

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Diego Ricardo Méndez Mojica
Project Title	Movement ecology and conservation of the King Vulture in the Andes of central Bolivia
Application ID	24763-1
Grant Amount	£5,000
Email Address	diemndez@gmail.com
Date of this Report	21/04/2019

1. 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
Tag and track King Vultures via telemetry techniques				Unforeseen difficulties influenced the normal progression of my field work and I was not able to capture and mark king vultures.
Explore and characterize the important areas for the conservation of King Vultures				The achievement of this objective depends on that of the previous one, thus I could not progress with this.
Assess sustainable alternatives for the coexistence between people and vultures				The achievement of this objective depends on that of the previous two, thus I could not progress with this.

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

A crucial unforeseen difficulty for my project was the regrettable situation caused by the bad attitude of one stakeholder related to my project. Namely, the director of the protected area ANMI "El Palmar" (the study area originally proposed to conduct my project) unilaterally decided to reduce the time the park ranger who was assisting me in the field could stay with me, and then simply decided that no park ranger could do field work with me anymore, alleging that the area had other priority activities that needed the participation of all its park rangers. I assume that the director made this decision due to the lack of "quick results", which are of course beyond any guarantee when it comes to capturing wild vultures. I have been coordinating my raptor research activities in Bolivian national protected areas since 2012 and this is the first time something like this happened. I hope such a situation will not repeat again.

This situation cost me a delay of 3 months and 17 days, period during which I had to look for another suitable study area and make all the arrangements to be able to conduct my project there. The municipal protected area "ANMI Mollepampa-Lagarpampa" of the municipality of Aiquile, department of Cochabamba (referential coordinates: Lat. -18.462217; Lon. -64.952808), was selected as the new study site because: 1) it is located at less than 15 km of the original study site, 2) most of the potential capture sites are reasonably accessible, 3) locals are interested in bird conservation in general and positively reacted to the possibility of conducting this research in their area.

The previously described delay pushed my schedule towards the rainy season, during which it is not advisable to do fieldwork, both because it is risky/difficult to access the study area and because rainy conditions are not favourable to attempt vulture captures. The pause as a consequence of the rainy season (most of January, February and March 2019) was 2 months and 21 days.

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

Since the keystone of my project is the capture and marking of king vultures and that I did not succeed in this task, I cannot, only for now, describe any relevant outcome.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

I believe that the local communities are expectant to know the results of my research and that they are convinced that its outcomes will be effectively beneficial for them. For instance, we have agreed that they will present on our collaboration and mutual activities related to my project, as well as on other bird conservation-related activities, at the X Bolivian Ornithological Congress which will be held in my hometown, Sucre, from 9th-11th October 2019.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Absolutely. I want this project to be the kick-off of a long-term vulture conservation initiative in my country and my future research will certainly build on it.

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

As I stated when I applied for the grant, I will publish an appropriate number of scientific and popular papers so that my research is widely communicated and reaches those actors that need to be reached. In this regard, I will also present my outcomes at the most pertinent number of events, starting this year, at the XI Neotropical Ornithological Congress.

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

I used the grant over 12 months and I estimate that I will need 8 additional months to achieve the objectives of my project.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Field supplies	31	31		
Fuel	62	62		
Food	1194	374	-820	
Perishable supplies	208	208		
Laboratory tests	36		-36	To be purchased.
Equipment				
GPS/GSM Transmitter (80 g) – (Movetech Telemetry) / unit / x4	2646	2800	+154	
Teflon ribbon / ft / x33 ft.	111		-111	This item was provided by my supervisor, José Sarasola; I used the difference to cover the cost of the transmitters.
Marking kit – (Maquia Ambiental) / unit / x1	424	424		
Wing tags – (Maquia Ambiental) / unit / x8	46		-46	Opposite to the transmitters, this item is not indispensable; I used the difference to cover the cost of the transmitters.
Wire mesh (23'x23') / noose carpet trap / unit / x1	223	223		
Fishing line / noose carpet trap / 300 yd. /40 lb / x1	19	19		
Total	5000	4141	-860	This amount can cover 125 field days. Should additional expenses arise, I will cover these with the cooperation of the administration of the ANMI Lagarpampa-Mollepampa.

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

They are definitely to continue with field work until the proposed objectives are achieved and the project status is rectified.

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

No, this will come later, together with the publication of results.

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

David Mendoza – He is the park ranger who assisted me in the field while working at ANMI “El Palmar” protected area.

Fabricio Claure – Biologist. He has been my assistant since I started to do field work at ANMI “Lagarpampa-Mollepampa”.

12. Any other comments?

It is beyond frustrating for me to send such a report, however I do not consider it a final one. I will persevere and I have no doubt that I will eventually succeed in the king vulture capture attempts, which will then allow the project to flow. I will keep putting my best effort on this, proceeding in full commitment to the grant agreement and for the good of the research; thus I will kindly ask you to allow me 8 additional months to finish my project.