

## 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. 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. 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole Grants Director**

<b>Grant Recipient Details</b>	
<b>Your name</b>	Diego Enrique Tobar López
<b>Project title</b>	Conserving butterfly diversity in agricultural landscapes in Copán, Honduras and Matiguas, Nicaragua
<b>RSG reference</b>	RSG 53.01.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 year
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5885
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:dtobar@catie.ac.cr">dtobar@catie.ac.cr</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	September 1, 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
1 To improve the knowledge base about butterfly diversity, distribution, ecology, and natural history in two landscapes where it is currently poorly known.			100%	The butterfly monitoring was fully developed and executed.
2 To examine how butterfly sampling could be used to monitor the effects of agricultural management practices on native plant and animal diversity.			100%	In the Matiguas (Nicaragua), we were able to identify only three suitable forest fallow plots because many fallows had recently been cleared and put back into crop or livestock production.
3 To identify the agricultural land uses and practices that support rich butterfly assemblages.			100%	It was fully developed and executed.

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

The main difficulty was caused by weather conditions that delayed some of the sampling.

The high cost of petrol increased the cost of travel to the field. I also incurred expenses for equipment maintenance.

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

1. The results of this project contributed to a better understanding of conservation-oriented agriculture. This type of knowledge can be helpful for designing national and global policies and programmes to improve conservation outcomes of different types of farming systems.
2. The results provide one of the first cross-landscape assessments of butterflies associated with common types of tree cover in pasture-dominated landscapes of Latin America.
3. The study complements other recent research on butterflies in pasture-dominated landscapes in Costa Rica and Colombia, thereby contributing to a broader understanding of butterfly conservation in agricultural landscapes in northern Latin America.

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

At the local level, the project provided information about the relation between silvo-pastoral management and butterfly conservation in Copán, Honduras and Matiguas, Nicaragua. It also identified the specific landscape components that help sustain biodiversity. This knowledge can be

used by local government institutions (for example, the Mancomunidad inter-municipal government in Copán and the support agency Nitlapan in Matiguas) and agricultural extension agencies to recommend appropriate conservation-friendly management practices to farmers.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, I will have the opportunity to continue this work as PhD candidate in the programme between the University of Bilbao and BC3 institute. I will continue to work on the subject of conservation in agricultural landscapes and its relation to the management of sustainable production systems.

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

I will publish the results in at least one paper in an international scientific journal, and intend to share the results in a regional journal as well.

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

This research project was anticipated to last six months. Two additional months were required due weather conditions that affected the timing and duration of sampling activities.

**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.**

(All in £sterling, £1 is equivalent to US\$1,6)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
1. Materials	1110	1110	0	
2. Office supplies	175	175	0	
3. Travel to and within field sites	3640	3800	-160	The high cost of petrol increased the cost of travel to the field
5. Personal	960	1000	-40	Cost of assistance field insurance
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5885</b>	<b>6151</b>	<b>-266</b>	

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

Additional research in two areas would be important:

1. Monitoring patterns of butterfly diversity, composition, and abundance in additional silvo-pastoral systems, especially in relation to woody vascular plant assemblages.
2. Conducting more in-depth studies on butterflies' utilization of, and movement within, different tree cover types in pasture-dominated landscapes (through methods such as mark-recapture) to understand the specific ways in which various agricultural management practices may support butterfly conservation and long-term persistence.

**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?**

Yes, I used the RSGF logo in presentations such as a workshop at the international conference “Encuentro de Lepidoptera tropical” (ELLEn III) and the Tropical Lepidoptera Society meeting, which was held in Chetumal, México.

**11. Any other comments?**

My colleagues and I are very grateful to the RSGF for this financial support. The funds have helped to improve knowledge of butterfly communities in agricultural landscapes in Central America, which we expect will ultimately help to generate effective conservation policies in this region.