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	Lucia Ziegler
Project title	Developing a baseline for amphibian monitoring through acoustic surveys in Uruguay, South America
RSG reference	11011-1
Reporting period	Final report
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	lucia.ziegler@gmail.com
Date of this report	April 2014

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
Obtain maximum number of different species recorded		X		I have recorded (i.e. audio) 25 of the 48 native species of anurans present in Uruguay. Considering that we have three species which have not been registered in more than 15 years, and that we have two more cryptic species, this is an important number of recordings that form an important database. Additionally, video recordings and pictures of many of these species were also collected
Promote public involvement			X	We are currently working in two protected areas, one in the north-east of the country (Valle del Lunarejo, Rivera), and the other in the south-east (Arroyo Espinas, Maldonado). See below, item #4
Community-based monitoring	X			This in fact was not an objective of the project, but I wanted to give the first steps toward this aim. In this sense, the webpage created as from this project offers a section explaining what community based monitoring is, and a downloadable data sheet to download and fill in.
Webpage			X	Because internet is probably the most important and widespread communication agent, and, particularly in Uruguay there is a successful programme where every school child is provided with his own laptop together with internet access, a web page seemed to provide a higher impact in sharing the project's outcomes.

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

N/A

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

a. This project represents the first attempt to create a database of the advertisement calls of the anuran species present in Uruguay. Additionally, media such as video recordings and pictures complement this unique collection for the anuran fauna of Uruguay.

b. This database is currently being made available through a webpage (still under construction, but already accessible, www.saposyranas.com.uy). In this way, a bulk of information is readily made available for the general public (school teachers, nature lovers, researchers, etc.).

c. We have settled direct relationship with protected areas, their managers and, when applicable, their local inhabitants (see below)

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

As stated before, the project is currently actively involved in data retrieval and monitoring of anuran communities in the north and south of the country. Both are protected areas, one of state management (Valle del Lunarejo, Rivera), with local communities within, and the other of private management (Indígena, Arroyo Espinas, Maldonado), which is smaller and does not have inhabitants within its boundaries. In Valle del Lunarejo the project is working together with two local families and the State University. These families are small-scale ranchers, who are also gradually incorporating ecotouristic activities in their family economies. To develop such activity, locals need to know and understand the value of conserving native fauna, flora and landscapes as a whole. In this sense, these families have been trained on the objectives of the project (monitoring biodiversity), the local diversity of amphibians, and can transmit this knowledge to visitors of the area.

In Arroyo Espinas, the task has been similar, only that we have focused on training area managers and rangers. This area is regularly visited by school groups who are told of all the conservation efforts carried in the area, one of which is our project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. I would like to highlight that even if the project is officially finished, I regularly visit these areas to exchange information, and I have plans to extend this experience to other areas in the country.

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

A webpage is already accessible were the results from this project are going to be available for the general public. The page is, though, still under construction, with information still pending to be uploaded. The idea is to make it available also in English in the future.

Additionally, workshops for school groups and the general public are being planned for this year in Arroyo Espinas.

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 project was originally planned for the period February 2012 – December 2012. The actual end of the project was December 2013. This extra year was necessary firstly, because we were in the middle of the cold phase of the ENSO, which in Uruguay brings cold and dry conditions, highly

unsuitable for anuran sampling and monitoring. Also, from May to July 2013 I had some health complications which did not allow me to carry out much work.

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
Transportation (bus tickets + eventual car rental)	100	800	+700	Many of the areas visited were not accessible by bus transportation. This was a miscalculation in the initial budget, and therefore cars needed to be hired
Lodging + food (for three persons, approx. 5 days every month, for 12 months)	4000	4000	0	
Web page with educational contents (including content development and updating)	600	800	+200	
Paper handouts and other informative materials for schools /community organisations with educational contents	800	400	-400	
Environmental meter	140	140	0	
Total	5640	6140	+140	

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

I believe the next steps should be to go on filling in the information gaps (more field expeditions to gather information on more elusive species). Further, capitalising the information already obtained through actual programmes of community involvement is a critical step. It is clear that such a task would ideally be carried out not only by a single project but with the cooperation of organisations of wider reach. This is work to come.

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, The Rufford Foundation logo was used in a series of posters made to be exhibited in the areas where we work with the community. Also, the Foundation is mentioned (together with a link to its web page) in the web page of the project.