

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 | Micaela Camino |
| Project title | Conserving the last Chacoan peccaries and their habitats as a strategy for conserving the Dry Chaco |
| RSG reference | |
| Reporting period | October 2016 – October 2017 |
| Amount of grant | 5,000 £ |
| Your email address | micaela_camino@hotmail.com ; micaela.camino@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 1 st October 2018 |

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 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| Particular Objectives | | | | |
| Particular Objective 1: To find and apply an efficient monitoring system of Chacoan peccary's status and population trends | | | | From September 2016 until May 2017 we applied: (1) the locally-based monitoring system with local participants gathering data and participating of monthly meetings and training, (2) transects and (3) camera-trapping monitoring. We found that the locally-based monitoring was more efficient for detecting the species but more time demanding. Camera trapping provides lower detection probabilities but is the most efficient monitoring method in terms of time and effort. |
| Particular Objective 2: To develop a communication, educational and awareness programme conducted by local people for local people; focused on conserving the Chacoan peccary and its habitats | | | | From September 2016 to January 2017, we worked with local people in developing educational material for delivering inside the working area. We met and discussed the material. During this period we also helped one local participant in preparing a public presentation in power point. Then, we did public presentations, mainly in schools. We delivered the material. The local participant's presentation was performed in 12 local schools. Members of the technical team also did presentations and activities with children and teenagers in other 26 local schools. |
| Particular Objective 3: To evaluate the implemented actions in their capacity to: (i) change local perceptions and attitudes towards conservation, (ii) increase local capacities | | | | The communication, education and awareness programme and the locally-based monitoring system are proper methods for changing local perceptions and capacities. |

| General Objectives | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| General Objective 1: To strengthen and build local capacities. | | | | This objective was transversal to all the activities we developed. Local participants: (i) helped in incorporating local perspectives into the project and in gaining a better understanding of local ideas and perceptions; (ii) participated of training and meetings of the locally-based monitoring and in the (iii) elaboration of educational materials. I do not consider a 100% success in this objective achievement because we expected that nine local inhabitants would learn how to manage the project's budget and how to analyse data. And this did not happen. 90% achieved. |
| General Objective 2: To provide information about the Chacoan peccary | | | | Our main efforts were inside the working area, where our success was higher than expected. Outside the working area, we did not achieve our objectives. We visited two national radios that are very popular (Radio Nacional and Futurock) but we did not visit TV shows and we only met with 3 policy makers. 90% achieved. |
| General Objective 3: To apply and evaluate actions to monitor and conserve the Chacoan peccary | | | | |
| General Objective 4: To raise awareness on the Dry Chaco and the Chacoan peccary | | | | We achieved this objective but this needs further efforts, there is a lot to do! |

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

Unforeseen Difficulties:

- (1) The political, social and economic crises that started in Argentina during the project difficulted the participation of local people because:
 - a. In the middle of the project, local participants did not receive their salaries any more. These salaries came from the National Office of Employment and Social Security and stopped without previous notice.

Most local participants decided to continue working with us but it was difficult for them.

- b. The area where we worked is poor and local people had to put more effort in finding temporary jobs or in selling their cattle.
- (2) One of the field technicians fell off the motorcycle and broke a leg. It was serious. Although he recovered well, we had to continue without an important member of our team and we had to travel more kilometres than expected to cover areas that Ezequiel was going to survey.
- (3) I had personal issues that impeded me to deliver the final report on time (my father got sick when the project was almost done).

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

1. We created unique educational material. Generated by local people, for local people.
2. We found that the locally-based monitoring system not only provides important information regarding an EDGE species but also showed to be a useful tool to increase local capacities.
3. We have a base-line for monitoring the endangered and unique Chacoan peccary.

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

Local inhabitants of this area are mestizos *Criollos* and indigenous *Wichis* that inhabit rural remote areas and have subsistence economies. They have insecure land-tenure and are usually excluded from national and provincial decisions over their own territories and resources.

Local people were active participants of the project. By increasing local capacities and giving value to local people's knowledge we increase conservation opportunities. Local people that participated of the different activities of the project increased their conservation, working and communication capacities. They learnt how to use GPS and computer, how to read satellite images, how to transmit ideas in paper and generate educational materials. One participant also learnt how to use power point and prepare and perform a public presentation to disseminate knowledge and ideas.

Perhaps more important, in all the activities of the project, we tried to work horizontally with local people. Thus, we not only taught local participants, but we also learned from them. We interchanged knowledge. We incorporated their knowledge in the project. And we showed them that their local and traditional knowledge is very important and unique and that we considered that they should be proud of what they know. Thus, they not only gained tools to transmit their knowledge but also found that "white people" also value who they are. And local participants felt proud of their cultural and natural richness.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. After October 2017 we continued with the activities at local schools and delivering the generated educational materials. We have also been generating material to increase awareness outside the working area, focusing on the Chacoan peccary and on the problems of habitat loss in the dry chaco. Thus, we have taken photos and videos and we are editing the material to disseminate it in different platforms. We are also collaborating in research for understanding the causes of the decrease of suitable habitats for the Chacoan peccary. Finally, I am writing scientific articles to report results regarding:

- I. local perceptions of wildlife;
- II. effectiveness of the different monitoring systems;
- III. changes in the Chacoan peccary's occupancy status and factors associated with these changes;
- IV. Chacoan peccary's habitat selection.

In the near future I will write reports for policy makers and meet with them to deliver the material; monitor the presence of the species in a larger area to compare results with a previous survey; have a 1-year survey of the species in the working area using the locally-based method, to keep on monitoring the status of the species; continue with activities with children at local schools and delivering the educational materials. We will also disseminate the photos and videos in different media.

In the long-term we expect to work with policy makers and local communities to implement a conservation landscape and protect the Chacoan peccaries and their habitats. We also expect to help local communities in to sustainably use of wildlife species, increasing their capacities and monitoring results.

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

- Scientific articles (four);
- Reports to policy makers (two);
- Meeting with policy-makers (six);
- Continue delivering educational material locally;
- Doing activities in local schools;
- Dissemination of pictures and videos in different media.

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 started in October 2016 and we finished our fieldwork in September 2017. Monitoring of the species ended in May 2017, earlier than planned, because the economic crises raised the prices higher than expected while one member of our team had to leave the field due a motorcycle accident. Still, our field effort was enough to achieve our objectives and I consider our results very interesting.

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.

When we applied for the Rufford Small Grant one sterling pound was 19 Argentinean pesos in average. When the project ended, one sterling pound was equivalent to 24 Argentinean pesos. Argentinean prices raise speculatively, especially in remote areas. Prices increased more than expected during the project.

| Item | Budgeted Amount | Actual Amount | Difference | Comments |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| Fuel for local travel within the area (litres) | 1635 | 1721 | 85 | Ponds requested to the Rufford Small Grant: 1200. We did more kilometres than expected because one member of the team had to leave the field. |
| Food and drinkable water during field surveys, workshops and meetings | 1157 | 1428 | 271 | Ponds requested to the Rufford Small Grant: 501, 54. The prices of food and water raised exaggeratedly |
| Library materials | 643 | 586 | -57 | Ponds requested to the Rufford Small Grant: 608 |
| Printing | 2095 | 1998 | -97 | Ponds requested to the Rufford Small Grant: 1100. We printed more economical materials than planned |
| Long distance travel bus tickets -to and from Buenos Aires, the capital city (number of bus tickets: 1 to go and 1 to go back to Chaco) | 106 | 107 | 1 | Ponds requested to the Rufford Small Grant: 105,97 |
| Local coordinator | 1485 | 1621 | 136 | Ponds requested to the Rufford Small Grant: 1484, 56. We had to increase the salary of the local coordinator because he had to spend more money than expected due the economic inflation |
| GPSs, computers, camera traps, batteries, software and | | | 10 | Ponds requested to the Rufford Small Grant: 0. A set of batteries disappeared and |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|-----|----------------------|
| other equipment | | | | we had to replace it |
| Total | 7121 | 7460 | 349 | |

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

We need to keep on working with local communities for them to be the principal stakeholders in managing their territory and in conserving their resources and ecosystems. Strengthen local capacities and work in incorporating local knowledge and local cultures in our system for conserving the Chacoan peccary and its habitats. We also need to work on food and land-tenure security of indigenous and criollo communities with a sustainable perspective.

Monitoring this and other species of the dry chaco and increase knowledge on these species ecologies is key for developing more focused conservation actions. Important areas for conserving the Chacoan peccary and its habitats should be legally protected. I consider that we need new protected areas, wildlife corridors and, as expressed before, working with communities that live and use these territories.

Finally, we need also to spread information about this region and its species outside the area. Rising awareness on the dry chaco and its species needs further efforts.

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 used it in the educational material that we generated and in the presentations and activities with local people and in local schools.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Ezequiel Pintos, Paola Ruiz Diaz, Licindo Tevez, Felix Berdón & Ismael Guzmán: Field technicians.

Hugo Hernando Correa: Local coordinator.

Sara Cortez: Budget administrator and logistic assistant

Mariana Altrichter: Advisor

Micaela Camino: Director

12. Any other comments?

I am very sorry for the delay in delivering this report. I have personal reasons that explain the delay, which are related to the health of my father. I consider that this project was successful and that we had great achievements. My team and I are very thankful for receiving the funds of the Rufford Small Grant.



Left: Activities at local school. Right: Generating educational materials.



Chacoan peccary.