

Project Update February 2026

Rufford I.D.: 49901-1

Project Title: Conserving Trinidad's Ocelots: Ecological Baselines and Community Engagement

Update:

We're about to begin deployment of cameras at our first site in Chaguaramas. In total, we've secured 50 camera traps, including the 10 purchased through Rufford funding, which has made a real difference to the scale of what we can do.

On Saturday 14th February, we held our first workshop and the turnout completely exceeded expectations. We had over 60 people attend, far beyond the 10–15 projected in the application. Participants included students, naturalists, hikers, photographers, farmers, and government staff from EMA and Forestry. Registrations were actually close to 100, but we had to cap numbers due to venue space.

The response has been really encouraging. We've been sharing updates through a dedicated project Instagram account Instagram account:

<https://www.instagram.com/ttocelots>

One of our reels is nearing 25,000 views and we've gained over 600 followers within the first week, which suggests strong national interest in the work.

We've also had some promising conversations with local partners, including authorities and private companies interested in supporting future phases. If things continue on this trajectory, we'll be aiming to apply for a second Rufford Grant next year to continue and expand the project.

We've now connected formally with the Ocelot Working Group as well (thanks for the suggestion Jo!), and are in discussions with Mariam about potential collaboration moving forward.