

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

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	Luis Santillán Corrales
Project title	Humpback whales in Sechura Bay, Peru
RSG reference	93.05.09
Reporting period	2009-2010
Amount of grant	£ 5269
Your email address	lsantillancorrales@yahoo.com
Date of this report	November 4 th , 2010

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
First step for a long term research programme for humpback whales in Peru			X	Our records encourage us to continue since the presence of whales in Sechura was important and our Photo-Id catalogue is a first step to make comparisons or establish trends in the future.
Sechura Bay as a concentration area for humpback whales		X		The effort must increase in the future in order to establish the magnitude of this. The data obtained shows important concentrations but now we need to know the extension of this in terms of time, space and the ecological meaning.
Impact of human activities			X	We were able to fully identify which human activities are carried out within the bay and which of them represent a threat for humpback whales. Additionally we were able to know that humpback whales are not considered a common resource in the area; most of the people are unaware of the occurrence of whales close to their towns.

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

At present scallop farms are extensively used within the bay and as a consequence most of the economic benefits for people come from scallop growing and harvesting. Those activities are very profitable so it was difficult to find someone to rent us a boat since we offered less than they use to earn in scallop growing and harvesting. Additionally, the most important season for harvesting scallops is spring so almost everybody is involved in this activity.

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

1. We found a monthly seasonality in the occurrence of humpback whales. Seasonality was observed too in age classes' composition and a probable trend on spatial segregation. We need more effort to confirm our first findings and to understand the extension of them.

2. We produced a small catalogue of photo-ids of individuals through pictures of the ventral side of the tail. A total of 16 individuals were identified. The amount of photo-id individuals might increase in the next years through the continuation of our work and the increasing of sampling effort.

3. Humpback whales are not part of the collective consciousness of the people since they are unaware that whales can be found within the bay. This situation extends from fishermen to local authorities so it is necessary to share with them that whales are there and they must be included in their management plans as well as they represent an economical resource for tourism.

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

During our searching for boats we contacted four fishermen and their families. Fishermen were directed beneficiaries of the boat rent. Food and supplies for our work was provided by local people. But the most important was obtained as a consequence to hire local services and it was the way that these people and their closer relatives were the first ones to get noticed that whales are common in spring within the bay, so it is a first step to share the information and it was a direct consequence of the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, our project is planned to be a long term research program and we will apply for Rufford second year funds.

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

Sharing information is a key aspect of the project since one of the key issues we have identified is the necessity to know that whales are part of the bay. We have presented our results in the II CONCIMAR (Peruvian National Congress on Marine Sciences). We are also working in a scientific paper with the results of our first year's survey. Once we publish the paper it will be submitted to local e-lists. The next step is to prepare flyers or other kind of easy share printed material and share them with local authorities and fishermen in the area we are working. Also meetings with local authorities have to be conducted during the next year in order to get them informed about our work and what whales mean in the Sechura Bay ecosystem.

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

The RSG was used during 2009 (from September to early December) and remained money was used in two short field trips in 2010.

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
Transportation 1 (to t study area)	346.3	403,8	-57,5	We changed the bus company in order to have a safe and comfortable trip
Transportation 2 (lo transportation)	173.2	168,2	5,0	Local transportation was almost the same as we formerly estimated

Food	1108.2	1076,7	31,5	Food costs was almost the same as we formerly estimated
Lodging	415.6	504,7	-89,1	We had to use a local hotel in Sechura were the costs had increased because of mining activities close to the city
Boat rent	1385.3	2691,8	-1306,5	Our estimates of boat were dramatically different to the real costs. The main activity is related to scallop harvesting which is a more rentable activity so we had to increase the amount we offer to the fishermen. Additionally oil costs and consume were higher than we expected
Salaries	1731.6	336,5	1395,1	We reduced salaries in order to cover the increase of boat rent item
Office materials	108.2	110,0	-1,8	This item's costs were almost the same as we formerly estimated
Total	5268,4	5291,7	-23,3	

Local exchange rate: £ 0,6301 = 1 USD = S/. 2,804 Nuevos Soles

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

- Increasing the catalogue of identified individuals.
- Continue with the survey increasing the searching effort in terms of sightings and survey area.
- Establish contact with local authorities and fishermen's guilds.
- Inform to the local inhabitants about whales and their occurrence in Sechura Bay.

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?

We have presented our results in the II CONCIMAR (Peruvian National Congress on Marine Sciences) in May 2010, RSG logo was included in the poster and it was also mentioned in the acknowledgements.

A scientific paper about the results of 2009 survey is in draft and RSG are mentioned in acknowledgements. Another scientific paper about small diving petrel records in northern and central coast of Peru is in draft and includes records obtained in Sechura bay during 2009, RSG acknowledgment is included in this paper.

11. Any other comments?

I was expecting to study humpback whales in Sechura since 2004 where I was informed by local fishermen about the concentration of whales in the bay. Since then I was pursuing this project and RSG gave me the support and the confidence to start this research.