



## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Cédric Gilleman
Project title	Project to Protect and Conserve River Dolphins and their Habitats in Iquitos, the Riverside City of the Peruvian Amazon, by Solinia.
RSG reference	17435-2
Reporting period	May 2015 – May 2016
Amount of grant	5000
Your email address	cedric@solinia.org
Date of this report	July 2016

**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
EDUCATION		X		79 conferences in 20 schools or communities with a total of 2224 children. The objective of 3000 is not reached yet but we will still continue during the following months (especially in the town of Caballo Cocha in September, in collaboration with a Colombian organization).
OBSERVATION			X	Over the 106 outings during the period May 2015 – April 2016 (twice a week), observation of 478 pink river dolphins and 319 grey river dolphins. A scientific publication will follow.
ECOTOURISM			X	Very good collaboration with wildlife guides during a workshop organized in October 2015 and regular supervision with the tourism associations in Iquitos (Boulevard) and Nanay. Also good contact with PromPeru, a national organism to develop tourism in the Region.
EVENTS			X	Organized workshops were a great success and participants are waiting for more! See part 3 below for explanation.
ACTION PLAN		X		Solinia has participated to another workshop in August 2015. As usual the Regional Government is not really helpful but the National Action Plan should be live in 2016 (see part 2 below for explanation and solution).

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

(Observation) In October 2015 our old boat (5 years old) that was led by a friend has completely collapsed and we had to find extra money to build a new one (+/- £1,000 with CSI, Omacha, WDC and a private sponsor). Then we had to buy a new motor because the previous one was old and too slow, but fortunately we have received a donation in March 2016 to buy an outboard Yamaha HP 40 (+/- £2,700). And finally we had to pay all the documents (licence, etc.) for a value £250. In April 2016 our new boat SOLINIA was victim of an attempted assault on the Itaya River in Belen (Iquitos) by five pirates with firearms, fortunately the crew was able to escape. A complaint has been filed with the criminal police and the observation programme has been suspended during two weeks. We have decided to transfer the boat in another place (Bellavista Nanay) where we have found a solution for (we hope) a secure parking, also the outings are now starting from this place in order to not pass by the unsafe Belen district. This solution is unfortunately more expensive but necessary.

(Action Plan) The new Regional Government does not seem interested in environment conservation and wildlife protection. They do not want to participate in our actions and the Regional Government is in direct conflict with some fishermen associations. It's not an easy case as even if we are considered as being an NGO, we don't want to be in conflict with the Regional Government. One solution was to find some contacts in Lima with other associations interested in river dolphins and with the National Government (Environment Minister) and it seems it's helpful, the Action Plan should be live in 2016 and will allow us to develop a better relationship with the Regional Government and to plan more actions.

(Education) Very difficult to motivate the existing volunteers as most of them are searching for a job or have found one. Hopefully the budgeted stipends were used to motivate some volunteers and to continue with the education project, also new volunteers were found, even if it's always another investment in time it's positive for the projects and the future of Solinia.

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

(1- Observation) A scientific publication will be proposed in 2016 with the two years data. The subject will be the presence of river dolphins close to a big city like Iquitos and the related threats.

(2- Education) Solinia conferences are now well implanted and our activities are taken as a reference by other associations in Iquitos. Interactivity with children, games and other specific activities have an impact on the children. After each conference, for each child:

1. they know the existence of Solinia;

2. they can recognize a pink river dolphin from a grey river dolphin (with images and photos) and they know there are threats, that these freshwater species are unique in the Amazon basin and they need protection to continue in their role of biological control and avoid their extinction like in Asia (Chinese and Indian river dolphins);
3. they participate to a kind of group therapy « saving the river dolphins » and they receive a certificate for their participation.

(3- Workshops) Four different workshops were organized in Iquitos in October 2015:

1. Responsible observation of river dolphins. Public: wildlife guides from associations and lodges, total 20. Duration: 2 days.
2. Good practices for sustainable fisheries with conservation strategies. Public: regional government in charge of fisheries and fishermen, total 17. Duration: 1 day.
3. How to make good crafts of river dolphins? Public: craftsmen and artisans from different associations, total 25. Duration: 3 days.
4. Density estimation of river dolphins and use of the DISTANCE software. Public: volunteers from Solinia and other interested associations, total 20. Duration: 2 days.

These four workshops were a real success and there is now a good collaboration between all associations. All participants know more about the biology and habitat of the two species and some tourism associations (especially "Boulevard") are now directly proposing tours to observe river dolphins while it was not an activity in their list.

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

All the volunteers are local, they have learned about river dolphins, ecotourism and teaching (during conferences and workshops).

Also the education programme focus on local schools and communities, the Amazonian children are directly impacted by our presentations and they probably extend the impact at home when talking with their family and friends.

During the workshops wildlife guides, fishermen and artisans were also local, they directly benefit from our knowledge and expertise and can develop their projects with river dolphins.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, threats are more and more present, especially the competition with fishermen and the use of river dolphins' meat as bait to fish the Mota. Education is the key and Solinia would like to continue with the different projects in and around Iquitos.

Also the observations are directly helping, it gives an idea of the population of river dolphins around Iquitos. It's a scientific research that needs to be continued to show the evolution of the presence of dolphins during time periods.

Finally the ecotourism can be again promoted and extended, it will give more visibility to the river dolphins and a good reason to protect them.

In the future we would like to start collaboration with the coast guards and the Peruvian Navy in Iquitos. First organizing a training (theory and practice about responsible observation) and then following up to end with a collaborative projects (managing boat speed limits in some places and informing fishermen about the presence of dolphins and their importance in the river).

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

A scientific publication related to the results of the surveys (data recorded during the observation) will be proposed before end 2016. As it's our first publication we will ask help to experienced associations like Omacha (Colombia) and the final version will be sent to SOLAMAC and to The Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM).

A video was realized last year by students of a local university (UPC), it shows the importance of our work in the different projects. This video will be shared through the different social networks (YouTube, Facebook, etc.). Another video should be made in 2016.

Each year Solinia is invited by Omacha to present our work during an international symposium organized in Colombia (last one was in November 2015 in Bogota). Also Solinia is part of SOLAMAC (Latin American Society of aquatic mammal's specialists). Various articles were published in the regional newspaper "La Región":

<http://diariolaregion.com/web/duo-frances-comprometido-con-la-conservacion-de-los-delfines/>

<http://diariolaregion.com/web/solinia-promueve-talleres-sobre-la-proteccion-de-los-delfines-de-rio/>

<http://diariolaregion.com/web/comunidad-de-responsabilidad-ambiental-amazonica-resoaa-fomentando-la-cultura-del-reciclaje/>

<http://diariolaregion.com/web/familia-suiza-peruana-realiza-donativo-a-dos-organizaciones-de-conservacion-de-la-ciudad/>

<http://diariolaregion.com/web/al-contrario-de-lo-que-afirman-muchos-tecnocratas-el-comunero-amazonico-si-satisface-sus-necesidades-a-traves-de-sus-actividades-diarias/>

Also in a monthly paper for tourists (see pages 14 and 16):

[https://issuu.com/theamazonrivermonthly/docs/the\\_amazon\\_river\\_monthly\\_04](https://issuu.com/theamazonrivermonthly/docs/the_amazon_river_monthly_04)

Recently the WDC magazines made two nice articles one is attached to this report.

Finally Solinia was interviewed by America TV, a national channel, about an injured river dolphin in captivity in a zoo in Iquitos, see minute 11 of the following link:

<http://www.americatv.com.pe/cuarto-poder/reportaje/iquitos-piden-ayuda-salvar-al-delfin-huayrurin-noticia-55093>

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

As anticipated from May 2015 till May 2016 but we have still some money to continue the education project and the observations during 1 (or 2) month(s).

**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
EDUCATION	1000	683	-317	Some conferences still planned in the near future.
OBSERVATION	1700	2020	+320	New motor more greedy.
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	800	726	-74	
VOLUNTEERS	700	636	-64	
GENERAL	800	596	-204	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>4661</b>	<b>- 339</b>	

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

Solinia is a young association (4 years) but already of influence and regularly contacted by others. We are the only one studying and knowing river dolphins in the Region, it's a strong characteristic that makes us unique and our work cannot be overlooked. It's important to reinforce our general structure with employees and to have a local office to continue the good work with wildlife guides, artisans and fishermen and to welcome the public in general.

Also, we would like to develop more collaboration with the coast guards and the Peruvian Navy. This is the key to have more visibility and more help. By the way we would like to reconstruct our web site.

Finally the recent TV reporting on a national channel about the injured river dolphins in captivity in a zoo of Iquitos (with interview of Solinia) has a big impact and discussions are on-going to find solutions (release in the wild or semi-captivity). Solinia will be an important partner with national coverage.

**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 of course RSGF sponsoring was mentioned during most of the interviews (see the list of articles) and the logo printed on most of the supports used during the projects (certificates for the children, banners, etc.).

**11. Any other comments?**

Thank you very much to the Rufford Foundation for this second small grant that gave us the opportunity to continue the Solinia projects in education, communication and scientific research.

