

## **Project Update: October 2019**

In the context of the Rufford Project **“Addressing of the impact of the Sugar Industry on rivers of the province of Tucuman as a socio-ecological problem”**, in this first stage we are carrying out surveys of residents who live in the four selected watersheds.

So far, we have conducted 250 surveys, and we need to achieve about 450 to obtain a representative sample of this population. To date, we have had a really good reception with this field work, and people are very interested in general about our research. The survey consists of 16 questions and is divided in five sections: I) Relationship between people and rivers, II) Benefits provided by rivers, III) Problems experienced by the rivers, IV) Factors that affect the quality of water, and V) Opinions about possible solutions. Field work for surveys will be finished by the end of the year, and we will begin to analyze data. At the same time, this first experience with our “social system” begins to provide avenues for engagement with key stakeholders that will be involved later in our workshops and outreach activities. Plus, in November 2019, we are beginning to conduct our fieldwork for the ecological portion of this study, sampling rivers for the benthic macroinvertebrate community that is a good bioindicator of ecological conditions.



**Figure 1.** Field crew responsible for carrying out the surveys in the study sites.



**Figure 2.** Gastona River, Chicligasta, Tucumán. One of the rivers chosen in this project.



**Figures 3 & 4.** Surveys of local residents in public places and in their homes.





**Figure 5. Seco River, Monteros, Tucumán.** Another of the rivers selected in this project.