

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	Steeves Buckland
Project title	Ecology, conservation Genetics and translocation of the Mauritius lowland day gecko (<i>Phelsuma guimbeui</i>)
RSG reference	8077-1
Reporting period	15th Feb 2011-15th March 2012
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	steevesbuckland@bristol.ac.uk
Date of this report	26 March 2012

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 increase our current knowledge of the basic critical needs of <i>P. guimbeui</i> .			✓	
(2) To determine the genetic diversity of the different sub-populations.		✓		This part of the project was postponed due to difficulty in obtaining a UK visa (see section 2 below for more information).
(3) To translocate highly threatened sub-populations in a safe nature reserve to secure the species long term survival.	✓			Translocation will be conducted once the genetic study is completed.
(4) To conduct disease screening of geckos in different sub-populations.	✓			Disease screening will be conducted prior to translocation.
(5) To conduct a national awareness campaign on the protection of endemic day geckos in Mauritius.	✓			

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

I was planning to start the genetic study in NERC Biomolecular Analysis Facility (NBAF) in the University of Sheffield in June 2011. However, I had great difficulty in obtaining a visa to come into the UK and hence my visit had to be postponed to January 2012. For this reason, some of the objectives were not achieved. I am currently in NBAF conducting the genetic work which hopefully will take around 6-9 months.

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

- (1) The gecko team has collected data on the habitat requirements of 109 individual geckos. This will help to understand the spatial ecology of *P. guimbeui* which will be invaluable for making effective management decisions.
- (2) Genetic materials (tail tips) were collected from 350 individuals in 11 different sub-populations.

- (3) We designed 54 microsatellite genetic markers that will be used to investigate the genetic diversity of the different sub-populations. We are currently testing these markers on the several sub-populations.

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

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The translocation and subsequent monitoring need to be conducted.

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

Peer-reviewed publications, Powerpoint presentations, posters, leaflets and local press.

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

Timescale: February 2011- ongoing.

We are hoping to complete disease screening, translocation and dissemination of results in the next 12-15 months. However, regular monitoring will have to be continued for a minimum of 2-5 years.

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
Fuel for motorbikes	2,000	2,300	+300	
Genetic analysis	3,100	3,100	0	I received full funding from NABF and thus this money is currently being used for maintenance and subsistence as discussed with Jane. I have spent only 1,200 out of 3,100 until now.
Disease screening	900	0	-900	This money has not been used yet.
Total	6,000			

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

To apply the findings of this research project to translocate highly threatened sub-populations.

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?

No material has yet been produced.



11. Any other comments?

Without this grant, this work would not have been possible. So, thank you very this much.