

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 | Pedro Mendez-Carvajal |
| Project title | Population study and Conservation of Azuero Peninsula and Coiba Endemic Primates, Panama |
| RSG reference | |
| Reporting period | 12 months |
| Amount of grant | £6,000.00 |
| Your email address | fcprimatespanama@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | September 12, 2011 |

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 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Calculate the total population of primates in Coiba Island and Azuero Peninsula, Panama. | | | X | We achieved the preliminary result of the total population for both primate species. We need to do surveys in other areas of the island and different periods more, to obtain significant densities and real calculation. |
| Increase the knowledge of the community about their primates | | | X | We achieved our goal to do talks to farmers and local community, for this period we visited four new secondary schools and also two private colleges. For all schools and colleges we did talks for the three levels of education (7, 8 and 9) and (10, 11 and 12 grade). |
| Increase the number of Panamanian biologists interested in the study of primates | | | X | We added two more students, one was trained to do observations for a short period, and another is preparing a thesis project to evaluate spider monkey behaviour. One more student is starting first evaluation for another primate species critically endangered in western region of Panama. |

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

We did not experience any further difficulty during the field work; however, we did have some difficulties to find boat operators to arrive to Coiba Island, but those problems were solved later.

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

We obtained highly important information related to the primates in Coiba Island:

- 1) We calculate the preliminary total estimation of howler and capuchins monkeys living into the island.
- 2) We added a brief mammal survey to obtain relevant information about other mammal species in Coiba and we did realise that hematophagous bats are relatively abundant, which alert us as monkeys are potential blood resources for these animals. This information have been important to claim the Panamanian government for removing the feral cattle that is still into the island forest and suggest that Coiba Island's endemic mammal species are vulnerable if the cattle is present in the island.
- 3) We did calculate preliminary total population of mammals into Coiba Island and this information will help to assess the management of the natural park. We identified two species of bats no one reported before for this island.

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

Local community obtained direct and indirect benefits from the project not only by training and obtaining education and information about conservation strategies but the little business also are obtaining benefits from our project consuming food, merchandise and hiring local personnel like boat operators, between others.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This is a long-term period project; our principal goal is to keep our activities in the same locations but also add new places to monitor primates in Azuero Peninsula and Coiba Island. Next short-term goals are to involve bats diversity and dynamic population studies in the mainland to offer new help to the farmers and cattle owners. In this way, we are trying to have a reciprocity between farmers accomplishing regeneration of some parts of their lands with our free charge of hematophagous bat eradication. Our next step will be obtaining information to correlate primates and bats species vs vegetation in isolated and fragmented lands like Coiba and Azuero.

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

Results of this preliminary surveys related to the Coiba Island primates have been presented in a scientific Mesoamerican congress in October 2010 as a poster presentation; the work obtained the second place in the content as the best poster category. Final results will be presented in the next Mesoamerican Congress on October 23rd, 2011. We are in the process to write a complete scientific article related to Coiba primate population, and we also will send a complete copy in Spanish for the Panamanian Environmental Authority (ANAM).

Publications will be also released in You Tube (atelesaz) videos and local and international news papers like Oxford Brookes University link, Oxford BBC Press and Oxfordshire Radio Station. There is a special article related with the report of two species of bats non reported before for the island and in all presentations and papers Rufford Small Grants is included as an important support.

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

The RSG is in use since September 2010 and will cover the period until September 2011. These possibilities of funds helped the project to be extended one more trip per year, increasing hours of effort and involving bats and mammal survey for Coiba Island.

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 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Legal permission and certifications | 44.14 | 772.38 | -728.28 | Legal paperwork was more expensive than initial calculations and a lawyer was necessary. |
| Transportation (air tickets, car and boat rented) | 1747.16 | 1760.55 | -13.39 | Just a little variation for tickets deals |
| Food | 151.32 | 694.67 | -543.35 | We duplicate the number of volunteers for Coiba and Azuero. Assistants, instead required more food. |
| Field Equipment | 148.17 | 1222.39 | -770.73 | We bought new binoculars, compasses, camera and note books non-previous calculated |
| Gas | 87.64 | 112.23 | -24.59 | May vary depending of seasonal prices of petrol |
| Hostels | X | 52.82 | -52.82 | This time it was necessary to stay in a hostel |
| Emergency | 566.20 | 229.66 | -336.54 | We enforce the emergency equipment |
| Environmental Education | 435.69 | 1034.33 | -598.64 | We used more money to duplicate educational talks |
| Office material and miscellaneous | X | 627.62 | -627.62 | We bought another computer and a printer that we were in need |
| Total | 3,180.00 | 6,055.08 | 3,547.84 | |

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

The important next step is continuing monitoring the primates already surveyed to assure our presence in the Azuero and Coiba area. Also keep surveying at Coiba Island to obtain a complete calculation of the howler and capuchins population. Diversity study for bats communities will be helpful to correlate forest regeneration. We will complement our diurnal surveys for monkeys, with the capture of bats at nights to take advantage of our trips to remote areas. We detected that the area is presenting rabies infestation and we would like to offer to landowners the free charge service of detecting hematophagous bats, asking them first to sign a statement where they assure to select one of their areas to be regenerated as a compromise for the environment. Using this statement, we will improve not only the conservation of dispersers and pollinators species but also will offer a healthy environment for the community while we are saving the Azuero primates and bats.

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, Rufford Small Grants logo is used in all our visual material, including scientific posters, environmental educational poster, publications and oral presentations, and web (fcprimatespanama.weebly.com). We also mention RSG in all our publications, specifically in the acknowledgement part, this include scientific articles, and scientific reports. RSG was mentioned in the Mesoamerican congress at Costa Rica and have been recommended to other NGO that are in need for funds to help conservation in other parts of Central America.

11. Any other comments?

We will send all material that is now in edition process, and also any educational material even writes in Spanish. Thanks to Rufford Small Grants we were able to obtain crucial information to keep conserving Azuero and Coiba Island primates and improve our educational material. We hope we can count with your support in our next period budget and we would like to deeply thank this organisation for all the amazing support for the Panamanian fauna.