

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Liza Maria Veiga
<b>Project title</b>	Ecology and conservation of the Critically Endangered ka'apor capuchin monkey ( <i>Cebus kaapori</i> ) in the Brazilian Amazon.
<b>RSG reference</b>	22.10.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	2010/2011
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:lizaveiga@yahoo.co.uk">lizaveiga@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	8 August 2011

**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
Document distributional patterns of remnant populations of Ka'apor capuchin monkeys in Tucuquí		X		Surveys undertaken in the area prior to and during the study showed that the species merits its Critically Endangered conservation status, only three groups were found during extensive surveys undertaken in the region.
Provide the first data on the behaviour and ecology of the species		X		We obtained and present here, the first data on the ecology and behaviour of the species. A group of nine monkeys was monitored over a period of 6 months in Tucuquí in south-eastern Brazilian Amazonia. As in other species of untufted capuchins, the group was highly frugivorous, the vast majority of diet made up of ripe fruit pulp (53.6%) followed by arthropods (12.2%) and seeds (7.6%). Individuals spent most of their time moving (47.4%), this was the only behaviour with a significant difference among study months ( $p = 0.011$ ) and a strong relationship was observed between fruit consumption and distance travelled ( $p = 0.0002$ ). The group used a total area of 62.5 ha during the study period. The average daily path of the troop was 2,173 m ( $\pm 400$ m).
Raise local and international awareness of the critically endangered status of Ka'apor capuchin monkeys			X	Information about the project was disseminated to staff of the hydroelectric dam company, at national congresses and will be included in information available conservation status for national and international lists. We are currently preparing articles with the data collected during the fieldwork.
Train young biologists to undertake research in Brazil			X	A Masters dissertation was supervised and completed during the period of the grant.

Support the development of effective conservation strategies for this species and the habitat it inhabits			X	Information about the species habitat preferences, diet, use of space, grouping patterns, social behaviour and degree of flexibility are vital to be able to plan conservation programmes and manage remaining populations. The knowledge gained from this study combined with data gained on distributional patterns of remnant groups will be fed into models to test the viability of populations in different contexts and used in Conservation Action Plans for the species.
Record the vocalizations of <i>Cebus kaapori</i> to categorize and produce sonograms of the different types			X	Vocalisations are among the main forms of communication among arboreal primates, the poor visibility in dense forests visual communication over long distances. A total of x different vocalisations were recorded for the study group during data collection. Our data reveals a complex vocal repertoire for the study group and individuals varied in their emissions of the same vocalisation.

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

One of the main things we discovered in the Ka'apor Capuchin Monkey Project is just how challenging it is trying to study an unknown primate species in an area where there is intense pressure on both the primate and the forest it inhabits! The project has had more than its fair share ups and downs! After several months undertaking surveys we only managed to locate three groups. Unfortunately, our original plan to create a privately owned reserve is no longer possible. The landowner changed his mind about creating a private reserve, deciding instead that the area is just too important as a source of income to leave "unused" and has already started cutting the forest down. We were all greatly saddened by this decision but were completely powerless do anything about it and were only able, with the support of officials from the hydroelectric company Electrobras S.A., and backing from Brazilian state and national environmental agencies, to postpone deforestation of this small tract of land but we have no idea for how long.

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

The most important outcomes of the project were; the completion of the first study of this rare and Critically Endangered species of primate, knowledge of which will contribute directly to conservation planning; the completion of a masters dissertation; to confirm just how rare and endangered this species is and how important it is to start collecting biological material from other groups for ex-situ conservation measures.

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

While there was no explicit training for local people included within this project, the paid field assistants who accompanied the field research are actively involved in all parts of the practical field research. Through this they will learn a series of practical skills, such as the ability to measure and cut trail systems. Skills in following and monitoring of groups of Ka'apor capuchins, and the ability to identify the sex and age of individuals. They are capable of working independently and have also learned to permanently mark and measure trees. The field assistants are ex-hunters and through the project have developed a long-term respect for the forest and its animal life.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

More field studies are urgently needed with groups in other habitat types to increase knowledge of the ecological needs of *Cebus kaapori* and understand its relation with the sympatric tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*). We also need to identify where other populations are located and evaluate their degree of risk.

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

The results from this research project will be included in international publications and they will contribute directly to management plans and conservation activities within Brazil.

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

Overall the project was undertaken in the time planned.

**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	Budget	Amount spent	Comments
Local Field-guides (field assistance, trail cutting)	1365	1650	It took longer to habituate the group than anticipated
Botanist to identify plant species (food resources)	400	600	More plants were collected than estimated
Bus Tickets (Belém – Tucuruí - Belém)	750	700	
Petrol + diesel (boat)	455	1200	We used more petrol than anticipated
Field expenses (food, repellent, medicines, 70% alcohol)	2100	1780	We used less on medicines than budgeted for
Items for field (compass, measuring tape, pots, backpacks, waterproofs)	780	500	We spent less on field items than budgeted for
Office (notebooks, cartridges, paper, pens, pencils)	150	156	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>6586</b>	

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

Unfortunately, our original plan to create a privately owned reserve is no longer possible. The group of monkeys has retreated to another area but their long-term survival there is unlikely as they are outside the limits of the Tucuruí Reservoir State Reserve and the forest around them is disappearing at an alarming rate. Local people claim that Ka'apor monkeys are aggressive and attack their dogs, so in addition to losing the forest they inhabit, these monkeys are at constant risk of being hunted.

The study confirmed just how rare and at risk this species is, clearly deserving its Critically Endangered conservation status so we are currently planning a new phase to the project, to translocate the group to an area within a protected reserve and to collect biological material from other groups for ex-situ conservation measures. We also plan to extend surveys to other forest fragments to be able to estimate how many groups and individuals remain in the wild.

### References

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- Silva Jr. J.S. & Figueiredo, W.M.B. (2002) Revisão sistemática dos cuxiús, gênero *Chiropotes* Lesson, 1840 (Primates Pitheciidae). *Livro de Resumos do XO. Congresso da Sociedade Brasileira de Primatologia, Amazônia - A Última Fronteira*, Belém do Pará, p.21.
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- Vieira, I.C.G., J.M.C Silva & P.M. Toledo, (2005) Estratégias para evitar a perda de biodiversidade na Amazônia. *Estud. av. [online].* 2005, vol. 19, no. 54: 153-164.

**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?**

Acknowledgment during presentation of the fieldwork at meetings

Veiga, L.M. ; Guidorizzi, C.E. ; OLIVEIRA, S.G. ; BICCA-MARQUES, J.C. ; Silva Jr., J.S. . Ecology of the Ka'apor Capuchin (*Cebus kaapori*): preliminary observations. **Congress of the Brazilian Primatological Society, Santa Caterina, Brazil, 2011**

Sabine Garcia de Oliveira. Ecologia e repertório vocal de um grupo habituado de *Cebus kaapori* (Queiroz, 1992) na região de influência da UHE de Tucuruí – PA. Início: 2009. Fim 2011. Dissertation (Masters in Zoology) – Emilio Goeldi Museum/Federal University of Pará: Supervisor: Liza Maria Veiga

PADRÃO COMPORTAMENTAL E DIETA DE UM GRUPO DE *Cebus kaapori* (QUEIROZ, 1992) NA REGIÃO DE INFLUÊNCIA DA UHE DE TUCURUÍ-PA, OLIVEIRA, S.G. & VEIGA, L.M. Congress of the Brazilian Primatological Society, Curitiba, 2011

**11. Any other comments?**

We are extremely grateful for the financial support provided by the RSGF. It permitted the field-seasons and successfully data on the ecology, behaviour and vocalisations of a rare, shy and Critically Endangered Brazilian Amazonian primate.