

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 | Alejandro Schaaf |
| Project title | The impact of logging on bird communities: recommendations for sustainable forest management in North-western Argentina |
| RSG reference | ID: 20815-2 |
| Reporting period | February 2017 – January 2018 |
| Amount of grant | £5,000 |
| Your email address | Schaaf.alejandro@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 23 February 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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Fieldwork. Bird-sampling: number of species and abundance bird community using the point-count method. | | | | On the basis of this data we are working on scientific publications which, once published, will be sent as soon as possible to add them to The Rufford Foundation web page. |
| Forest-sampling: tree species composition, diversity and the abundance in each site Forest | | | | The results of this objective contribute to the mentioned publications and to the Cebio Foundation newsletter. |
| Workshop and education. | | | | Thanks to the grant, we were able to conduct schools surveys, school talks/lectures and to participate in science fairs. |
| Delineate management guidelines based on the requirements of woodpeckers | | | | The results were emphasised by the implementation of management plans. Therefore, now we must coordinate with the foresters for them to comply with the established. |

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

Difficulties were only climatic since the area selected has a period of intense rainfall during the summer. Therefore, we were delayed in obtaining some data although we finally manage to finish with the bird and plant sampling.

We also had some trouble with the surveys in primary public schools since we were requested for some burdensome bureaucratic procedures to obtain a permit. We finally decided to visit other schools in order to meet our goals.

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

To obtain information about bird biodiversity and abundance in sites with and without forestry use. To our knowledge, this information is new to the region since there are no similar studies reported for the Piedmont forests. We found large birds to be more affected by forestry and that tree nesting bird species decrease in sites subjected to forestry due to a reduction in the number of available cavities.

We were able to establish key species for conservation and indicator species of forests condition. These indicator species and all the information will be provided to rangers and managers for future management plans.

All the information will be available in the scientific papers which will be published shortly as well as in the Cebio Foundation's web page to make it accessible to everybody. Moreover, public schools and other institutions have a better knowledge of our work and biodiversity conservation.

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

The study of the forest and its associated biodiversity (birds in this study) gives the forests more value. Thus, the community will benefit from a sustainable forest management. We cannot forget all the people living close to the forests who largely depend on the forest resources such as meat or firewood. On the other hand, schools and teachers will have all the information and tools about forests and its biodiversity to use in education.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, a number of issues had yet to be tackled such as the study of other vertebrate groups as well as more direct proposals for conservation such as the use of nest boxes for birds in order to increase the availability of nesting sites. In the future and working together with the government, we want to make handbooks available for all schools.

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

Scientific papers, scientific meetings, schools and workshops open to all public. We are also planning to work with researchers from different areas. This allows for knowledge sharing and the widening of projects.

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 from January 2017 to February 2018.

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 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Fuel for fieldwork and workshop | 1100 | 1300 | - 200 | |
| Field equipment and expenses | 2760 | 2900 | -140 | |
| Computer - printer + Infostat software License | 1030 | 1030 | | |
| Poster and Education material | 110 | 140 | - 30 | |
| TOTAL | 5000 | 5120 | | Cost overruns were covered by other grants from the working team. |

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

The next step is to create areas or sites inside the forestry companies with no intervention. Moreover, we want all logging activities outside these areas to be sustainable. This is a major and long-term challenge which will be achieved together with companies, government agencies, and researchers. Moreover, we want to include species other than birds which are important for conservation.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

We used the RF logo in the poster we presented at a scientific meeting and in all of the school talks. We also used the logo on the website and all of the reports we made of the project. Additionally, we acknowledged the financial support of RSGF in the scientific papers.

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

- Ever Tallei** - bird watching experience in the northwestern forests of Argentina.
- Constanza Vivanco** - Working with interactions between woodpecker and tree species.
- Estefania Ruiz** - inventory forest report.
- Analia Benavidez** - research: foraging ecology and abundance of Parrot in the Piedmont Forests of Argentina.
- Rafael Teran** - Park ranger. He works for the Calilegua National Park. He collaborated with the fieldwork and provided information about the forest and the local bird species.

Alejandro Torres and **Sergio Torres**, are Forest Engineers. They were helping us with data gathering and the access to different working sites.

12. Any other comments?

Because of the lack of scientific and technical information, these forests don't have schemes of sustainable management focused on the maintenance of biodiversity and forest use. Therefore, RSG has made an important contribution to this project. We hope that future founding from the will contribute to the preservation of these forests and their biodiversity.