

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	Mario R. Cabrera
Project title	Lizards diversity and its understanding by local people in central Argentina
RSG reference	46.12.07
Reporting period	February 2008 – July 2009
Amount of grant	£ 2900
Your email address	mcabrera@efn.uncor.edu
Date of this report	August 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
Update the lizards inventory for central Argentina			Yes	
Editing and publication of an illustrated field guide			Yes	
Involvement of interviewed people			Yes	
Evaluate the perception that resident people has about the lizards in their surroundings		Yes		Data analysis in progress to date.
Human resources recruitment and formation			Yes	Both students and professional biologists were parties. Of them, one student presently works her graduate thesis, and a graduate student shall start her doctoral thesis, in both cases on ethno-herpetological topics related to this project.
Communication of results to both academic and general audiences			Yes	To be continued as workshop, poster, and talks through 2009 and beyond.

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

Were not difficulties to note, except that field open activities were necessarily discontinued during winter season.

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

- ◆ A field-based update of the lizard species composition at central Argentina was made. Thirty-two species belonging to 7 families of lizards and amphibians are represented in the region. Interesting new questions arose about the taxonomic validity of certain taxa and populations, to be addressed in the next future.
- ◆ Publication of a field guide to the identification of the species of lizards and amphibians recognised to date in the region. The guide (*Lagartos del centro de la Argentina*, ISBN 978-987-05-6342-6) has book format, with 120 pages, drawings, a key, glossary, bibliography, and 84 colour photos.
- ◆ Bring to attention the interest as a growing field for researching and communication of a relatively recent discipline, the ethno-herpetology (the study of how the cultures of man use,

perceive and incorporate the reptiles and amphibians into their daily life in different contexts – medicinal, mythological, nourishment). As a first promissory fact, during the VIII Latin-American Congress of Herpetology held in Varadero, Cuba, was founded the Grupo de Etnoherpetologia Latinoamericana (GEHL), and our partner Leila Joaquin was appointed as vice-president of it.

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

Local communities were amply receptive to our activities, as well as local radio stations, which informed about our project and of the presence and activities of our interviewers. A semi-structured questionnaire (20 questions) was asked and a booklet of reptile photographs was showed to a wide-ranging age individuals. They were inquired about recognizing, names, uses and tales on reptiles known by them. In general, people of any cultural background and age showed great interest in receive information about the reptiles living in their surroundings.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. Actually, the task is at its beginning because, based on the obtained information, we plan to develop complementary educational activities (see next point).

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

The information about people's knowledge and use of reptiles recovered by us will be diagnostic to organise meetings and workshops, mainly addressed to park-guards, firemen and teachers, however opened to any interested person, in their villages of residence.

In academic congresses we plan discuss our results with colleagues, as we preliminary have made during the course of this research.

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

The work started when the funds were available (February 28th 2008). The RSG was used over a period of 17 months. This was some longer than anticipated; in winter season the field activities were discontinued, and the time for excursions were conditioned by our professional (teaching) duties.

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
Food of field parties	760	727	+33	Saving
Gasoline and car maintenance	175	182	-7	
Public transport tickets	160	115	+45	Saving
Renewal of field equipment	95	95	0	
Edition, print, and binding of the field guide	1420	1464	-44	Increased costs

Transfer and exchange taxes	0	22	-22	Unforeseen
Batteries, desk one-use items, et cetera	90	90	0	
Lodging of crew	200	205	-5	
TOTAL	2900	2900	0	

Exchange rate at the day of receiving the grant (February 28th 2008): £ sterling 1 = 6.195 \$ arg.

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

Next steps of our work include to continue the socialisation of knowledge started with the distribution of the field guide and public talks.

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. The RSGF logo was printed on the poster introducing this project at the III Congreso Nacional de Conservación de la Biodiversidad (Buenos Aires, August 2008; see photo in our first update report). It was also displayed on both the front page and the back cover of the book *Lagartos del centro de la Argentina* (see cover image in this report), and in the opening slide of my presentation “Nueva mirada a una vieja ciencia: la etnoherpetología” (*A new look at an old science: the ethnoherpetology*) offered recently at the Universidad Nacional de San Luis (see attached photographs). It will be incorporated to planned future slide, and poster presentations related to this project.

11. Any other comments?

I am grateful to Rufford Small Grants for the support to this project.