

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	Al John C. Cabañas
Project title	Habitat Assessment, Occurrence and Distribution of Philippine Warty-pig (<i>Sus philippensis</i> , Nehring 1886) in Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas
RSG reference	24911-1
Reporting period	May 2018-June 2019
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	accabanas@up.edu.ph
Date of this report	June 27 2019

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
<p>This study hopes to establish the baseline information about the distribution, threats and habitat requirements of the Philippine warty-pig in Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas.</p>				<p>The objective to determine the distribution, threats and habitat requirements were fully achieved thus establishing baseline information about the Philippine warty-pig in Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas.</p>
<p>Population estimate - Camera trapping will take place from March-May 2018. For the estimation of population density, the researcher will deploy 20 camera traps. The camera will be set at 30 seconds video mode with one-minute intervals. Following Rowcliffe et al. (2013), the researcher will obtain the density of the species using Random Encounter Model (REM).</p>				<p>I was not able to accomplish this objective because literature and experts required numerous camera traps in order to estimate the population of large mammals using camera traps. I only managed to acquire five camera trap units and make the most out of this camera traps. Hence, I came up with the species' occurrence using camera traps. However, I am planning to continue this study for my PhD and hopefully, be able to study the Philippine warty-pig's population.</p>
<p>Survey - Questionnaire forms will be prepared and basic training on identification of local experts' questionnaire, and data form and recording techniques will be provided for the interviewers. Questionnaire data results will be stored into Database-Microsoft and processed in Microsoft Excel</p>				<p>The community survey was fully achieved because of the usual cooperation of the respondents in the local community. They were very much willing to help and very participative.</p>

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

There were some unforeseen minor complications arose during the whole duration of the project and this includes; the weather on the mountain, and the number of camera traps required for me to estimate the population of Philippine warty-pig. The extreme weather was addressed by visiting the study site/camera station per week and making sure it is still functioning and fortunately every camera trap remains functional during the whole duration of the study.

The limited number of camera traps was addressed by altering the objective on estimation of population to determining the occurrence of the Philippine warty-pig instead. Determining the occurrence is also a good information when establishing baseline data and the number of camera trap were sufficient to come up with a concluding output about the occurrence of the species in the study area.

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

This research was the first when it comes to establishing baseline information about the Philippine warty-pig in Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas. Hence the outcomes were very significant for the overall conservation success of this vulnerable species. These includes the following;

1. We were able to establish the distribution and occurrence of Philippine warty-pig in Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas. The results will be beneficial to the conservation and monitoring and to further protect the particular parts of the mountain.
2. The captured Philippine warty-pig in our camera trap was the first record of the species being captured on its natural habitat. Other photographs of the species were mostly captured in the zoo making the result of this research more significant.
3. The anecdotal human-wildlife conflict was also confirmed in this study. Results from the survey were consistent in concluding that the Philippine warty-pig is exhibiting crop raiding behaviour in the area. Hence, the local government unit are now aware on the human-wildlife conflict that is occurring in the community.

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

I conducted a capacity building (lecture-seminar) in the local communities of the barangay. Some of the participants were also the respondents of my survey. I shared several information about endemic wild pigs of the Philippines and its importance to the ecosystem. We also had our brainstorming on how to protect their crops without harming the Philippine warty-pig and came up with more concrete action plan such as putting up fences and protecting its habitat in the mountain. This event was also attended by representatives from the Local Government Unit and delegate from Southern Luzon State University, a nearby college that is also studying biodiversity in different part of the mountain.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Definitely. I will continue studying the Philippine warty-pig population and home range still using camera traps and radio telemeter. I am considering doing these important tasks for my PhD dissertation.

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

I distributed copies of my research to the environment officers that are involved in the protection Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas. I also discuss the results of my study during the lecture/seminar to the community and persuading them to share the information to the other members of the community. Furthermore, I am also preparing my research for publication. By doing this, results will be more accessible to the scientific community and to other researchers that shares the same passion and commitment to Philippine warty-pig and Mt. Banahaw.

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 Rufford Foundation grant was used during the whole duration of the study (May 2018-May 2019). I estimated finishing my research for at least a year therefore the expectations about the timeline of the project were met.

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
Fieldwork essentials Garmin GPS, Head ware, Laptop battery Camera trap, batteries, Long tape Survival kit, Trekking pants, Papers for survey, Backpack Camera traps shipping, DSLR camera, Camera traps and Backpack	2,400	2,442	+2	I budgeted my fieldwork materials at £ 2,400. However due to some unforeseen circumstances, I had to pay the customs fee of my camera traps. Every shipment that enters the Philippines are being held at the bureau of customs and I had to pay corresponding amounts for the release of the shipment.
Food allowance	500	507	+7	I conducted my fieldwork several times with the help of several guides and manpower.

				Hence, the need to adjust the amount for the food allowance. It covered breakfast, lunch, dinner and in between snacks for energy.
Transportation	100	100		During the community survey, I had to travel back and forth to the study area for two weeks. I also shouldered the transportation allowance of the guides that helped me throughout the study.
Labour (Manpower)	1,800	1,893	+93	Camera traps are prone to thief and malfunctions because of weather; hence, it is advisable to visit the study site several times to check the cameras. The study site is located at the wilderness of Mt. Banahaw hence the need to allot a huge amount of budget for the manpower and labour.
Capacity building (Lecture/Seminar)	200	110	-90	I had to adjust the budget for the capacity building for labour allowance and fortunately, the budget suffices for the venue, training kits and other materials needed for the lecture-seminar.
TOTAL	5000	5,052	+52	Local Exchange Rate 1 PHP = £ 0.0153914 1 GBP = PHP 64.9714

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

Establishing the baseline information of the Philippine warty-pig in Mt. Banahaw de Tayabas is a good start for the future studies concerning this threatened species. I am focusing on sharing the results of my study as much as possible. Hence, the publication of my results to a journal. By doing this, I will be able to distribute the new knowledge and information I acquired about this species. I will also continue to monitor the intensity of the damage this species is causing to the farmers of the community. I will also share my results to the next Rufford Small Grants Conference in my region in order to establish linkages and connections with my fellow Rufford grantees.

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?

Definitely. During the capacity building, I produced tarpaulin with the Rufford Foundation printed on it. The training kits for the participants were also printed with the logo on the materials. My presentation to the local community were also focused on the Rufford Foundation and the grant I have received that enables me to accomplish this project. During the course of the study, I keep on emphasising the importance of the Rufford Foundation whenever I talk about this project. I also persuade other wildlife enthusiasts to try applying for this prestigious grant. I will always and forever be grateful for the Rufford Foundation.

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

This study was also made possible by the assistance of the following persons;

1. Environment and Natural Resources Officers (ENRO) Tayabas

Mr. Melvin Rada- Head, ENRO Tayabas. Provide guides while conducting fieldworks on the study site.

The guides were the following;

Christian Javin

Kuya William

2. My thesis committee that monitored my thesis writing;

Prof. Judeline C. Dimalibot- my thesis adviser

Dr. Anna Pauline de Guia

Dr. Renato Vega

3. Other MS Wildlife Studies students of University of the Philippines Los Baños

Camila Meneses

Neil Jun Lobite

Kier Mitchel Pitogo

Rafael Ryno Sanchez

12. Any other comments?

I want to take this opportunity to give my sincerest thanks to the Rufford Foundation for allowing me to conduct my dream project. Without the grant, this research would not be possible, and for that, I will be forever grateful. Having this passion on the Philippine wild pigs, this grant really helped me pursue my desire in protecting them by conducting ecological studies about the species. The Philippine warty-pig is threatened because of poaching and habitat loss. I believe there are still works needed to be done for the conservation of this threatened species, but because of the Rufford Foundation, there is hope in achieving that goal of conservation. Thank you very much Rufford Foundation and I am hoping to work with you again soon.