

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Daisy Alejandra Gomez Ruiz
Project title	Relative abundance and activity patterns of Carnivores (Orden: Carnivora) in Reserva Natural Sanguaré, Sucre - Colombia
RSG reference	8850-1
Reporting period	February 2012
Amount of grant	£ 5610
Your email address	Sakuraxli24@gmail.com
Date of this report	February 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
To record the tracks of different carnivore species, and calculate a relative abundance index in different periods of the year.		Yes		
To install camera trap stations along linear transects, and to collect data to assess the spatial and time activity patterns for the most common species.		Yes		
Make a reference collection of tracks in the study area.			Yes	We have made a reference collection of photographs for the tracks of four carnivore species for the study area: <i>Leopardus pardalis</i> , <i>Procyon cancrivorus</i> , <i>Eira barbara</i> , and <i>Cerdocyon thous</i> .

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

During the last winter (rainy) season, the main access road to the study site was severely damaged and it prevented us to visit the reserve. It was an unexpected event, as the previous year (2010) Colombia suffered a severe rainy season and no one anticipated a second one. We had to change our plans for field work, and re-scheduled the final field trips for March and June 2012.

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

- This project has provided updated basic information on carnivores, plus other little-known mammals, from Colombian tropical dry forests. I am using this data to develop my graduate research on the ecological dynamics of medium-sized mammals from this endangered ecosystem.
- Partial information of this project including videos recording with camera traps has been share with general public and fellows interested in mammals, through the web page of the Mammalogy research group of Universidad de Antioquia (www.mastozologiaudea.com).
- The information achieved with this project, in regard to the presence and dynamic of carnivores in the reserve, is useful to justify the importance of conservation planning and recovering activities in the area where the Reserve is located. This collaborative work and its results serve as a successful example of basic research for sustainable development in other areas of the Caribbean region.

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

All of the project team are Colombian students that use this opportunity to improve their skill on mammalogy techniques and conservation. At least two of these students plan to use field data to develop their own research projects. At the reserve, we use every opportunity to explain local people and visitors about the importance of mammals in this unique environment.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, at this point we plan to finish this first phase and then we plan to continue studying interactions between species and the different habitat present in this ecosystem due to the land use history.

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

In September 2011, we presented partial results of this project at the first Colombian Mammalogy Congress. These presentations helped us to show our research to other groups, and as a result we are exploring possible collaborations in the near future. We made a public presentation of some preliminary results at a local university, and have a discussion session after that.

Later this year, in November 2012, we plan to bring at least one oral presentation to the Second Latin-American Mammalogy Congress (Buenos Aires) to show the final results of this work.

Some of the videos captured with camera traps will be share in the web page of the Mammalogy research group of Universidad de Antioquia (www.mastozoologiaudea.com). Main results of this project will be available as a draft report or field-guide at the Reserva Natural Sanguaré, where other researchers and environmental authorities can access to it.

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

The project has been finished 6 months later of what was expected at the beginning, because of logistic problems with the winter (rainy) season that damaged the main access roads to the study site; at the same time, some problems associated to the schedule of participants made it impossible to complete a field season during the second half of 2011.

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.

Note: Fund received from RSG is \$ 16'695.360 Colombian Pesos (£1 = \$ 2.976 ColP)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel	1150	950	200	The rest of money was used to pay the overhead of feeding and accommodation.
Feeding	1800	1900	-100	The rest of money is going to be used for the last two field trips
Accommodation	1800	1900	-100	
Odour essences	30	30	0	

Camera traps	800	685	115	The rest of the money was used to buy SD cards and rechargeable batteries.
Data logger	30	30	0	
TOTAL	5610	5495	115	

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

The most important step is to produce a first article that can be available to the scientific community, plus a draft report for the visitors of the Reserva Natural Sanguare and the local environmental authorities in the Caribbean region.

The next step is to formally submit this information to local authorities, to enforce a strategy to work with other land owners and to support the conservation of natural communities while the local people keep a sustainable use of the resources they need (habitat, food).

Finally, we aim to continue studying the community dynamic during the next recovery stages of the Reserve. It might take several years to identify the patterns associated to weather changes, but this would be the next goal to achieve.

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 it during the presentation in the First Colombian Mammalogy Congress and I plan to use it in our next presentations on November.