

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	Ana Luiza Violato Espada, PhD
Project title	Logging Protected Areas: What approaches conserve forests and promote local development?
RSG reference	25271-1
Reporting period	8/20/2018 to 9/20/2019
Amount of grant	£4,994
Your email address	violatoespada@ufl.edu
Date of this report	9/25/2019

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
To collect data for a PhD research				Although it took more time than I planned, I achieved my data collection plan.
To implement participatory research methods				I applied a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach, making use of multiple methods to engage people, emphasising participation and action towards community forestry.
To organize community exchange as part of data collection and social learning process				I organised a community exchange between forest dwellers of three Brazilian Amazonian Protected Areas to emphasise collective inquiry and experimentation grounded in experience and social learning.
To analyse variations in community timber management in terms of knowledge base, decision empowerment -making, and community				Now that I am finished with my data collection, I will start my analyses and write my dissertation. It is expected to be completed in December 2020.

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

I planned to execute my data collection in 12 months, between August 2018 and July 2019. In October 2018, however, presidential Brazilian elections occurred, and the entire country was profoundly engaged in political debates. One of the candidates, Jair Bolsonaro, who, in the end was elected, was very controversial and espoused a very negative discourse about forest conservation, indigenous people, and the Amazon region. People from my research sample were very impacted by his words. I decided, with consent of my doctoral research committee, to wait until the elections passed to execute both individual and collective interviews. At that moment, we considered that data could be both biased and affected by the political moment. Thus, I delayed my timeline schedule. This delay did not cause profound problems, but it did prolong my stay in Brazil, and caused the last activity, the community exchange, to be rescheduled for September 2019, instead of July 2019.

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

Since data analysis is not finished yet, it is too early to make conclusions and suggest research implications. Nonetheless, I have some important outcomes that can be shared at this moment of my PhD research.

- A. Community timber management schemes vary among the three cases studied, although all cases have similarities: 1) they are under the same Brazilian Federal Normative Instruction N° 16/2011; 2) all cases lie in the same category of sustainable-use protected area (IUCN Category VI), the extractive reserve; 3) in all cases, community members work with more than two economically viable forest resources; 4) in all cases, communities had the government, and non- governmental organisations providing support to establish timber management in the extractive reserves at some point. On the other side, land use historical processes and local political and economic pressures had a significant influence on decision making towards timber management in terms of production arrangements and community-level participation. The way each community was involved in the decision-making processes continues influencing three dimensions of conservation efforts and community development: social, economic and environmental outcomes of the timber management in protected areas.
- B. In cases whereby community members had high levels of involvement in in decisions about how to manage forests resources for local benefits, I observed: 1) more local commitment with long-term forest use, which can promote forest conservation; 2) awareness about how to distribute timber sales revenues that can benefit more people than solely logging workers; 3) more community members participating in logging activities and forest management, which provides more autonomy and capacity to make decisions towards community forests. In the end, the participation of community members in all stages of the decision-making process (before, during and after logging activities) promoted a process of community empowerment.
- C. Capacity building via participatory research methods engaged Brazilian students, newly formed female forest engineers, and forest residents (including young people and women), generating reflection, improving social learning, and providing elements for individual and collective empowerment. Using participatory methods that I adopted based on literature review, previous non-governmental experience in Brazil (2009 to 2016), and University of Florida classes focused on communications skills, I trained Brazilian students and newly formed female forest engineers during community meetings and individual participant interviews. Furthermore, applying these participatory methods in community meetings provided local people the opportunity to reflect and discuss forest use, social benefits, and conservation.

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

My entire project was centred on local communities and forest resources use. I used

Participatory Action Research (PAR) to implement my scientific research methodology and engage local communities in several stages of this project.

First, before each community meeting I organised, I met with community leaders to plan together the logistics of the community meetings. It included the agenda and the meals we offered. An approach to get local communities more involved was to buy local food that they produce in their areas (vegetables, fruits, eggs, fish meat, cassava flour, and cakes). This strategic also helped to engage women in the process and get them participating in the community meetings. Usually, it is culturally grounded men participating in meetings, especially those about timber management, and get them deciding about logging issues.

Second, I organised six community meetings in three extractive reserves, each with around 25 community members participating in it (total estimated: 150 people). I used PAR methods to emphasise participation and action towards community timber management, forest conservation, timber management evaluation, and community empowerment. The community meetings were significant in order to rise consciousness about local people participation in decision making towards forest resources use. One community meeting was especially designed for women and forests, having only women participating on it. This meeting was requested by a community leadership, he was concerned about the low involvement of women in timber management.

Third, I also interviewed individually community members making use of different methods to get their attention, open dialogue, reflection, and transparency. The individual interviews were crucial to compare data from both a collective and individual perspectives.

Fourth, I also applied participant observation during the period I was visiting the communities as part of my data collection methodology. Some protocols involved visit logging activities. At the end, I and communities' workers discussed technical and operational aspects of timber management.

Fifth, I, with support of my institutional partners, organised a community exchange in the Extractive Reserve Verde para Sempre.

We put together community members from the three cases I studied. The goals of this activity were:

- To share and reflect on community logging experiences in protected areas;
- To discuss on decision-making processes and socio-productive arrangements for community timber management;
- To create spaces for dialogue and action that can result in individual and collective empowerment processes;
- To create spaces for strategic actions that may strengthen local governance;
- To apply participatory methodologies that will be documented so that they can be adapted to other scientific research contexts.



Figure 1. Community meeting menu planning in Extractive Reserve Verde para Sempre. The strategy of to buy local food helped to engage women in discussions about timber management.



Figure 2. Community meeting in Extractive Reserve Verde para Sempre. Open dialogue with participatory methods tools were crucial to local people evaluate benefits and constraints of timber management in protected areas.



Figure 3. Members of extractive reserves from Acre, Amazonas, and Pará states participated in the community exchange.



Left: Figure 4. Gender and forest use were discussed among the participants as well as community empowerment to protect forests resources and improve local livelihoods. Right: Figure 5. Some of the products of the community exchange were the community timber project comparison panel and principal productive activities in the extractive reserves.

The project could have benefited the local people from different ways.

- *Providing economic earning.* During my period visiting the communities, I stayed at local people houses. I paid for lodging and meals. I bought local food (family farming production) to be prepared for the community meetings. I paid for who cooked during the community meetings.
- *Rising individual and community empowerment.* Within the PAR methods, the project provided elements and conditions that could enhance local empowerment to provide more autonomy in decision-making towards forest resources use.
- *Understanding scientific research.* I worked with open dialogue and transparency, then I support the idea that local people are more able to understand the role of researchers in their places and lives.
- *Improving technical aspects of timber management.* During my visit to logging activities, I provided my impressions of technical issues that could improve timber management.

- *Sharing preliminary results in short- term.* Usually, a PhD research takes 4-5 years to be done, as the same with sharing results. With the community meetings and, particularly, the community exchange I was able to provide
- preliminary results and provide social learning across the three protected areas.



Figure 7. Visit to logging field and discussion about technical aspects of timber management in Extractive Reserve Ituxi, Amazonas State.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. I have been working with community forest management in protected areas since 2009, first as a practitioner in a non-profit organization and now as a PhD researcher. My idea is to continue work with this topic in a practice-based academic perspective, but also exploring some areas that are not too much familiar to me but increased my interest during this project, for example, gender and forests. The next step, after finished the dissertation, is to organise and facilitate a multi-stakeholder seminar to share results but also gather ideas for my post-doc. My plan is to do a post-doc related to gender and forest management in tropical protected areas.

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

Final results will be disseminated in multiple ways: publishable articles for international scientific journals, as well as for Brazilian media outlets, academic presentations such as scientific conferences, and field-based presentations with multi-stakeholder groups. Indeed, in October 2019 I will present preliminary results in the [XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019 "Forest Research and Cooperation for Sustainable Development"](#), that will take place in Brazil.

My plan to share results also includes a multi-stakeholder seminar. It would count with

the participation of community members as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations that have supported logging projects in each research site. The seminar will be a 2-day event. Day 1 will consist basically in share results, key implications for forest conservation and livelihoods improvement, public policies, and the potential contributions of this project to natural resource co-management practice. Day 2 will consist of the using of participatory methods such as working groups with guiding questions to gather information and perceptions about my results from distinct audience confronting their opinions and data in a collective space for debate.

I will use participatory methods to gather the information that will provide the basis for a guideline that I will publish about community forests enterprises (CFE) and adaptive governance in protected areas regarding community empowerment indicators and participation and transparency in the decision-making process.

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 grant was used over May 2018 to July 2019. Although the field work activities begun after August 2018, I started to use the grant to buy equipment (projector, notebook) and international airfare in May 2018. Most of the grant was used for the field works travels to remote protected areas in three states of the Brazilian Amazon. In terms of budget, the project ran according to the plan. Field work activities occurred after July 2019 were covered with complementary grants from the University of Florida and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) Fellowship Programme, as well as, with financial support from a Brazilian non-profit organization, Tropical Forest Institute.

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
International airfare	450	303	-147	I used mileage points to pay part of the airfare ticket and it reduced costs.
Domestic airfare	540	1475	+935	I travelled more than expected because of the changes in my research timescale and to participate in important meetings at the communities. Besides, airfare tickets were more expensive at the time I bought them.

Local transportation (Ground transport)	50	1136	+1086	In one particularly research site, the Extractive Reserve Chico Mendes, I had to travel more than I planned, because the families don not live next to each other. I planned to take rides and walk to their places, but it was not possible.
Local transportation (Fuel)	1110	300	-810	I planned to pay fuel for communities' boats in Extractives Reserves Ituxi and Verde para Sempre. However, in some cases, I travelled with local partners and in the other cases, the community's members gave me the ride and did not accept my payment, as their courtesy.
Per diem (lodging and meals in urban areas)	1232	1106	-126	The expenditure for lodging and meals incurred less than the budgeted amount which is because of fluctuation and inflation of market rate for products and services. Besides, I negotiated discounts in hotels.
Per diem (lodging and meals in communities)	896	74	-822	The majority of the community's members did not accept my payment. They received me in their houses understanding their acts as a support for my research.
Per diem for local field assistants	336	18	-318	The same as above.
Laptop (screen size up to 11") for travels in rural areas	220	171	-49	The expenditure for electronic equipment incurred less than the budgeted amount which is because of fluctuation and inflation of market rate for products.
Mini portable projector	160	308	+148	The expenditure for electronic equipment incurred more than the budgeted amount which is because of fluctuation and inflation of market rate for products.
Office supplies for participatory methods applied in community meetings		324	+324	I planned to get office supplies with a Brazilian non- governmental organization. However, with the current political scenario in the country, the NGO started to contain spending and it was not

				able to give me the office supplies I needed to apply the participatory methods.
Services (local people that cooked)		124	+124	In some communities, I paid for community members to prepare meals and take care of the children so mom could participate in the community meetings.
TOTAL	4994	5339	+345	PI managed the deficit with financial support from her department, SFRC at University of Florida.

Exchange rate: £1 = Brazilian Real R\$ 4.5438

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

Forest-based communities play an important role in protecting and sustaining forests around the world. This is particularly applied in remote protected areas where the government need to put a lot of efforts to protect forests against the intensification of land grabbing and deforestation for agribusiness. Decision making processes that involve and engage local people are crucial to creating commitment towards forest conservation. Sustainable timber management is indeed a strategy to both use and conserve forests resources, but not in any circumstances and any forests. Forest-based communities have the right and knowledge to decide to what use they want to do in their forests. Outsiders partners can support the decision, but not influence or decide for them because if it happens, forest conservation commitment will be threatened.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used in banners, posters, stickers that I distributed among the interviewees, tag names, T-shirts, bags, in my professional [website](#), in a short video documenting the community exchange, and PowerPoint slides. I also mentioned The Rufford Foundation in my personal social media posts. Besides, The Rufford Foundation will be acknowledged in diverse manuscripts (papers, reports, infographics, and guideline) which I will produce after finished my dissertation.

PESQUISA-AÇÃO PARTICIPATIVA DE DOUTORADO

Manejando Áreas Protegidas:
Quais abordagens para a exploração madeireira conservam florestas
e promovem o empoderamento comunitário na Amazônia?

Ana Luiza Violato Espada

PARCEIROS



Figure 8. Banner used in community meetings.



Figure 9. The Rufford Foundation logo in the community exchange banner and T-shirt.

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

Dr. Karen Kainer has a joint appointment with the School of Forest Resources and Conservation and the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, she is also a core faculty member of its Tropical Conservation and Development Program. Her research focuses on advancement and application of the ecological sciences to support conservation of neotropical ecosystems through sustainable use, focusing on applications for community-based forest management systems. Dr. Kainer supervises the doctoral project as chair advisor.

M.S. Ana Carolina Vieira is a forest engineer, specialist in Amazonian Family Farming and Agro-Environmental Development. She holds a master's degree in Amazonian Farming. Currently, she is Community Forests Program Coordinator at the Tropical Forest Institute (IFT). Through IFT, Ana provides both logistical and institutional support to the project, and also, she contributes to improvements of the methodology.

Flávia Ranara Silva is a newly formed forest engineer working with Tropical Forest Institute (IFT) to improve community forest management in the Extractive Reserve

Verde para Sempre, Pará State. Flávia works to provide logistic support to visit the communities and co-facilitation during the community meetings (collective interviews).

Lídia Pereira is a newly formed forest engineer working with Tropical Forest Institute (IFT) to improve community forest management in the Extractive Reserve Verde para Sempre, Pará State. Lídia works to provide logistic support to visit the communities and co-facilitation during the community meetings (collective interviews).

Uilian Costa de Araújo is a forest engineer, doing his master's degree at the Federal University of Acre. He works to co-facilitate the community meetings (collective interviews) in the Extractive Reserve Chico Mendes, Acre State.

Lucas Romeu is a forest engineer, doing his master's degree at the Federal University of Acre. He works to co-facilitate the community meetings (collective interviews) in the Extractive Reserve Chico Mendes, Acre State.

Adison Ferreira is a journalist working with Tropical Forest Institute (IFT). He writes news related to this project to the IFT website and social media. Some of them were:



Figure 10. Forestry masters' students, trained by the project, participating in a community meeting in Extractive Research Chico Mendes, Acre State.

<http://www.ift.org.br/2668-2/>

<http://www.ift.org.br/manejo-florestal-comunitario-na-resex-verde-para-sempre-e-objeto-de-pesquisa-2/>

<http://www.ift.org.br/representantes-do-ift-participam-de-evento-sobre-manejo-florestal-sustentavel/>

<http://www.ift.org.br/experiencias-de-manejo-sustentavel-do-ift-sao-destaques-em-evento-da-ufpa/>

<http://www.ift.org.br/manejo-madeireiro-sustentavel-e-tema-de-intercambio-comunitario-em-porto-de-moz/>

12. Any other comments?

I am **thankful** to The Rufford Foundation which made my PhD fieldwork project possible. This award has allowed me to conduct a long-term data collection in remote areas (Amazonian protected areas) with openness to apply diverse **participatory research methods**. I really appreciate this opportunity, because I could engage local communities in appropriate debate related to forest use, local livelihoods improvement, and conservation. In addition, the PAR methods allowed the participants themselves to conduct some activities which **empowered** them to lead discussions about their lives and livelihoods.



Figure 11. Two women facilitating a timber management evaluation in Extractive Reserve Verde para Sempre.