

## Project Update July 2025

**Rufford I.D.:** 37581-2

**Project Title:** Exploring the Use of Sonars for an Unprecedented Estimate of Amazonian Manatee Abundance

**Update:** In addition to being quite challenging on its own, the constant fluctuations in water levels in the Amazon region have made it difficult to properly plan the field expeditions. As I have not yet achieved satisfactory results with the surveys conducted so far, my project partners and I have been discussing a new approach. The idea would be to use a floating base equipped with a power supply and attach different sonar devices to it. This platform would be positioned in a well-known manatee passage during their migration period, when the water levels begin to drop, around late July and early August. In this way, we would attempt both visual and acoustic detection of the animals moving toward Lake Amanã, which could provide an initial estimate of the number of manatees using the lake area during the dry season.

Previously, I was working in another NGO called Aquasis, but I left the organization at the end of December and am currently unemployed. I would like to ask if it would be possible to use part of the grant to cover travel costs ( ~ £ 500) for me to join the team and assist with these efforts, in case this project amendment is approved by you.

Additionally, although we haven't obtained many manatee records from the sonar so far, these recordings will contribute to the database needed to finalize the bathymetric map of Lake Amanã, as proposed in the previous project. We believe it will be possible to complete this work soon. These data will be important to integrate with the telemetry data we have collected.