

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. 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	Andrea E. Izquierdo
Project title	Implications of changes in demographic and land-use patterns on the biodiversity of Atlantic Forest in Misiones, Argentina
RSG reference	Paula Campanello, Norma Hilgert and Christine Padoch
Reporting period	August 2008 – July 2009
Amount of grant	£ 6000
Your email address	aeizquierdo@gmail.com
Date of this report	5th April 2010

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
To understand the interactions among patterns of human demography, land-use and biodiversity			X	Main objective that include previous and later phases. The previous phase of the project included basic research on the demographic dynamics and their effect on land-use practices (Landsat images analysis). The impact of land-use change on the biodiversity was documented with the field sample reported here. Finally, I used these information as a basis for developing future scenarios for the province
To compare richness and relative abundance of ants and birds in the main land-covers of Misiones, Argentina.			X	
To transfer the results to representatives from the provincial and local governments, local NGOs, and local communities, and lead a working group on the development of future scenarios.			X	

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

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

The main outcomes of my project were: A) three scientific publications; B) a PhD thesis; and C) an interdisciplinary workshop based in the utilization of the results for local expectations.

A) The demographic and land-use patterns analysis was published in the open access Ecology & Society (<http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol13/iss2/art3/>). The other two articles were submitted to two international peer-reviewed scientific journals reporting, in one case, how the changes in land-use affect the distribution of the richness and relative abundance of species with different ecological characteristics and, in the other, the future scenarios developed in base all studied factors.

B) My PhD thesis will be presented in May 2010. The thesis, in addition to being a part of my professional development, has been a phase important to relate the results of the different phase from the project and to summarize recommendations that help to improve conservation and land-use policy.

C) Between 19th and 27th June 2009, I led a workshop for transferring the results from the project. The workshop was part of an international course organized by my working team. The results were shared among the participants: park rangers, technicians, NGOs and private companies (forestalls) personal, stakeholders and investigators. They used that information as database to develop own projects to solve problematic of its interest.

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

The local community was involved in all phases of the project. Given the geographic scale of the study area (i.e. the Province of Misiones), I interacted with local people, governmental and nongovernmental personnel, as well as local people and private sector employees who live or work near sampling sites. The main way that they have benefited was a workshop described previously.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I will continue working in Atlantic Forest of Misiones in a project about ecosystem services. The results of my previous work (reported here) showed that the loss of native forest in Misiones is caused by a complex socio-economic process. Beyond the obvious short term impacts and potential long term effects of such changes, the economic consequences of the loss of these vital ecosystem services are still unknown. For that reason, I will continue my work in the area of the economic ecology. Specifically, I will identify and value ecosystem services (ES) of Atlantic Forest. The information of my research was the base for to generate a payment for ecosystem services on private lands by national NGOs.

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

I shared the results with others in many ways (i.e. published information and workshop). In addition, I continue working in the area and interacting with representatives from the provincial and local governments, local NGOs, and local communities. The results are at the disposal of any person or institution that requires its.

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

RSG was used over solicited period: between September and December of 2008.

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
Salaries/field staff and assistants	1526	1526		
Field equipment	300	300		
Supplies and materials	630	630		
Repairs and maintenance	1350	1350		
Food/per diems	1350	1350		
Other	800	800		
Total	5956	5956		There were some differences between the budgeted and finally used in the items of field equipments, suppliers and maintenance. The funds were re-distributed between those categories, and generally, the budget was respected in amounts and categories

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

I believe that the important next steps will be an effective way to improve the decision-making process and conservation efforts in the region. I will make a special effort to improve the communications with locals as well as governmental and nongovernmental personnel, and researchers to promote the development of effective land-use plans and conservation activities in the region.

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 included the RSGF logo in oral presentations of the results in Congress, Conferences and the workshop. In addition, I included RSGF acknowledgments in scientific publications