

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. 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. 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	Michael Gilmore
Project title	Using Participatory Mapping as a Tool for Nature Conservation in Maijuna Traditional Lands
RSG reference	
Reporting period	February 25, 2008-April 30, 2009
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	mgilmor1@gmail.com
Date of this report	June 11, 2009

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
Conduct participatory mapping field work in all four Maijuna communities			X	Meetings were held in all four Maijuna communities where they sketched large-scale maps of their present and traditional lands indicating both biologically and culturally significant sites. All of the mapped sites were then visited and their coordinates were fixed using GPS units. During site visits, important biological, historical, and cultural information was also documented.
Develop a GIS database to analyze and spatially represent the data collected during field work		X		All data collected during the above-mentioned community meetings and site visits has been downloaded into a GIS database. Analysis of this data is ongoing and it is anticipated that this portion of the project will be completed by June 2009.
Present finalized maps and GIS database to Maijuna leaders during their annual inter-community congress		X		Preliminary maps and the partially completed GIS database have been presented to Maijuna leaders and they provided valuable feedback. Finalized maps and the completed GIS database will be presented to Maijuna leaders during their next annual inter-community congress which will take place in the Maijuna community of Sucusari from July 17-19, 2009.
Develop a plan to use the maps for making official land claims and in the creation of a protected area		X		The Maijuna have been working closely with the Regional Government of the Peruvian Amazon for the past year on a proposal to designate their traditional lands as an official regional conservation area which would formally protect their ancestral lands, an area containing 300,000 hectares of lowland Amazonian rain forest. The finalized maps and the completed GIS database from this project will be given to the Regional Government of the Peruvian Amazon in July of 2009 for use in establishing the boundaries of this proposed protected area and

				ultimately in making the case for its establishment as the maps show traditional Maijuna use and occupancy of this area. It is anticipated that the proposed Maijuna protected area will be established within the next two years.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The only unforeseen difficulties that arose during this project have to do with the length of time required to complete the participatory mapping field work in all four Maijuna communities. This took much longer than expected and was also much more physically and mentally demanding than anticipated. These issues were tackled by spending longer times in the field than expected which paid off as the participatory mapping field work was ultimately completed.

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

The three most important outcomes of this project are as follows:

1. The maps and GIS database produced via this project will be used by the Regional Government of the Peruvian Amazon to push for the establishment of a Maijuna protected area. If successful, this protected area will formally protect 300,000 hectares of Maijuna traditional land, an area of immense biological and cultural significance.
2. Maijuna traditional knowledge regarding the biologically and culturally significant sites in their traditional lands was documented by completing the participatory mapping exercises in all four communities. The Maijuna have determined that they would like to use this information in future efforts to conserve their biocultural resources. For example, the Maijuna are planning to use the maps in their schools to teach their children Maijuna traditional knowledge which is in grave danger of being irreversibly lost.
3. Dozens of Maijuna individuals in all four Maijuna communities were trained in participatory mapping techniques and in using GPS technologies which is critically important given that these techniques will continue to be used in the protection and management of the proposed Maijuna protected area. In addition, it is envisioned that the Maijuna could also be called upon by the Regional Government of the Peruvian Amazon to participate in workshops on participatory mapping methodologies ultimately disseminating their knowledge and skills to other communities in the region that are undergoing similar challenges.

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

Given that this is a community-based conservation project, the Maijuna communities have been involved in both the development and implementation of this project from step one. Dozens of Maijuna individuals from all four Maijuna communities have been trained in participatory mapping techniques and in the use of GPS technologies, skills that will be important to them as they continue to push for the conservation of their biocultural resources. Ultimately though, Maijuna communities

have benefited from participating in this project because the maps and GIS database produced will be used by the Regional Government of the Peruvian Amazon to push for the establishment of a Maijuna protected area which, if successfully established, will formally protect Maijuna ancestral lands.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, I have plans to continue my work with the Maijuna by developing community-based conservation projects ultimately helping to protect Maijuna lands and their biocultural resources.

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

I have already given seven presentations about this research to a variety of audiences and institutions (see my answer to question 10). In addition to these research seminars I am currently working on two peer reviewed publications where I will be sharing the results of this project with the broader scientific community. Most importantly however, as previously stated, the finalized maps and the completed GIS database from this project will be given to the Regional Government of the Peruvian Amazon in July of 2009 for use in establishing the proposed Maijuna protected area.

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

The RSG was used from February 25, 2008-April 30, 2009 which was longer than the anticipated length of the project which was February-September, 2008. The discrepancy that exists between the actual lengths of the project versus its anticipated length has to do with the fact that the participatory mapping field work in the Maijuna communities took much longer than expected.

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.

* Average exchange rate: £ 1 = \$1.50 US = 4.5 Peruvian Sole

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Four round-trip plane tickets	£2,000	£1,900	-£100	The plane tickets were slightly cheaper than originally anticipated.
Boat travel within the Peruvian Amazon	£600	£800	+£200	This difference exists because the length of time required to complete the project was longer than anticipated.
Additional transportation costs	£50	£50	0	
Food and lodging: daily expenses	£1,800	£2,050	+£250	This difference exists because the length of time required to complete the project was longer than anticipated.
Materials and supplies	£75	£75	0	
Field assistants	£375	£700	+£325	This difference exists because the length of time required to complete

				the project was longer than anticipated and because we hired more individuals than anticipated.
Miscellaneous	£100	£100	0	
TOTAL	£5,000	£5,675	+£675	Again, this difference exists because the length of time required to complete the project was longer than anticipated.

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

It is absolutely critical that management plans are developed and implemented for the proposed Maijuna protected area. It is not enough to just create protected areas, on the contrary it is critically important to successfully manage those areas for the long-term maintenance of biological and cultural diversity. It is important to note that the Maijuna are pushing for the establishment of management plans for their traditional territory as they see these plans as the only way to successfully conserve their biocultural resources over the long-term.

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?

Since being awarded this grant, I have given three presentations at scientific conferences (the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers, the Society of Ethnobiology, and the Society for Economic Botany) where I formally acknowledged the fact that the RSGF was the primary financial supporter of this work. In addition, I gave four invited seminars at various institutions (the Smithsonian Institution, Miami University, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, and the San Diego Zoological Society) about this project where, again, I acknowledged the RSGF for their financial support. In addition, it is envisioned that the RSGF logo will be placed on the final maps produced via this project which will ultimately be given to both the Maijuna and the Regional Government of the Peruvian Amazon.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Rufford Foundation for awarding me a grant to complete this critically important project. Without this grant, this work would not have been completed and none of the very positive outcomes of this project would have been realized. This grant has been critical in terms of the conservation of Maijuna traditional lands, an area of immense biological and cultural significance.