

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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	Marisol Pedregosa-Hospodarsky
Project title	A faunal assessment of North Negros Natural Park (NNNP), Negros Island, Philippines
RSG reference	47.09.07
Reporting period	
Amount of grant	£5,000.00
Your email address	sol_dgp@yahoo.com
Date of this report	September 22, 2009

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
Conduct biodiversity survey in North Negros Natural Park			x	
Identify species of plants and animals in the study area			x	Identification of the plants and animals were limited to study area only. Not all species of plants and animals within the NNNP were identified, more field research is recommended
Determine the threatened species of plants and animals			x	
Determine the conservation status of the forest			x	

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

The unexpected unavailability of most of the members of the team has made us choose local people to replace them, although difficult at first and has delayed the project, it has brought greater satisfaction.

The process of selecting new members including all routine paper works to allow them to be in the field for a period of time, took much of the project time. The new team members were local people of Negros Island, one is working with Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation, two are from the office of the Provincial Environment and Management Office, and another two are from Barangay (Village) Patag in Silay, Negros Occidental. The new members were then trained for field techniques such as mist netting, point counts, bird watching and terrestrial fauna identification. The training on floral para-taxonomy was not done. There were no available botanists/foresters in the team.

The original team members were supposed to train students in the field but instead, the new recruited team members did the training themselves. This experience was very rewarding for me as biologist, sharing the knowledge with the local people who have embraced and shared it to others and have set everything they learn in action.

Other areas were visited several times for additional data on birds encountered and assessed areas for bird watching trails possibilities.

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

- The result of the study will form part of the management plan of the NNNP. The Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation, Inc. (NFEFI) together with the team were tasked by the NNNP Protected Area and Management Board to make the Faunal and Floral Description for the NNNP to be included in the Management plan of the park.

- The positive outcome of the field technique and species identification training of the forest guards and students is notable. It is very important to note the exchange of knowledge and capacity is both ways, the team has learned so much from the forest guards on indigenous knowledge about the forest. The training has shown remarkable increased in knowledge and local capacity and merits to be replicated.
- The park should be promoted as an ecotourism destination especially to the community of bird watchers. The trained forest guards are now able and willing to guide bird watchers. They are also hoping that they will also learn more from the birdwatchers that they will be guiding in the future.

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

Aside from two forest guards from Barangay Patag who are members of the team, local cook, guides and porters were hired during the duration of the field work. Forest Guards or the Bantay Bukid Brigade (BBB) volunteers were also trained for species identification which would help in their quarterly Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation (BIOME). The selection process of the forest guards who were involved in the training went through the local government, through the Municipal environmental Officer, the Barangay Captain and Barangay Councillors.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are other sites for research and more forest guards and students to be trained.

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

The final technical report is still being prepared. This report will be distributed to the municipalities, barangays and NGOs working within the NNNP. The results will be presented to the Protected Area Management Board of NNNP and also to the annual symposium hosted by the Center for Environmental Initiatives.

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

The start of project was delayed for almost two months. The RSG was used starting April 2008. The requested RSG project time was 18 months, and should be ending this month. In lieu with the delay of the start of the project, we would like to request for an extension of another 2 months.

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
Pre Survey expenses				
Food and Travel Allowance	67.7	67.7	0	
Communications	55.56	55.56	0	
Group Accident Premium	222.22	222.22	0	

Camping and survey equipment	1,138.70	1,118.10	20.60	Some of the equipment was available at discounted price
Medical equipment and supplies	115.56	109.82	5.74	Some of the equipment was available at discounted price
Field Survey Expenses				
Personnel (requirements and services)	822.4	822.4	0	
Food Allowance	1,403.90	1403.90	0	
Transportation	544.46	544.46	0	
Accommodation	74.80	36.20	38.60	Was able to get group discount
Photocopying and lamination	50	50	0	
Post Survey Expenses				
Report production	166.7	166.7	0	
Report distribution and Photographic processing	100	100	0	
Contingency	238	0	238	
Total	5000	4697.06	302.94	1£ Sterling = US \$1.93 1 US \$ = PhP 41.86 (Total Amount received: US \$9,509.55)

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

Local capacity building and conservation education are the next important steps to do. Building the capacity of the local people in the barangays and the local municipal governments within the NNNP as well as the Mt. Kanlaon area are the next important steps to conserve what remains in the island of Negros.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The RSG logo was used in the presentation with the Protected Area and Management Board, and in the lectures during the trainings. We are going to use the RSG logo in a poster for the NNNP (please see below).

11. Any other comments?

We have £302 (around US\$550) left from the project money. Are we allowed to use this money or are we required to return it to RSG? We are making a poster for NNNP but the poster was not originally included in the proposal. Can we realign the budget and use the remaining money for the production of this poster?