

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	
<b>Your name</b>	Rodrigo García Píngaro
<b>Project title</b>	Strengthening Strategies and Actions for the Management and Conservation of the Whales and Dolphins SANCTUARY (Uruguay).
<b>RSG reference</b>	15370-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	May 2014 – April 2015
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£11,898
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:rodrigo@occ.org.uy">rodrigo@occ.org.uy</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	May 2015

**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
Continue with educational campaigns for children and young people of coastal communities				Some new administration permissions coming from educational authorities makes impossible made all the talks we planned. With young people all the activities were fulfilled. The beaches cleanup was successful accomplished with great participation and results.
Continue responsible tourism and whale watching workshops				No new operators on whale watching were presented on 2014, but new operators come in early 2015 and we'll complete this objective. In the whale launching season we did talks with local operators before and during the activity, consist in practical marine procedures and good practices on board.
A workshop to establish a Protocol base of Cetacean Stranding and Rescue network				Some little disagreements on the content and the rules of each one in the Protocol inhibited finishing it. But the results together the academy and students were very important to the future of the Protocol.
Works including a workshop with naval authorities, academy and others to avoid ship strikes				This year starting the alert for all the ships enters into Uruguayan waters and recommend be aware for whales.
Preventing and avoiding gas seismic surveys in areas with cetaceans				We promote inside the Protocol of the survey enterprise (official documents), they would include some measurements but not all.
Applying marine regulations by law				We obtained the build and installation of a big sign inside the

on solid and liquid waste				seaport with the whale watching regulations. But we need to monitor in long-term the application of the law.
Building the Cetacean Stranding Network in Uruguay				This year OCC has consolidated the social network in Facebook, which inform our members (close to 3,000). And with signs in the local communities.
Media and communication campaign				Successfully attained, with support of local TV channels and OCC has a speciality radio programme.
Creating the first commemoration of the Sanctuary				With participation of diversity form of arts, dance and exhibition of posters about whales (itinerant exposition together Tourism Ministry).

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

New procedures to authorise talks in schools and new bureaucracies delayed the work and we didn't perform all talks planned. However, we were able to do several talks because lot of teachers and directors known our work.

Although there were no new whale watching operators in 2014, we could go further with the operators of other years (2010-2013) during launch trip season and work encounters. We saw various subjects been improved in relation to marine good practices and a plan for greater success in the trips, channels of promotion and new forms of support of the government.

Related to seismic surveys, inside the government has occurred serious problems of coordination and OCC couldn't progress with new proposals for mitigation of impacts.

In matters of incidence, as 2014 was a year of presidential elections in the country was a difficult year for the project. Although we try to use the elections including our goals and demands, into their political campaigns.

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

- Applying marine regulations on whalewatching, with important penalties to the tourist operators (six) that they did not comply with the regulation of the Decree 261/002.

- A workshop to establish a Protocol base of Cetacean Stranding and Rescue network, with several important advances.
- Reducing the risk of whale collision (ship strikes) by meeting with naval authorities, Academy and naval Air Force, starting the alert for all the ships enters into Uruguayan waters.

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

From the Cetacean Stranding and Sighting Network the coastal communities participated directly using the group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/reddeavistaje/>), mails and telephone calls (including SMS messages). On land the local people denouncing to the naval authorities the approaching of boats into the protected area for whales (600 ft) and the authorities proceed, penalising the owners with heavy fines. This works like a management plan on protected areas, that is in accordance to the sanctuary law proclaimed in 2013 and reflects the awareness of the local society involved since we start our educational campaign with the support of RSG.

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

Is vital the continuity of work on the aims of the project and for this we have planned different actions in 2015, including training courses and other relevant events to raise awareness. New government authorities are willing to and ready to support our proposals, actions to avoid collisions with whales, promote responsible tourism and generate work plans in the marine protected areas, especially in the Sanctuary.

Other activities to booster: beach cleanup, launching whale season in four coastal localities, training courses at the tertiary and secondary levels on different topics.

And the stranding protocol should be continued and perfected with academicians and authorities. All those actions will be part of the sanctuary management plan.

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

Our work is based on participatory and appropriation processes in communities. To do this we carry different methods, including little workshops, audiovisual events, where we show our own videos and presentations with the achievements of OCC. At the launch of whale season is a good time, as with the ministry are convened to the press, authorities, employers and society as a whole, well attended.

In terms of social media and the press our actions and communicate achievements.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used?**

May 2014 to April 2015.

**How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The project has been extended more than planned and now projected at least 5 years working in the Sanctuary management plan.

**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
1. Administration	1.190			---
2. Broadcast materials				
a. Brochures of Sanctuary	563			
b. Posters	344			
c. Proposal management Sanctuary Plan	406	306		
d. Multimedia DVD promotional	564			
3. Specialist Contract Fees				
a. Specialist facilitation on	812			
b. Specialists on management and biologist	1.218			
c. Educationist and teacher	752			
d. General coordinator	2.436			
4. Training workshops and research				
a. Institutional Sanctuary folder	250	0	0	
b. Materials for workshops and	280	0	0	

meetings				
c. Meetings (36) with authorities	188	0	0	
d. Beaches Clean Up.	950	0	0	
e. Mapping daily presence and whale behaviors	200	0	0	
f. Coastal aerial surveys with Army Navy for photo-Id	300	0	0	
5. Transport and materials				
a. Gas-oil	500	0	0	
b. Bus passages	350	0	0	
c. Tickets, meals and extras	595	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11.898</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

Continue to strengthen the actions taken together with the authorities and communities. Especially what refers to seismic oil exploration and drilling, ship traffic, responsible tourism and prevent the pollution from the basin adjacent.

The integrated management approach that includes the adjacent basin and productive use that takes place there, the source of pollution is required.

### 10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, we used the logo in all the materials which has been produced by OCC. And we have sent previous reports in images.

### 11. Any other comments?

We are very grateful for the support and confidence of RSG, which as a result have been able to achieve so important achievements for the conservation of whales and oceans in Uruguay.