

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Constanza Guadalupe Vivanco
Project Title	Status assessment and community involvement for the conservation of the Taruca (Hippocamelus antisensis) in Jujuy Province, Argentina
Application ID	32897-1
Grant Amount	£6,000
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Date of this Report	31 December 2021

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
to determine the abundance and distribution of the Tarucas and identify key habitat for conservation				Seven field trips were made in both, Caspalá and Santa Ana locality, so we were able to sample the proposed sites. We recorded a total of 50 Tarucas in addition to obtaining the records of faeces, footprints and antlers, and from these data we made maps and identified sites of importance for the specie. With the information collected, a technical report and a scientific publication will be produced. Once the publications are made, they will be sent to the Rufford Foundation website.
Involve local communities in conservation of Tarucas				Two workshops were held with the participation of Santa Ana and Caspalá local communities. In these workshops, information was provided on the legal protection of the species, and local people provided information on areas with the presence of Tarucas and main threat factors. Printed educational material was delivered during these workshops. The active participation of the two municipal commissions of both towns and the Association of tourist guides was achieved.
Education awareness				Two signs with information on the species and on the legal protection were designed, printed and set in places selected by the local communities. Signs were placed with the participation of local tourism guides from both localities. Educational material with key information about the species was designed and printed. We decided to elaborate posters with information

				<p>about the Taruca instead of making brochures. This decision was made after meeting the local communities, so it was considered that the posters are more attractive to people, achieving greater scope in the dissemination of information. Interviews were given on radio and TV and an article was published in a provincial newspaper.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

There were no major difficulties in the development of the proposed objectives. Only the Covid-19 pandemic that sometimes delayed the trips to visit the two localities.

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

1. Surveys of tarucas: an estimate of the number of Tarucas was achieved in each of the two localities. This was of great importance to generate a baseline to monitor the success of the actions carried out to improve the status of the species. In addition, we were able to identify areas with the presence of the species.
2. Involvement of local communities in the conservation of the Taruca: Through the workshops with the community, it was possible to know their perception of the Taruca. In turn, we ensure that they know the current conservation status to be able to work together in management and conservation actions. In addition, they provided very important information on areas with the presence of Tarucas and the main threats and provided logistical support in the field work since they acted as guides and provided horses to carry the equipment.
3. Education and collaboration with other institutions: Posters were designed and placed, and dissemination material was designed and printed. Through the awareness-raising material, the community was able to show interest in learning more about the Taruca. Participation in the project was achieved by technicians from the Jujuy province environment ministry and the National Park Administration. Local tour guides got involved in the project and participated in the workshops.

4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?

5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

The communities of Santa Ana and Caspalá were key in the development of this project. In the event of talks and workshops, they actively participated showing

interest in acquiring new knowledge about the conservation status of the Tarucas and the provincial and national protection laws. They also shared their previous knowledge about the places where we can find them and other relevant information about the Tarucas in their habitat and the role they play. In addition, there was the participation of community members to disseminate the project and as guides in the search for Tarucas in the field.

6. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this project generated basic information on the abundance of Tarucas in the towns of Santa Ana and Caspalá. There are plans to continue this work reinforcing the sampling effort at the same sites and increasing other places where we are aware of the presence of Tarucas.

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

The results will be published through scientific articles, talks in schools, universities, national parks, social networks, radio and TV. This will allow the exchange of knowledge and an expansion of the project. They will also be available on the CEBio Foundation website: www.cebio.org.ar and on social media.

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

This grant was used from January to December 2021. It was postponed a couple of months from what was originally proposed due to restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

9. 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
Fuel	1001	1082	+81	Prices increases
Tires	1118	816	-302	We found a lower price
Food	924	773	-151	We spent less in food
Telescope	1177	1090	-87	We found a lower price
Ranger finder	464	520	+56	We have to use the money from this item for payment to local guides, rent of horses, and lodgings that were not

				budgeted originally. We borrow a range finder from CEBio Foundation
Signs	236	610	+374	We designed and printed two large signs, one for each community so the expense was higher
Polar pullovers	200	239	+39	Prices increased a little
Booklet	280	291	+11	Prices increases
Administration costs	600	582	-18	Less expenses in administration cost
TOTALS	6000	6003	+3	Exchange rate 1 £ = \$113.072 Argentine Pesos

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

The important steps to follow with the information generated are to evaluate the conservation status of the species in the area and to be able to identify new sectors of key habitats for conservation. All this information will be used to outline a Provincial Conservation Plan and implement a monitoring program for the Tarucas populations and their threats. We plan that the community take an additional step by including the tarucas in ecotourism programmes.

11. 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?

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used for all generated products, polars, posters, signs, talks and media. Also, on the official website of the CEBio Foundation, <https://www.cebio.org.ar/taruca>

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

Constanza Vivanco: Principal investigator of the project. Participated in field trips, elaboration of update and final reports, compilation of information, preparation of data sheets, participation in workshops with the community, delivery of dissemination material and posters.

Sofía Alcalde: Assistant researcher of the project. She re-carried out the general coordination of the project, participated in field trips, design of workshops with the community, preparation of the final map, design of posters.

David Sarapura: Park Ranger, he participated in the tarucas samplings, in workshops with the community, delivery of the material for dissemination and placement of posters.

Mauro Estefano Ogara: Participated in field trips, information gathering, and participation in workshops with the community.

Wiñananpaj Juan Manuel Nadalino Rioja: Participated in field trips, information gathering, participation in workshops with the community.

César Bracamonte: Participated in activities involving local communities, fieldwork, data gathering, workshops, and in office work to prepare educational material.

José Segovia: Participated in activities involving local communities and in office work to prepare educational material.

Agustina Geronazzo: Participated in field trips, and information gathering.

Luis Biancucci: Participated in field trips, and information gathering.

Julieta Jiménez: Participated in design of educational materials.

13. Any other comments?

I am very grateful for the grant from the Rufford Small Grants Programme. This project would not be possible without the financial support.