maje Serranía Pirre
Habitat characterisation			x	Biodiversity, vegetation covered.
Evaluate future places for environmental education			x	Cocalito, Pucuru, Boca de Cupe, Torti, Meteti, Marea, La Palma, Garachine, Jaque, Taimiti, Cemaco, Llano Bonito and Balsa, Chucanti Nature Reserve

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

The activities were developed without any difficulty relevant to change in a relevant way the destination or availability to achieve our goals.

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

1) With our outputs we can confirm that *Ateles geoffroyi grisescens* is not anymore in the original area where it used to be, and/or where it was previously described. However, there are some physical characteristics recently discovered, mainly related to the real aspect of the animal, that bring us to avoid yet, discard the absence of this animal from Panama. There is need of more places to visit near to Colombia and Tacarcuna.

2) Habitat evaluation was important. Darien vegetation in the areas observed are mostly changing to plantain fields. Primary and secondary forest is reduced and villages are growing. Forest fires have been occurring in several areas without control, and several amount of biodiversity have been lost. Most of the areas near the villages are absence of *Ateles*, but howlers remain in some, and tamarins.

3) Visits to the communities were important to identify potential places to re-visit for educational talks and distribute educational material, help for school and community cooperation for future projects in the areas.

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

Communities were cooperative and important part of our trips. Benefits from our projects were in terms of income as field assistants, helpers, and cooks, for renting equipment or as guides.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. As our policy is once we visit a place, we start a long-term project in the area and settle environmental education (talks, dynamics, and community projects), we will continue visiting the areas. The idea will be to mitigate deforestation, implement reforestation and forest connection by using living fences. Environmental education and educational material will be distributed in future.

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

Part of the results obtained will be published in a documentary, kindly produced by Conserv-action and NatExplorers, but also we have been published together our first presentation in the XX Mesoamerican Congress for the Biology and Conservation (IV Mesoamerican Primates Symposium), organized in Belize for FCPP. A scientific article will be published soon as possible.

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

We did not cover some other areas in Tacarcuna mountain chain, due to political difficulties, lack of permission with the frontier authority in Panama. We will try to go to complete the province of Darien and write a complete distribution or absence map. We do not know if Rufford Grants will accept similar proposal but less money, with the idea to cover other areas that were not previously listed in our research programme.

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

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Specialist guides	1,500	1,500	0	Security equipment
Transportation (5) trips Gas, car rented, horses, Local guides.	3,000	3,000	0	We received help with one of the boats, so the amount was less
Food/logistic/equipment	4,800	4,800	0	Food
Educational material t-shirts, posters, bookmarks, professional designer	400	400	0	We added educational material following examiner suggestions
International and national paper work, permissions, villages	300	300	0	Including local helpers
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	0	

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

Next step will be to keep in communication with the villages, with the environmental authority from that area, and eventually visit the Ministry or Environment. Keep using camera traps from canopy, and obtain support for a reforestation plan with native trees. Extra effort for surveys in other places near other already visited.

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, RSG has publicity by newsletter, paints, picture, newspapers, and presentations in York, Durham United Kingdom, Chicago, Belize, and Panama. In the memories of the IV Mesoamerican Symposium also when it is ready, this material will be published in a kind of book.