

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	Giovanni Alberto Chaves Portilla
Project title	The Supatá Golden Poison Frog Project: Implementation and Development of a Local Conservation Strategy of Amphibian Biodiversity in the Eastern Andes, Colombia
RSG reference	64.10.08
Reporting period	September 2009 – April 2011
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	gchavesp@ecodiversidad.org biochaves@yahoo.com
Date of this report	24 May 2011

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
Perform the amphibian monitoring in the sampling locations and the field data recording, using established standardised methods.			X	The development of this population monitoring has allowed obtain relevant data about the Supatá golden frog, contributing to improve the baseline knowledge of this frog and to the better understand the species dynamics in forest fragments where inhabit this. Also, during these surveys we have been able to record important data from other amphibians and reptiles species that share the habitat with the Supatá golden frog, many of these species have deficient data or non-existent about their ecology, natural history and current distribution.
Involve to the Supatá children in the conservation of amphibians and their habitats through different environmental activities (workshops, meetings, environmental kids' camps, etc.)			X	The environmental children's group "Cuida Palos" has worked actively with us, allowing the strengthening of this group interested in the environment protection.
Generate community participation of Supatá people, community leaders and local authorities through different activities to raise awareness about the environmental problems that affect the amphibians and other wildlife in the region.			X	Perhaps, the most relevant results in this project were the related to community involvement and awareness raising, which enabled to involve several sectors of the Supatá community in the amphibian conservation topic.
Support and strengthen of the Supatá golden frog festival as a conservation strategy to promote the community			X	The Supatá golden frog festival as an outreach and awareness tool has been a great success, achieving the appropriation of this event by local community. During the last 3 years this event has accomplished the active

involvement and awareness raising in Supatá people about the nature conservation.				participation of local community in several environmental activities, demonstrating the interest and commitment of this municipality by the conservation of their natural heritage.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Perhaps the biggest unforeseen difficulty in the development of the project was the extreme and atypical climate conditions that Colombia is facing in the last year (extremely rainy seasons), which delayed the development of the population monitoring surveys. This delay occurred during 4 consecutive months where we could not conduct the samplings. We resumed the fieldwork as soon as conditions were more favourable.

Another difficulty that hindered the project was the change the local government position with reference to the environmental protection. Although the project has a great reception from the local community and initially by the local authorities, the latter withdrew their support for the project for a while because between the official priorities, the conservation nature have no a great relevance, which produced some discrepancies due to differences in the view points of us and them. But thanks to the excellent management of the problem and the diplomacy of some members of Ecodiversidad Colombia foundation, we were able to overcome this impasse.

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

The first and most important achievement of the project was the active involvement of community local members in many activities for wildlife and natural resources conservation. Now, Supatá is shown as an example municipality by its high awareness level about the amphibian conservation and their habitat, and its commitment about the environmental protection.

Another achievement in this project was the contribution to the baseline of knowledge concerning the Supatá golden frog. With the data obtained in field during the population monitoring, now we have a better overview on the ecology and natural history on this frog, which in the near future will be relevant at the time to take decisions regarding the conservation of this species or in the design of new conservation strategies for this.

Finally, the support and accompaniment by Ecodiversidad Colombia foundation to the development to Supatá golden frog festival, has provided that this annual event to take root and become part of tradition in the municipality. Besides the great environmental impact, this festival has shown to have a significant impact in the socio-cultural component for the community, because it has boosted the tourism and somehow the municipality's economy, through the generation of new revenue during the development of the festival.

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

The Supatá community has played an important role in the project development being participate in several of the project objectives. The active participation of them in all environmental activities

carried out in the project demonstrates the high degree of commitment of this community by the conservation and protection of their natural heritage. This project have benefited to the Supatá community because this has given those tools and knowledge that will enable them to generate their own future conservation strategies and potential sustainable alternative in their municipality.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Sure, the Ecodiversidad Colombia foundation believe that local community that living in the areas where there are threatened wildlife are who ultimately decide the future of these species, so our work must continue providing alternatives and tools to these people who have the forest destruction or transformation as first source of income. Soon, we hope begin the design of a programme that allow together with the land owners where is the golden frog Supatá increase the species' habitat through the reforestation of important areas for water protection. Now, the acquisition of this resource has become a problem due to the extensive deforestation that has occurred in recent years in the area, causing the disappearance of several sources of this liquid.

Likewise, in a future we will start the design of a nature reserve, that together with the community work would ensure the conservation of Supatá golden frog and its habitat that still persists, which indirectly benefit the other wildlife that inhabit these forest fragments.

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

Currently, the Ecodiversidad Colombia foundation are developing several outreach materials as an environmental primer regarding our project , which will be distributed to the Supatá children school to continue knowing and learning about their natural heritage. Also, we are designing a guide to amphibians and reptiles of Supatá, based on secondary information obtained within the population monitoring samplings.

Referring to the scientific outcomes, we hope in the future participate in several scientific events that allow us to show the results of our fieldwork. Also we expect submit several scientific papers in different journals to show the results of our project.

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

A total of 19 months were spent to complete successfully this project. This time was not the anticipated time (12 months). This delay was due to several unforeseen factors that were discussed above, so this was helped to ensure that all planned activities were designed and monitored more carefully, allowed that these were met satisfactorily.

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
Project preparation expenses				
Materials and equipments for amphibian monitoring	£ 1000	£ 1050	£50	This budget was spent on buying plastic bags, vinyl gloves, callipers, GPS, digital

				weighs, digital thermo-hygrometer, head flashlights, batteries, field notebooks, disinfectant solution, buckets, aerial images, etc
Photographic equipment	£ 700	£ 720	-£20	This budget was spent on Digital camera, rechargeable batteries, memory cards
Bibliographic material (books and printing journals)	£100	£ 80	+£20	
Miscellaneous (administration, communications, etc)	£100	£60	+£40	
Project implementation expenses				
Living cost	£ 2100	£ 2330	+ £ 230	The initial prices was rose due to increased cost of living in our country and some extra field trips that were carried out
Travel expenses	£ 400	£ 515	+ £ 115	The initial prices was rose due to increased cost of living in the country and some extra field trips that were carried out
Educational and promotional materials	£ 600	£ 670	+ £ 70	
Workshops and meetings expenses	£ 400	£ 525	+ £ 125	extra budget was spent on this item to strengthen this phase of the project
Post- project expenses				
Reporter production	£ 100	£ 100	£ 0	
Contingency (10% of budget)	£ 550	£ 0	£ 0	The contingency was used to cover various expenses which occur within the project development.
TOTAL	£ 6000	£ 6050	- £ 50	

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

Now, the most important step is to continue the support that has been done to the local community regarding to the environmental work. Also we must continue with the population monitoring and the field studies that allow us to know many aspects of the Supatá golden frog and relationships with their environment.

As mentioned above we want to start the feasibility studies and design of a nature reserve that contributes to the conservation of amphibians in Supatá municipality. Another important step is to

disseminate and share the obtained outcomes in this project not only to the local community but to the different organizations, NGOs and governmental institutes of Colombia that would attract more support for our work.

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?

The RSGF logo has been used in several outreach material designed in the course of the project, such as stickers, posters, calendars, etc. Also the RSGF has been used in the various multimedia presentations for the workshops and oral presentations within the project activities, and in a poster presented at the 23rd International Congress for conservation biology held in Beijing, China.

We expect to use the logo in diverse outreach materials (a guide to amphibians and reptiles of Supatá, environmental primers, others presentations, etc.) that we will design to show the results of this project.

11. Any other comments?

We appreciate the RSGF support that gave to our work, which undoubtedly helped to achieve the outcomes that we have today. We hope in the future continue to count with this support in this or another project aimed to conserve the Colombian wildlife. Thanks.