

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Maria Eugenia Periago
<b>Project title</b>	How are gray brocket deer, <i>Mazama gouazoubira</i> , populations affected by different land use practices in the arid Chaco of Argentina?
<b>RSG reference</b>	07.04.09
<b>Reporting period</b>	July 2009-December 2010
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£10,000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:meperiago@gmail.com">meperiago@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	25 November 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
To expand our original study of the deer population inside the reserve to the surrounding agricultural landscapes.			Yes	We collected 45 samples of brocket deer faeces. Their diet consists primarily of woody plants and varies from habitat to habitat.
To survey the local people and find out their perception of wildlife and biodiversity, and the potential non-habitat related human threats to brocket deer.			Yes	Interviews were hard to come by and when we were able to talk to locals, they held back when asked about hunting and consuming bushmeat. However, Daniela Tamburini (of the Diversus Project) was able to perform 14 semi structured interviews. 11 (78%) of the interviews mentioned the gray brocket deer; 43% consider it important as bushmeat and 29% do not consume it because they like seeing them in nature. Locals relate the brocket deer with conserved portions of forest, and 29% believe that the populations have diminished over the last 10 yrs.
To develop management recommendations to help them improve the sustainability of their natural resources, and use our relationships with the land owners to educate them about the importance of this valuable species at a truly regional level.			Yes	Management recommendations were written up and sent to the governing entity, Agencia Cordoba Ambiente. This is now an ongoing project between the University of Cordoba and the Agency so we are certain that information will continue to be distributed.

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

A large period of water scarcity killed several brocket deer and this may have affected the variety in diet components found. Also, most trees did not produce fruit which made it impossible to perform the germination experiments we had proposed in our grant proposal. These experiments will take

place next year as part of our ongoing project. Some equipment bought with previous grants were lost or broken, so money not previously designated for equipment was used. We made several short trips with our own vehicles which saved money on renting vehicles.

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

- 1) Continued scientific research on native fauna and the effects that land use change is having on them. It is important to continue to monitor the populations to see how the populations are behaving and adapting to the rapid change happening around them.
- 2) Continued presence locally and regionally, and continued interactions with the local people and the governing entity.
- 3) Our presence and research constantly reminds local land owners that conservation is a priority, that native fauna and forests provide ecosystem services and that nothing will replace them if they disappear.

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

Local communities were interviewed and updated on our work. Our involvement with the local community allows us to get a feel of how they are interacting with their environment and the native fauna, as well as their perception of the same.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. This is an ongoing project which is currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> year.

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

Via scientific conferences and publications, as well as the RSG web site. We recently published a paper with our 2<sup>nd</sup> RSG findings. A copy is attached.

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

18 months. Originally the project was set to last 12 months, but we requested a 6 month extension in order to use our resources better and to take advantage of a full year of data collection.

**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
Car rental and fuel	1500	957	+543	We ended up using our own vehicles because it was hard to coordinate rentals. However, we had to perform a thorough mechanical workup on the car.
Food	720	637	+83	

Microscope	600	475	+125	
Lab supplies	60	100	-40	
Microscope camera	300	228	+72	
Densimeter and snake gaiters	340	147	+193	
GPS and walkie talkies	600	189	+411	
Vegetation wand	70		+70	Borrowed.
Digital calibres	70		+70	Borrowed.
Tent	100		+100	Borrowed.
Anti-venom kit	60	106	-46	
Field boots	100	64	+36	
Field clothes	300	293	+7	
First aid kit	40	36	+4	
Camping gear	200	388	-192	
Print materials	300	327	-27	
Books	200	241	-41	
Salary	2539	2539		
Courses and congress participation	1400	1789	-389	The opportunity came up to participate in a month long course which we had not included in our budget as well as several trips to the lab in Mendoza.
Non budgeted items		994	-994	**
Total	9499*	9510	-15	

Exchange rates over the 18 months averaged \$6.11 Argentine pesos to the sterling, and US\$ 1.57 dollars to the sterling (www.oanda.com).

\*Of the £ 10,000 granted only £ 9,499 were received after the money transfer (see attached bank printout US\$ 16148 = £ 9,499, exchange rate 1.7 £ to USD). The extra money was taken out of the salary portion of the budget.

\*\* Since we over budgeted several items, bought some on sale in the USA and didn't end up buying others, the leftover money was used to buy other items that were necessary (please see attached spreadsheet).

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

There is still so much to learn about this species and other native fauna, as well as an increasing pressure towards land use change. We consider that our continued presence and research in the area is incredibly important.

### 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, in all of our equipment and publications.

**11. Any other comments?**

We would like to thank RSG for the great opportunity and continued support which has allowed us to continue working towards the conservation of our native flora and fauna!