

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	Rebecca Stirnemann
Project title	The ecology of the endangered Mao
RSG reference	9764-1
Reporting period	12 months
Amount of grant	£3500
Your email address	<u>rstirnemann@gmail.com</u>
Date of this report	24 th June 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
Breeding ecology		X		We are still monitoring the breeding biology of the birds in order to gain more data on reproductive success and threats. Currently we are monitoring chicks post fledging to assess their vulnerability during this period and also monitor reproduction of known breeding pairs for the second year. Thus far the project has added considerably to the knowledge of the biology of the species.
Local Spatial requirements- diet			X	We now have a good idea what the species is feeding on, nesting requirements and potential habitat sinks
Large scale spatial requirements		X		We have been undertaking a survey in Savaii to clarify the large-scale spatial requirements of the species

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

None.

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

- 1) Mao has only a single chick at a time and care for the fledgling for 2 months after they leave the nest. Introduced rats are having a high impact on reproductive success at the nest.
- 2) However, if chicks survive and fledge, they have a high survival rate.
- 3) The large-scale placement of the nest has a bigger impact on rat predation than local site selection. Anthropogenic large-scale vegetation changes are resulting in increases in rat abundance and nest predation.

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

We are working closely with the MNRE of Samoa this has enabled us to train a number of the local staff in ecological skills which will be important for developing other conservation projects in Samoa. These staff members are keen to continue further work on the species.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, this work will continue, and we are planning to reintroduce the Mao into American Samoa where it has become locally extinct.

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

Scientific publications, our website, newspaper articles and other press releases.

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

Over a 12-month period it is half the length of the project.

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
Pro 7 & Twin Science microphone	1060	1060	0	
Korg M1000 Recorder	880	880	0	
Nest cameras	1500	1500	0	
subsistence payments	60	60	0	
TOTAL	3500	3500	0	

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

- 1) Determine spatial use at a large scale
- 2) Collect any other information required for relocation
- 3) Community education for a translocation project

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, we have it displayed on our website and on all presentations of the work. We will also include it in our scientific acknowledgements.

11. Any other comments?

We greatly appreciate having Rufford small grants as a sponsor.