

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	Igor Berkunsky
Project title	Blue-throated Macaw Conservation Project: increasing the availability of nest sites. Bolivia
RSG reference	90.05.09
Reporting period	Aug 2009- Mar 2010
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	igorberkunsky@yahoo.com.ar
Date of this report	March 4 th 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 increase the probabilities of nesting success			✓	Breeding attempts in nest boxes have better results than in natural cavities.
To compare the effectiveness of the use of artificial nests.		✓		The number of occupied nest boxes was lower than we expected. Most of analysis could not be performed.
To develop a concrete action to promote the viability of this macaw species.			✓	We increased the number of available cavities. Macaws accepted the nest boxes.

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

Nest boxes are a perfect place for bees. We have bees in almost half of our nest boxes. After trying different options, we find that vapoona strips were the best solution to keep the bees out of the cage.

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

- 1) Macaws accept wooden and PVC nest boxes.
- 2) Breeding attempts of blue-throated macaws in nest boxes seem to be more successful than nests in natural cavities (though sample size still low).
- 3) Other species have used the nest boxes, confirming that the availability of good quality cavities is low.

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

In each step of the project local people were involved. Local people helped us to build the nest boxes and they were trained to monitor blue-throated macaws. During fieldwork they were totally involved in data collection. In each study site we liaised with local people through the non-formal workshops.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I am planning to continue working on this species with emphasis on its habitat use and movements. The World Parrot Trust has developed a conservation project for this species, and they will monitor all the nest boxes we have set up during the last 2 years.

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

We are working on a scientific publication about the success on the use of nest boxes as a conservation tool for macaws. We also have an article that will be published in the World Parrot Trust magazine's (*Psittascene*). I was invited to participate in a round table discussion about parrot conservation at the next International Ornithological Congress (Brasil, August 2010). Local newspaper (*La Palabra*) and FM radio has covered our project. In this way both national and international researchers can know about our work helping the macaws.

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

All the RSG funding was used during the fieldwork. Fieldwork started in August 2009 and finished in February 2010, 1 month earlier than expected. As we were working on nesting ecology of a wild macaw, the timescale fitted pretty well with the anticipated duration.

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
Nest design and construction	£2,700	£3,175	£475	
Nest distribution in the field	£2,000	£1,848	-£152	
Nest monitoring	£4,500	£5,655	£1,155	
Final reports and articles	£200	£135	-£65	
Salaries	£3,250	£3,250	0	
Total	£12,650	£14,063	£1,413	The World Parrot Trust has covered this difference

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

Now it will be important to determine the effective area of occupation of the blue-throated macaws. A research project using satellite tags should be carried out. To conserve blue-throated macaw, it is only possible after understanding of the local movements and habitat use.

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?

In each of the activities of the project, I used the RSGF logo. During the project, I have published a poster using RSGF logo which has been distributed at a local level. We acknowledged RSGF on our papers and articles.