Rufford updates

Pond beats. Conservation of threatened amphibians in wetlands of Valdivian rainforest remnants of Argentina

New logo project

We have generated a new logo identity for our Rufford project. This logo will give identity to our project and help to distinguish our activities supported by Rufford.

Fieldwork update

We completed the first phase of the project. We deployed all environmental sensors and automated recorders in the wetlands of the remaining Valdivian rainforest. We are collecting data through one-minute per hour in a 24/7 duty cycle, accompanied by the environmental data (relative air humidity, air temperature, atmospheric pressure, and water temperature).

This is a cornerstone of a long-term passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) program developed in collaboration with the National Parks Administration of Argentina. Additionally, we are documented the presence of livestock and its negative impact on in the fragile wetlands systems in the remnants of Valdivian forests. This information will be crucial for the next phase of the project, which will involve conducting workshops and talks aimed at raising awareness among local cattle ranchers about the importance of improving livestock management to conserve the irreplaceable wetlands of the Valdivian rainforest.

Laboratory work update

We are manually processing the obtained audio files. These audios, together with their environmental variables, are important to generate the virtual library of the acoustic landscape of the monitored wetlands, to evaluate the impact of climate change and livestock on the wetlands of the remnants of the Valdivian rainforest, as well as to provide experiences and the necessary material to generate a passive acoustic monitoring programme aimed at park rangers, It is therefore of utmost importance to analyse the information collected and process it in the most appropriate way, in order to fulfil all that we have set out to achieve.

Within the analysis methods, we have carried out active listening with programmes such as Raven and Adobe Audition and we are testing semi-automatic acoustic detection methods by means of the detection of images moulded from the phonograms of the species through the R software.

Maintaining close and continuous contact with the park rangers

Our collaborative team is made up of national park staff from Lago Puelo National Park and Nahuel Huapi National Park, the natural parks where the 7 wetland sites of remnant Valdivian Rainforest that we are monitoring in this project are located.

Nahuel Huapi

41° 2' 27.384" S, 71° 48' 22.6" W
41° 0' 34.2" S, 71° 49' 16.716" W
40° 59' 40.596" S, 71° 50' 33.5" W
40° 59' 23.8092" S, 71° 50' 39.2" W,

Lago Puelo

42° 5' 44.178" S, 71° 36' 35.8" W
42° 5' 45.428" S, 71° 36' 18.9" W
42° 5' 17.844" S, 71° 37' 8.7" W

My PhD tutor and I have maintained frequent, cordial and quite productive contact so far with the whole collaborative team. And we are already talking and planning the next phases of the project.

- Creation and placement of QR signs directing visitors to the virtual library, which contains the nocturnal soundscape they are visiting.
- Workshops and talks to raise awareness among local cattle ranchers for the conservation of the Valdivian rainforest wetlands and their asociated valdivian amphibian species.
- Exhibition and workshops for park rangers to share experiences gained during the implementation of the passive acoustic monitoring programme to monitor Valdivian rainforest wetlands through the use of amphibians as indicators.
- Outreach talks on the conservation of wetlands and the Valdivian amphibians that inhabit them, within the facilities of the Lago Puelo and Nahuel Huapi National Parks for the general public.