



# **Bi-national strategy for the conservation of the genus *Aotus* at the Colombian – Peruvian border**

**Rufford Small Grants Continuation Funding 2017-2018**

**Interim report No.1**

In this report we are presenting an update for the project's activities for the period December 2017 to June 2018, providing the results for each of the objectives stated in our original application.

1. **Objective 1: Improving local livelihoods of Peruvian communities involved in the illegal extraction of natural resources through WWT while preserving local ecosystem.** All the activities planned for this objective in the first semester have been accomplished.

1.1. To build leadership skills and capacity for the implementation a low impact WWT initiative: Two workshops of three days each, were carried out in Vista Alegre and two in Chineria to form a community association and improve governability skills. We focused on these topics as it is crucial to discuss all the legalities and logistics involved in the formation of the associations with the members of the two associations. From May 5 - 10, a member of Entropika along with the presidents of the tourism associations (Musmuki in Vista Alegre and Coya in Chineria) registered the associations at the notary in Iquitos, Peru. Continuing training in wildlife guiding has been provided in both communities.

1.2. Determine the efficacy of tourism as a conservation intervention, using quantitative and qualitative methods: We conducted a total of 46 household interviews in Vista Alegre and Chineria where we recorded demographic and socio-economic data. The assessments will serve as the baseline information for comparison in approximately two years to measure the efficacy of WWT as a conservation intervention.



Group of leaders in the WWT project – Peru

Marketing and promotion: With the collaboration of the Calanoa private reserve, Vista Alegre has been included in their promotional material offering a day tour in this community.

With the volunteer collaboration from the advertising agency Senior Lopez from Bogota, we carried out two workshops with the association members from the two communities in order to record the information for their communication campaigns. During the participatory workshops local people defined how they want to be seen and the kind of tourist they would like to receive in their communities. We expect to have all the advertising material by July.



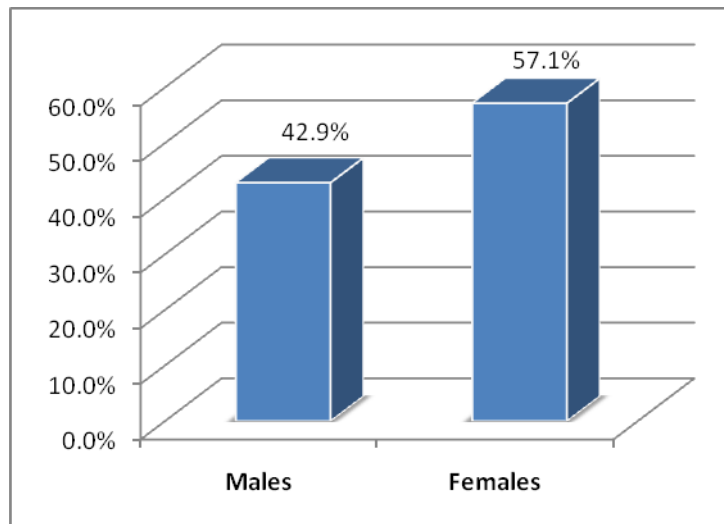
2. **Objective 2: Conservation genetics and wildlife monitoring:** Regarding the genetic sampling we had outstanding results as most of night monkey groups had offspring allowing for hair sampling of infants which is very difficult to obtain in other times of the year. We had zero casualties and 100% of the animals recovered and went back to their sleeping sites.

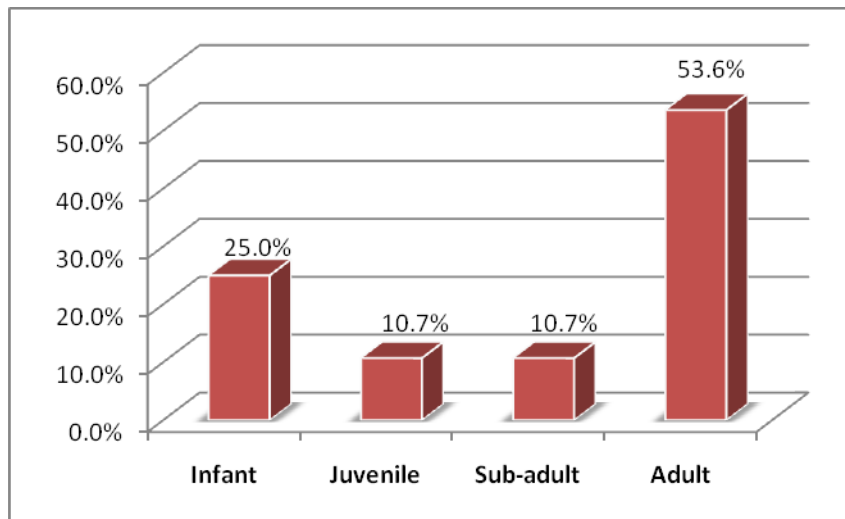
Wildlife monitoring will start in September (dry season as stated in the initial timeline).

During February and March 2018, the fieldwork team was composed of two Peruvian wildlife veterinarians, four Entropika members and a total of 18 local co-investigators that were rotated during field trips to provide everyone the opportunity to receive income and training. We captured and released a total of 27 night monkeys, from 9 groups at three localities (Vista Alegre, Yahuma and Nuevo Oriente). We collected a total of 360 samples in the following ways:

BLOOD						HAIR	BUCAL SWAB	FECAL RNAL	ECTO-PARASITES	TOTAL
ETANOL	RNA LATER	LONG-MIRE	FTA CARDS	FILTRE	SMEARS					
75	44	49	17	8	43	54	48	14	8	360

The night monkeys trapped represented the following sex and age ratio (n = 27):





Changes in timetable: When we sent the application to the WFN we believed that the samples would be collected at the end of 2017. However, we needed a permit extension and also the replacement veterinarians needed to be included as well in the permit. This was requested in 2017, however, the SERFOR (Peruvian Environmental Authority) granted the permit amendment on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018, postponing the fieldwork period. In addition, weather conditions did not allow us to conduct all the sampling during the same period. For this reason we are doing a second sampling collection during August-September - dry season, in order to reach the farthest sampling site that lies in the Atacuari river that delineates the western border between Peru and Colombia.

Limitations: In order to send the samples for DNA/RNA analyses, we need to leave 50% of the total samples in a Peruvian facility (e.g. museum, university or laboratory) in order to fulfil our obligations as stated in the research permits granted by the SERFOR. Once the samples are deposited in a Peruvian facility we will obtain a certificate that serves to acquire the CITES export permits. Due to the delay in the sampling, we need to wait until we collect all the samples in September in order to obtain the CITES export permits, then we will send the samples to the two laboratories that will perform the analyses. This will delay data analyses and publication preparation.

Opportunities: In spite of these setbacks, we have been effective in accomplishing our sampling target (despite weather conditions), so we expect to have DNA/RNA analyses by end of 2018 or beginning of 2019. The advantage of doing a second sampling period during the dry season is that we will be able to see differences in body weight, group size, sleeping sites, etc.



Fieldwork for sampling collection and field laboratory

**3. Objective 3: Law enforcement: Continuing our law enforcement actions in Colombia and Peru, in collaboration with policy makers (Colombia) and the municipality of Caballo Cocha (Peru).**

3.1. Public benefit law suit: On December 15th 2017 we filed an Accion Popular at the Tribunal Administrativo de Cundinamarca, in Bogota. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018, the Court rejected the case arguing that we already exhausted all legal appeals in the past. We appealed their decision on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, and are currently waiting for their response. In our case we explain that we are exposing new civil rights violations, new events and requests. If the Court rejects our appeal we will file a protection lawsuit.

3.2. The follow up of 2 penal cases filed by FIDIC against Entropika and an administrative investigation: The penal case in Leticia has not advanced so far. Regarding the law case in Iquitos, Peru, the lawyers that represent A. Maldonado attended the last hearing on April 24<sup>th</sup> so we are waiting for the judge’s ruling. The case is in the stage of overseeing the charges. Regarding the administrative investigation requested by FIDIC to the Ministry of Environment of Colombia, A. Maldonado requested a free version – version libre in order to provide further evidence regarding this investigation. On April 12<sup>th</sup> A. Maldonado and her lawyer had the opportunity to give the free version to a lawyer from the Ministry of Environment. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Ministry of Environment informed us that they will request further evidence to support this case as A. Maldonado requested in April.

Limitations: The fact that the Court rejected the public benefit lawsuit gives the lawyers reason to believe that FIDIC’s influence affected the outcome of their decision; however, we do not have evidence to support this. We will maintain a legal action strategy to find other ways to stop the permit for the extraction of 4.000 monkeys for a five year period that FIDIC is requesting.

3.3. Colombian Strategy for the Conservation of Primates (CSCP): This document will be ready in August 2018. However, the delay in having the final version is due to the Ministry of Environment’s (ME) lack of collaboration. The Colombian Primatological Association reported last month that without the input of the public servant from the ME, the document cannot be formalised. This organisation is currently in charge of looking for ways to get the approval of the ME.



Workshop at the Andes University for the revision of the CSCP with different stakeholders

**4. Dissemination of results and other associated work:** In the following presentations and workshops Entropika used the Logo of RSG as sponsor.

28-30 November 2017: Workshop “Exchange of information and experiences regarding the status and threats of *Aotus nancymae* in Colombia” – Leticia. We gave an oral presentation providing the most recent threats facing this species at the Colombian-Peruvian border.



Group of experts participating in the assessment for *A. nancymae*

This workshop was organised by the National University and the Ministry of Environment. The main outcome was that *A. nancymae* was classified as Vulnerable in Colombia. During this controversial workshop a group of experts agreed that deforestation poses a significant threat for the species. A Maldonado provided information about the permits for commercial extraction of timber provided by the Peruvian Environmental Regional Authority A.R.A. (Autoridad Regional Ambiental) in the whole Peruvian Amazon, as well as other parts of the country.

- 4 December 2017: Talk at the Maximiliano Colbe school in Cota – Cundinamarca-Colombia. Number of attendees: 280 students. A Maldonado gave a talk titled: “A monkey story: how primates changed my life” to teenagers finishing high school about the importance of studying what they truly enjoy. The talk focused on primate conservation in the Amazon.
- 20 April 2018: Talk at the Anglo Colombiano school in Bogota - Number of attendees: 160 students from 9 to 11 years old. A Maldonado gave a talk for a school project called: Passion Project. The aim of the talk was to tell children the importance of loving what you do and doing what you are passionate about. The talk focused on how passion makes Entropika’s team work effectively for the conservation of the Amazon rainforest.



Talks at Anglo Colombiano and Maximiliano Colbe schools

- 30 April 2018: Oxford Brookes University – UK. A Maldonado gave a talk at the Primate Conservation Seminar. In addition, she gave the talk: “Conservation at the Colombian-Peruvian border and the role of civil society to protect biodiversity” at Oxford University, Conservation & Development Brown-bag Lunch Series, School of Geography.
- 17 May 2018: Naturama Natural History Museum – Svendborg - Denmark. During the Seminar “The World of Bio-Acoustics, Biodiversity and Conservation” A. Maldonado gave the talk: "Conservation at the Colombian-Peruvian Amazon: challenges and opportunities". This seminar provided an excellent space to exchange ideas between conservationists around the world. In addition Naturama launched their new sound exhibition “The late Sound Scape show” which is a part of Fragments of Extinction by David Monacchi.