

## The Rufford 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	ENZO ALIAGA ROSSEL
<b>Project title</b>	Promoting well-managed, educational river dolphin watching as a positive conservation tool and new source of income for Amazon communities.
<b>RSG reference</b>	17708-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2015 to October 2016
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5547
<b>Your email address</b>	ealiagar@hotmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	October 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
<p><b>Local Authorities</b>            Support local government authorities to mitigate risks and introduce adequate bufeo conservation</p>			x	<p>We work closely with national authorities (Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and the Minister of Environment) and local authorities in the Department of Beni, with the units of tourism and the environment department. With the City council of Trinidad, and Santa Rosa. We had constant meetings and collaboration. These experiences will be presented in the Marine Mammal protected areas in November 2016. Finally, our programme actively participated in the review of the Action Plan of the river dolphin in Bolivia. We gave the authorities relevant information on habitat use, abundance, threats and environmental needs of bufeos for adequate conservation measures. The programme is willing to continue with this partnership.</p>
<p>Collaborate with local authorities to raise awareness about the PAs by involving local people</p>			x	<p>We had several meetings and communication with the Department of Tourism of Trinidad city, which is the department in charge of the PA. We are supporting local authorities to raise awareness on Local Protected Areas, looking for different activities and options, such as tourism. We presented a plan for monitoring river dolphins in protected areas.</p>

Encourage authorities to promote good practice, sustainable bufeo-watching operations.			x	We had several meetings with Tourism Vice Minister; He is the third Vice Minister we've been talking to - the government changed this position several times, therefore we started the communications from zero. The Beni department was involved, and they gave certificates to the participants.
<b>Local Businesses</b> Organise workshops for tour operators and socialise field guides to promote responsible behaviour to mitigate impact on the environment and support sustainable ethical wildlife tourism.			x	We developed a series of workshops directed to tourism field guides, operators, including park rangers and authorities. We are promoting good practices and natural history of the river dolphin.
Promote responsible bufeo-watching guidelines.			x	We promoted the booklet "Good practices in the responsible observation Bolivian river dolphin". People involved in tourism in the area are using this guideline booklet.
Prepare educational materials to fully inform tourists about bufeo-watching guidelines.		x		We elaborated a booklet for tourists, students and people that want to learn more from the river dolphins. In addition, we have the design of leaflets with basic information for good practices; this was done with the collaboration of tourism. We are trying to develop material with the participation of the Vice Minister of Tourism.
Maintain regular contact with the educational authorities to ensure their support towards the		x		We performed several presentations in schools, in different main cities and rural areas; we gave kids from rural and poor areas school materials such as a colour

<p>delivery of presentations in schools, run interactive and lively classroom sessions about bufeos, their habitat and threats they face.</p>			<p>pencil, sharpener, eraser, and other material. They were very excited about this. Finally, we gave them certificates, which indicate they are the guardians of the river. However, we could not have a good contact with education authorities; they have a tight schedule. Recently after a presentation, the local government of Cochabamba seems interested to include river dolphins in an environmental education programme we want to propose.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring and Conservation Activities</b>          Improve the understanding of the bufeo population status, threats and protection needs in the PAs by establishing regular observation and monitoring by community members.</p>		<p>x</p>	<p>We identified and continued training local community members to participate in monitoring and observation of bufeo abundance. We worked with Park rangers of Pampas-del-Yacuma PA, they are keen this PA becomes a place well known for good practices in river wildlife and bufeo watching. We need to continue with this type of capacitation, and to involve the majority of the rangers.</p>
<p>Hold meetings with wildlife tourist operators to develop a voluntary code of conduct to ensure that wildlife tours are sustainable and educational (promote conservation)</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>We continued with the approach to wildlife tourist operator. Our goal is to work closely with the majority of the important companies in the area.</p>

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

One of the main difficulties is to set meetings with authorities; usually they have a very tight agenda and activities. We were able to pressure to have the meetings. This is a long and continue term project. Therefore, we understand the slow timing

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

All the project outcomes directly supported the 'National Bolivian River Dolphin Conservation Plan' objectives. Once again, and thanks to the support of Rufford, we reach more than 11000 people with information about the river dolphins. At least 3500 were kids and young people. These people are future leaders and allied for river dolphin conservation. We distributed posters and booklets about the species, their threats, with advice to help them. We are planning to continue with this presentations and information in the future. The Beni Government and some small towns in the department, are interested in the project. We continued to help the Municipality of Trinidad, promoting a culture for conservation within the PA's communities and the people.

With the tourism main office of Trinidad city, and in support of the Municipal Protected Area Ibare Mamore, we prepared a new booklet for students, tourists and other people that might be interested in the river dolphins and the protected area. We carried out regular meetings with locals stakeholders involved in river dolphin-related tourism; we had large workshops with tour guides, tourism operators, and other people involved in this activity; the long-term project is to have two areas certified as sites of good practices in river dolphin observation.

People living in Trinidad and Santa-Rosa towns are more aware of the value and conservation needs of bufeos and associated local wildlife - the link between healthy rivers and lakes, thriving bufeo populations. I can perceive more interest in the people and students.

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

We continued with the involvement of local communities which are a key component for the conservation of the species. We created a close relationship with some authorities, they are slowly changing their perception of the species in the

area, and the image of river dolphin is used more frequently in different banners, and other information. Local communities were visited and informed about the main objectives of the project; we started with small workshops, and an environmental educational campaign. We are planning that more people will be involved and have a bigger participation. The programme is a long-term project and locals will benefit from different tourism projects - ideally locals will be hired as tourist guides by local companies. Some locals have already experience in the tourist activity, and were willing to participate. In the workshops, we included several local field guides that lives in the area and are in every day dolphin contact.

For the expeditions, we hired local guides and motor driver and in the case of Pampas del Yacuma Municipal protected areas, we went with park rangers; they understand the project and are a good link to the communities and the programme. We want to continue working with park rangers so we can start a monitoring project.

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

Yes, our river dolphin programme is a long-term commitment. We have more plans to continue with this project. I've been working with river dolphins for around 15 years, with basic biology and ecology, we found that the threats over the species are continuously increasing this species needs a lot of protection. We need to continue with the promotion of the river dolphin, creating aware about the species and all the threats. We know that conservation is the most important action to take; therefore, we need to work with fishermen, local communities and decision makers. We need to include the river dolphins in different management plans in protected areas.

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

Most of the results and basic information on river dolphins were presented in different activities of diffusion in cities and rural areas. We are preparing scientific publications to present surveys results. We try to share all the results in national and international meetings and conferences. For example, in November 2016, E. Aliaga-Rossel and I will be presenting parts of this project in the International Committee Marine Mammal Protected Areas. The PI was interviewed invited a give a presentation in the international book fair in La Paz by the USA embassy. Also was interviewed in a note at the national newspaper (September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016), where they explained all the

issues involving river dolphins, the project, environmental education, etc. Finally, a general report was sent to local and national authorities.

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

The RSG Grant was used over a period of 12 months, from October 2015 – October 2016, of the objectives were fulfilled and we were able to reach additional and important results that we expected. We are continuing with a long-term project, and depending on the funding, expand to other rural towns, and to strength the result already consolidated with local communities and the relation with the species.

**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
Bank commission ITF Taxes	70	55	15	
5 x return air tickets for team: La Paz to Trinidad/Rurrenabaque @ £190	760	850	- 90	A cheaper company allowed to round travel 5 people of the team, making this more efficient.
Travel in Trinidad/Santa Rose and the PAs by road and river taxis	250	250	0	This was used in several trips (including trip to Trinidad by bus)
Contribution to accommodation costs for team in Trinidad@£72/mth	720	864	- 144	
Contribution to food for project team in Trinidad@ £34 per month	340	360	-20	
Stipend for project	1000	1000	0	

leader (£100 per month)				
Stipend for project partner (£80 per month)	800	800	0	
Education materials for childrens' activities (booklets, arts & crafts), including the artist	400	400	0	Several of the material was a present for kids, and the booklet is not published yet. We hope that this will be published in a month, and we'll continue with this activity next year
Make interpretation resources with local people for outreach/exhibits	200	100	100	We used the resources to capacitate locals for outreach. We are planning to start with handicrafts.
Boat and motor board, motor driver rent for bufeo survey	0	300	-300	We did not included this in the budget, but it was set in the objectives.
Expenses for school and teacher visits and activity days	225	150	75	
Expenses for visits and conservation activities in local communities	200	130	70	We visited and worked with 3 local communities, the rest did not wanted to participate, but agree they want to continue.
Expenses for Tour Operators Workshop	90	80	10	This activity was performed with a limited participation of people, and we are planning to have a larger workshop next year, with more tour companies involved
<b>TOTAL</b>	5055	<b>5489</b>	-284	

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

As this increase, the killing of river dolphins in the Amazon is a terrible reality; people kill to use them as a bait. Education is a key component to stop all this killings and to create a different perception of resources and nature. The next important steps are: to continue working with the communities, increasing the awareness and the

importance of the bufeos in the rivers of Bolivia, this has to be a constant activity. Also is important to create new regulations and agreements with fishermen. There are few regulations and overfishing could become an issue with river and conservations. Tourism is a good alternative for conservation and an economics for the communities in the area. We started with the protocol and workshops, we need to consolidate this, this activity has to be a long and continue, with the participation of the authorities and people around. We need to continue monitoring the populations, and start a program of monitoring in protected areas.

**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?**

All diffusion material elaborated during this project has the RGS logo included. This material was shown in different meetings (see attached material). The programme of river dolphin research and conservation, donated two dolphin models to the National Natural History Museum, we included the logo of RSGF logo as in the description board.

**11. Any other comments?**

Despite all difficulties, we were able to fulfil several of the objectives and obtain several results. We truly thank the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for its generous support on behalf of the Bolivian river dolphin population and its habitat. We acknowledge the foundation for the conservation initiatives it supports around the world.



Model of a bufeo and a calf donated by the Program to the National Museum of Natural History in La Paz/ Bolivia

**PLANILLA DE ASISTENCIA**

FECHA: 06 de Octubre de 2016  
 LOCALIDAD: Rurrenabaque  
 LUGAR: Dirección Departamental De Turismo – Rurrenabaque

ASUNTO: Taller, buenas prácticas para la observación responsable del Bufeo Boliviano  
 HOJA N°: 1

N°	NOMBRE Y APELLIDO	INSTITUCION	CORREO ELECTRONICO	TELEFONO	FIRMA
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4	JUAN CARLOS BUSPE DAR	MAX ADVENTURE		61153721	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Quis Luis Fariñas Lhuza	AGUIASTUR			<i>[Signature]</i>
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15	Gary José Tito Lima	flecha TOURS		74723800	<i>[Signature]</i>

List of Participants of the Workshop about good practices in Rurrenabaque



The PI, giving a presentation in Rurrenabaque rural town in Bolivia



Assistants of a workshop in rurrenabaque, they are showing the booklet of good practices in the river dolphin observation



Beni Turistico ha añadido 3 fotos nuevas —  
con Alex Ferrier y 28 personas más.

6 de oct. a las 21:17 •

### TALLER DE CAPACITACION

El Gobierno Autonómico Departamental del Beni a través de su Dirección de Turismo dependiente de la Secretaría de Planificación y Desarrollo Económico brindan Taller de Capacitación de Buenas Prácticas para la Observación responsable del Bufeo Boliviano (*Inia boliviensis*) dirigido a todos los Guías de Turismo y Operadores... [Ver más](#)



1 comentario

Me gusta

Comentar

Compartir



Me gusta

Comentar

Compartir





 **Beni Turístico** ha añadido 3 fotos nuevas  
— con **Lyliam Gonzalez** y **64 personas**  
**más.**  
2 horas • 

#### TALLER DE CAPACITACION

El Gobierno Autónomo Departamental del Beni a través de su Dirección de Turismo dependiente de la Secretaria de Planificación y Desarrollo Económico, brindan Taller de Capacitación de Buenas Prácticas para la Observación Responsable del Bufeo Boliviano (Inia Bolivensis) dirigido a todos los Guías y Operadores de Turismo, Guarda Parques y Estudiantes del Municipio de Santa Rosa del Yacuma.



Escribe un comentario...





 **Beni Turistico** ha añadido 2 fotos nuevas  
— con **Alex Ferrier** y **23 personas más**.  
27 minutos •

#### CAPACITACION

El Gobierno Autónomo Departamental del Beni a través de su Dirección de Turismo dependiente de la Secretaria de Planificación y Desarrollo Económico, en Coordinación con el Instituto de Ecología, Capacitan a Guías y Operadores de Turismo, Guarda Bosques y Estudiantes del Municipio de Santa Rosa del Yacuma, sobre las Buenas Prácticas para la Observación Responsable del Bufeo Boliviano (*Inia Boliviensis*) Taller que estuvo dirigido el Biólogo Enzo Aliaga.



Escribe un comentario...



Screenshots of the Facebook page of the Beni Government, highlighting the workshops in Rurrenabaque and Santa Rosa. Workshops about good practices and tourism.