

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	Melanie Duclos Katunaric
Project title	Does the Andean Condor (<i>Vultur gryphus</i>) present genetic structure along Chile? Implications for conservation units
RSG reference	26414-1
Reporting period	November 2019
Amount of grant	4,997 pounds
Your email address	mdk.vet@gmail.com
Date of this report	25 August 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
Sample collection				We found successfully 1390 feathers from central, southern and Austral Chile
Laboratory analysis				We are still extracting DNA from feathers
Data analysis				We will do it soon
Results				

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

We had some laboratory problems: We tested several DNA extractions protocols (with feather samples from rehabilitation centres), 1. Phenol-chloroform, 2. Ammonium acetate and 3. Salt; and the DNA came out but dirty. And the purification procedures caused lost of DNA. Finally, we selected the salt method protocol. From that extracted DNA, we were able to amplify 6 of the 12 primers that we developed together with the Universidad Católica de Chile.

At this moment we are carrying out the extractions with the chosen method and the original samples. We are waiting for 6 more primers (published in Padró et al. 2018) to be able to proceed with the sequences and .achieve the objectives.

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

Does not apply yet

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

When we get the results, scientific data will be presented at local and international meetings and information to the community through the media and social networks.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we hope to give continuity to the study to better understand seasonal Andean condor movements, philopatry to the nesting and relatedness in roosting sites in a broader temporal and special context. However, we still need to have the results of the first project awarded.

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

We will share our results in the scientific field (through conferences and scientific articles), to the communities (talks at schools, at municipality level, among others) and organizations dedicated to the conservation of the Andean condor (ONGs, Zoos, Rehab centres and reproduction Centres), which are the main focus of disseminating our work.

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

According with the application form, we expected to complete laboratory analysis by March 2019 and data processing by June 2019. We are still working on DNA extraction due to technical problems with extraction methods and DNA amplification. We expect to generate the final report in November 2019 and the publication and/or first dissemination of the results in December 2019, which were the dates committed and informed in the application form.

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
Laboratory supplies	0	1163	+1163	For DNA extractions
Horses rental	250	310	60	
Food	950	918	-32	
Accommodation	360	407	47	
Fuel	602	513	-89	
4x4 vehicle rental	2210	739	-1471	Used own vehicle too
Air transport	625	489	-136	
TOTALS	4997	4539	-458	Returned to Rufford Foundation

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

The next important steps are to obtain the results and to be able to disseminate them as committed in the project application.

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?

Not yet

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

Field Work: **Dr. Verónica Quirici** (my PhD advisor and part of this study), Dr. Eduardo Pavez (co-advisor and collaborator of this study), PhD@ Cayetano Espinosa (helped with fieldwork) and Patricio Herrera (biology student) helped me with samples collection and took its own samples for his thesis (pellets).

Laboratory analysis: PhD **Elfego Cuevas** (helped with DNA extraction protocols), Dr. Gioconda Peralta (amplified the microsatellite primers developed in the same lab)

12. Any other comments?

I apologize for the delay in the stipulated times, we are working on the commitment, but most likely we will be delayed.

The DNA extraction protocols that were tested did not allow us to have a good quality or quantity of DNA. Now we have a safe way of working and we know that primers amplify, so we hope to have results very soon.