

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

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Jaime Andres Cabrera
<b>Project title</b>	Natural Licks Ecology in the Southern Colombian Amazon (Colo
<b>RSG reference</b>	12.01.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	March 2008-January 2009
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£ 6000
<b>Your email address</b>	jac56@kent.ac.uk
<b>Date of this report</b>	27 January 2009

**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
Location of licks			x	I have located 12 licks so far. There are more that I have heard about but because of seasonal flooding I have not been able to visit. I will continue this activity during 2009.
Soil sampling and analysis	x			Because of the sacred character of licks for indigenous people I will only be granted a permit to take soil samples after this first year of working with them. The analysis will be done in 2009
Understanding indigenous communities' relationship with licks		x		Indigenous culture is oral, during the last 9 months I have been living with them documenting the way they use licks and their beliefs, but still there is a lot to discover. This process has proved very rewarding because it has involved working both with elders and the younger generations.
Understand how natural licks work		x		I have a good collection of field data (2500 hours). But there is still too much variability in our data from animal use of the licks to make clear assumptions. More data from the second field season in 2009 will help us to better understand what is happening at the licks.
Monitoring hunting activities inside and outside the licks		x		We started recording hunting in October 2008, after agreement and training of the community. In order to get a complete picture of hunting practices we need a longer time span covering different seasonal variations and climatic conditions.

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

My first intention was to work in the southern Colombian Amazon, but I changed the study's location to the Middle Caquetá basin, north of the original area and still in the Amazonian region. The reasons for this change were twofold. Firstly, the willingness of the local communities in the Caquetá to work with the project and some support from TROPENBOS-Colombia in logistical aspects. Secondly, my knowledge of the high frequency of natural licks in the Caquetá and their importance to local people, from previous work there and conversations with colleagues.

An unforeseen problem has been the loss of cameras due to heavy flooding in the forest, a fallen tree, and vandalism by unknown people

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

- A classification of the licks based in their habitat characteristics that at the same time takes into account local views about the licks. This typology makes an *a priori* differentiation of the licks possible which then enables the implementation of different sustainable practices for each category.
- The documentation of the way local indigenous tribes relate with the licks as sacred places and at the same time how they use them for hunting.
- 2500 hours of direct observation and camera trapping that has shown at least 6 different mammal species using the licks frequently and the possibility of using these places to monitor lowland tapir populations after the identification of at least 12 different individuals visiting the local licks.

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

Since the beginning of the project the elders and young leaders of the community have taken an active part of it. The elders' stories and insights in the local culture have been the basis to understand the current use of the licks. One year ago, there were obvious conflicts between elders and the younger generations, with elders feeling that younger people are "careless concerning nature". Thanks to the project's daily work in the communities, the elders' interest in rekindling old ways, and the willingness of the younger generation to understand the old ways if it enables them to secure special government grants to indigenous people, we compiled traditional knowledge in the form of drawings and transcriptions of tales that now are used in the local primary school.

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

Yes, this is part of my PhD thesis that will continue until October 2010. I need to ensure data is collected throughout the huge yearly variations in the Amazonian climate because of its influence on wildlife ecology and subsistence hunting.

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

My PhD thesis, several scientific articles (both in journals and in popular scientific publications) will be produced. With the community we are also planning to produce more material to be used in the local schools, both in the local indigenous languages and in Spanish. This project will also form the basis of local communities' proposed management plans for their reserves.

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

The grant resources were used during the last 10 months as planned

**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
Subsistence	3000	3000	0	
Supplies	2000	1500	500	I decided to buy new digital cameras powered by solar panels that reduced expenses in batteries and films. The remaining £500 was transferred to local transport expenses
Local services	480	480	0	
Transport	120	120	0	
Local transport	400	900	0	Local transport was much more expensive due to the long distances between licks that had to be travelled by boat and the increased price of oil – already expensive in such a remote place
<b>TOTAL</b>	6000	<b>6000</b>	500	1 sterling pound=0.000253718 Colombian Pesos

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

- Continue the documenting of traditional knowledge in a joined effort with the younger indigenous generations.
- Continue monitoring hunting and assessing wildlife populations.
- Continue direct observation and camera trapping at the licks to develop an understanding of their ecological role in the Amazon rainforest and enable the use of licks in sustainable practices.

**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:

- Upgrade seminar at University of Kent
- Internal staff talks at TROPENBOS Colombia
- Presentation of the project at the local indigenous communities in the study area.

**11. Any other comments?**

I am really grateful for your help and your soon answer to all my communications. Thanks again!