The Rufford Foundation
Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Ericka Ceballos
Project title	Monitoring the e-commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America
RSG reference	1083-C
Reporting period	June 2014 – January 2016
Amount of grant	£15,000
Your email address	catcaews@gmail.com
Date of this report	25th January 2017

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
Asses the level, methods and countries level of the e-trade of ivory in Latin America			✓	The scale and methods of the e-commerce on elephant ivory was assessed in 10 countries. This new monitoring allowed us to detect and expose the loopholes in the law enforcement systems in these countries, which are used by dealers of ivory products of illicit origin to sell them online while avoiding detection from their local authorities. All the countries which we researched are now affected by the e-commerce of endangered wildlife products, including ivory.
Collect, analyse and compare data gathered during the research			✓	We collected, analysed and compared all data obtained. The results were presented in the report, which was edited and published. We printed 600 high quality copies of the report. This report is also available on-line at this link: http://www.catca-ews.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/CATCAEWS-IVORY-LATAM-20161.pdf
Public awareness raising		✓		The report from the project was released during the CITES CoP17 in Johannesburg. Representatives of our organisation at the CoP spoke there to several local as well international reporters about our report. Dozens of copies of our report were handed to journalists during the meeting. However, due to all the crucial decisions which were agreed during this the CITES

				CoP17, information about our report didn't appear in major newspapers or TV services, as far as we know it. We believe it may have appeared in some of South African newspapers, one in Botswana and it was mentioned at least in a UK and an Austrian magazine. We are currently continuing to inform the media and general public about our results.
Changes in authorities and internet services owners attitude to the problem, thanks to the lobbing activities with the use of the report				Short term results: Preliminary distribution of the report. Long term results: Our lobbying with the report got many pro-conservation voting during the CITES CoP; new countries are eager to start their own monitoring; running of pro-conservation rules in the regulations of internet adverts and auctions services. The results in the form of a printed report were distributed to all the heads of governmental delegations in the CITES CoP17 and to the enforcement authorities of Latin America countries. This report was also personally handed and discussed with many representatives of governmental authorities from all over the world. Each authority was urged to improve the monitoring of the e-trade of ivory and protected wildlife in the given country, using our results to better tackle this problem. Our report on the e-commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America was a big success and It was well received by the governmental delegates to the CITES CoP. It was a great tool to lobby and to insist on the governments to tackle the illegal trade of wildlife. This report together with our other e-commerce reports, are currently available e.g. at the INTERPOL

			database.
			OXL has followed our advice and recommendations, so now there are barely any ivory items or CITES protected animal specimens (live, dead and derivatives) in all the countries researched.
			In accordance with the assurances given to us during the meeting, more governments which so far haven't taken any approach to tackling the e-commerce of protected wildlife, are interested in following our guidelines to do their own monitorings and to improve the law enforcement on this field. We intend to continue to observe the progress on this field.

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

There are new ways to avoid getting ads with ivory for sale to be detected by simple searching machines and reported to enforcement authorities. The experienced sellers (mostly from Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay) usually don't even mention the word "ivory" in their online ads, so that made our research more challenging. It is common for the illegal e-commerce sellers and buyers of ivory in those countries to use instead the words: "noble" (e.g. as a Chilean seller described it to a prospective buyer: *"It is the international denomination of a material which is forbidden to mention. It is a material used in luxurious items from animal origin."*). Other common names that we found for ivory are: "bone", "fang", "legit" and even (((i.v.o.r.y.))). Other descriptions are "genuine", "real" and "not fake bone, tooth, fang", etc. The authorities and representatives of auction services were informed about these wording used, to facilitate their monitoring.

Some Latin American classified websites blocked us to no longer be able to monitor their websites from Canada and Mexico, so we had to find other ways to check their webpage's, which we successfully did with the help of a cyber expert, but this slowed our monitoring and cost us extra money.

During this monitoring we checked hundreds of private antique shops and also auction homes, bank auctions, etc. This took us many extra hours of work, which also

slowed down our research and added extra expenses to this monitoring, but on the other hand provided us with very valuable additional information.

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

1) **Monitoring results**. We did this monitoring in the following countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The total amount of ivory items found was $50,679,335.96 USD. In 2010 in Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay we found offers of ivory products of an estimated value $1,236.500 USD. In the newest research in the same four countries the total estimated value of offered ivory was $4,600,685.66 USD. This proves a very alarming increase of the e-commerce of ivory, which truly shocked the Latin American governments, as this is proof that this commerce is important enough to be a threat to elephants in Africa and Asia. This research also exposed the illegal trade of many other endangered animals products and derivatives in Latin America. The knowledge of these shocking results is important to persuade the governments to combat these environmental cyber crimes effectively. We provide the results and effective manners to find these items online, to facilitate their own monitorings to reduce this trade.

2) **Report.** The printed report was an efficient tool during this CITES CoP, not only by providing further information about the e-commerce of ivory in Latin America, but creating a high interest in the few governments which are still not investigating the ivory trade in their countries. Belize and Guatemala were very interested and asked for further information to help them do their monitorings, as well Bolivia, Panama and Venezuela to conduct similar research. Some countries in Africa, such as South Sudan, Benin, Chad and Liberia are also quite interested in implementing such monitorings, especially to protect their elephants and rhinos.

Our report on the e-commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America was a big success among the governments, and it was a huge instrument to lobby and urge the governments to tackle the illegal trade of ivory and protected wildlife. This report is now with our other e-commerce reports at the INTERPOL database. Interpol had a big interest in our new report, and we had a special informal meeting on this issue during the CoP.

3) **Results of lobbing during the CITES CoP**. The report was also used as a great tool to lobby with the governments. During the CITES CoP17th, with our constant lobbying we helped in achieving CoP decisions which will serve to successfully protect and conserve at least 35 endangered animal species, including the rejection of the threatening African elephants Proposals 14 and 15 by Namibia and Zimbabwe,

which intended to delete the annotation to the listing of their elephant populations (*Loxodonta africana*) in Appendix II, to be able to trade ivory.

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

Local communities were not involved in the realisation of this project nor were they the direct recipients of the project results. However, some of them can benefit indirectly from it, if the project results help by diminishing the scale of wildlife poaching.

Local communities especially in Africa would benefit from the help to protect their endangered animal species from the poachers. These poachers do not only kill elephants for their ivory tusks and rhinos for their horns, but when these animals are scarce or decimated, they also kill other animal species, which are crucial for the survival of these communities. In some places as in the north of Zimbabwe, but especially in some areas close to parks, about an 85% of wild animals have been wiped out by poachers in the last 10 years, which kill these animals not only for bush meat, but also for skins and parts to sale illegally. The animals disappear, the parks get empty and the tourists stop arriving, so as a consequence the few local jobs which sustain these villages and communities vanish too. Also the local communities which defend these animals or have rangers in their family are often attacked by the poachers, which sometimes end up killing complete families. This is sadly seen all over Africa. The reduction in the trade of these animals helps to reduce the poaching and the violent raids on the villages that support animal conservation, plus help the villagers to have a continuous secure form of income.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Indeed. This is an ongoing work that is exposing the problem of e-commerce in protected species, lobbying with the governments and facilitating them to monitor and regulate this trade. As the e- commerce in wildlife is still a very dynamic, developing and fast evolving phenomenon, it should be regularly observed to see the trends, to find loopholes and encourage to the authorities to strengthen their law and its enforcement.

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

We already have been sharing it since September 2016 with over 100 animal conservation national and international NGOs, governments and their enforcement authorities, international media, the CITES Secretariat and Interpol, with the PDF version of our report, printed copies of the report and 300 printed postcards with the

link to the PDF version online. We have also sent our report to the classified web services of the researched countries. This will be continuously circulated and propagated during the activities of our organisation related to the trade in wildlife.

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

The activities supported by Rufford Foundation (monitoring) started in June 2014 and finished after the CITES CoP 17 in January 2017.

The original timetable was scheduled taking in consideration that the CITES CoP17 was going to be in March 2016, but it was postponed till September-October 2016. We requested an extension of the project which was approved, so that allowed us to do a more in depth monitoring to obtain more accurate results and to add an extra Latin American country to this research.

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
CATCA EWS monitoring small countries	5400	5400		
CATCA EWS monitoring big countries	3800	4370	570	Extra time investigating the auction houses and private antique shops
Writing the report	800	800		
Editing the report	450	450		
Printing the report	1950	1967	17	The reports had to be done with 20 pages, so that added some extra cost. The costs were kept because we printed them in Poland
Coordination	2000	2000		
Distribution	150	142	8+	
Other costs	450	435	15+	Technical advice, repairs, phone calls, etc
ACWF in kind contribution	4050	4050		
Total	**19050**	**19614**	**564**	CATCA EWS covered the extra hours costs of this monitoring

When CATCA EWS received the grant the Canadian Dollar was at 1.844 x 1£ (0.5420 GP x 1 CAD)

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

To continue approaching the issues of e-commerce of ivory and other protected wildlife (live, dead and derivatives) with the governments, the classified websites and auction sites, as well to continue to educate the public about this problem at an international level.

The strong reduction of the illegal e-trade on endangered species is our long term goal that will take some time to be achieved, but we need to continue to work to get more significant results.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes. As usual we mentioned it in the report and the logo appears there. The PDF version which is online also contains the proper information about the support received and The Rufford Foundation logo.

11. Any other comments?

We want to deeply thank the RSFG Team for allowing us to develop this project. Without your support to our e-commerce projects we would not be able to do such ambitious monitorings, which have proven to be positive in so many ways and truly helps the endangered animals at an international level.

As an example of other positive pro-conservation outcomes, thanks to our reports sponsored by RSGF, we have managed to make hundreds of contacts in the governmental authorities, which are helping in our work and the pro-conservation lobbing.

At this CITES CoP17, we approached international anti-poaching organisations, which we got in contact with the African governments that are struggling to protect their elephants and rhinos with only a few rangers, no vehicles, equipment, radios, etc. This report also opened the doors for our representatives to meet and interview several anti poaching units in South Africa and Zimbabwe, including the Black Mambas only female ranger's team. We also got the opportunity to meet Zimbabwe citizens turned into rangers and amazing ex-pats from England, risking their lives to save the few remaining elephant, rhino, buffalo and all sorts of wildlife. We will make known their stories, to hopefully get them the support and equipment that they deserve.

All this is thanks to our report on the e-commerce of elephant ivory in Latin America.