

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	Enrique Javier Derlindati
Project title	CONSERVATION OF HIGH ANDES FLAMINGO SPECIES (<i>Phoenicoparrus andinus</i> and <i>P. jamesi</i>): HABITAT USE AND ACTIVITY PATTERNS IN TWO CONTRASTING WETLAND SYSTEMS OF ARGENTINA.
RSG reference	22.09.06
Reporting period	February 2007 to February 2008
Amount of grant	£ 5,000
Your email address	dvazquez@unsa.edu.ar

Date of this report	April 10, 2009
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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
1. To identify and analyze microhabitat characteristics associated to behavior and distribution of two species.			X	Main analyses were showed on the final report published on RSGF web.
2. To understand similarities and differences between two wetlands used in different moments of their life cycle.			X	Major physics and chemical characteristics were more similar between both sites than I thought. The main differences were the time expended on activities related to feeding and courtship.

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

The main difficulties that arose during the project were related to vehicle availability. We had to rent 4x4 pick-ups from privates companies, who modified rent cost periodically, and made the budget less predictable from one field trip to another. The success of our projects depends on reliable transportation to the sites, and as we had to rent a pick-up for this project, it comprised almost the 70% of the total budget cost. It is a common situation in our region which depends economically on natural resources export and foreign income, resulting in economical speculations from private companies, especially those who depend on foreign tourism like car rentals.

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

- i. Project results are included in study cases in undergraduate programmes of the biology career at Salta National University and two students are developing their undergraduate projects on flamingos breeding aspects.
- ii. Four undergraduate students and two park ranger received informal and formal education during different field trips, through their participation in flamingo surveys.

iii. Results and conclusions were presented in an international network in La Paz, Bolivia and in the XXII Argentina Ecology Meeting, and are incorporated on action and monitoring plans for the new Ramsar site at lowland wetland (Melincué) and to enforce a major initiative, a regional network of key wetlands for high Andes flamingos conservation that include 14 sites over four countries; Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

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

See above at point 3.i. and 3.ii.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, actually 2nd RSG project is starting, and I have applied for Scott Neotropical Fund at Cleveland Zoo to increase survey frequency at high Andes sites, as well, I will continue monitoring sites on breeding and not-breeding season as part of a major project.

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

At present I'm writing a manuscript on the main results. Conclusions were presented in national and international workshops and meetings. The project is used too, as a study case on Biology career at National Universities, and as part of educational workshops with local people and schools.

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

The 1ST RSG was used over a year planed period, and all activities were finished on the anticipated time.

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
Gasoline (local travel)	£ 850.00	£ 850.00		
Food & lodgement	£ 1,440.00	£ 2,160.00	-£ 720.00	
Multiparameter system – YSI85 (pH, dissolved O ₂ , conductivity, T°C) + membrane kit.	£ 670.00	0.00	£ 670.00	This equipment was acquired before the project started from other sources (i. e. University Research Council) and these funds were redirected to food & lodgment

				(especially to cover the costs of track rental).
Plancton nets (80 µmesh)	£ 50.00	0.00	£ 50.00	Idem above.
Digital camera (to register and make recordings of birds behaviour and displays)	£ 850.00	£ 850.00		
Tents	£ 500.00	£ 500.00		
Cold-weather sleeping bags and gear	£ 500.00	£ 500.00		
Batteries, markers, notebooks	£ 140.00	£ 140.00		
TOTAL	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00	0.00	

Budget for one year 1£sterling = \$ 5.55 (arg. pesos) on July 10, 2006

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

The activity pool of data from Vilama and Melincué provided an initial description of activity patterns of high Andes flamingos during the breeding and non-breeding season. Habitat types show important differences in activity patterns, especially on feeding, resting and courtship behaviours. Effects of human activities are little known, and their results on flamingos could be extreme, especially at lowland sites where pumping reduces the lake size and water levels. These human activities appear to decrease feeding habitats, which is important because breeding success depends on feeding intake. Certainly a major management objective should be to maintain current water levels in Melincué, where human threat is more aggressive than in Vilama, in high Andes, which could have a potentially disastrous impact on flamingo food resources. There is a need of research on feeding ecology, food production, reproductive physiology of breeding birds, and a detailed description of the hydrology of both types of wetlands. In order to understand the role of the lowland wetlands in the annual cycle of the Andean flamingo, we must monitor their abundance and record habitat use and activity patterns at this key site during the entire non-breeding period (the last was approved as 2nd RSG).

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?

No materials were planned as part of the project; I only used the RSGF logo on presentations at workshops and meetings.

11. Any other comments?

12. I agree to this report being published on the Rufford Small Grants website



Signed (or print name) ENRIQUE J. DERLINDATI