

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Wander Oliveira Godinho
Project title	Conservation plan for the estuary of Mundaú river – Brazil
RSG reference	18708-1
Reporting period	Jan-2015 to Jan 2016
Amount of grant	£ 3109
Your email address	wgodinho@gmail.com
Date of this report	11.12.2016

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
Participation of the community in all aspects of the project				The community, as schools, fisherman association, stakeholder, bars and hotels all welcomed and embraced the project. We have now a very supportive body to continue our goals of conservation and education
Data collection: fish species and priority areas				We learn a lot from this action. We realised there are challenges in collecting samples with the help of students, particularly because of time. Low tides only happen twice a month and we used this time for data samples only, then took students to the field in another day. We are now working on a database to produce further results of fish species in the area
Conservation Plan for the Estuary				With the results from this project and published articles we created the first Conservation Plan for the Estuary of Mundaú river. The plan will be presented to local authorities in 2017. The plan is in action now.
Statistical Analysis and publication				The data is being analysed and a short note with results and discussion is on the way.
Promotion of the Project				The outcomes of the project were presented in a National Conference (SINPARQUE) and a Regional Conference. Moreover, the activities of the project can be seen on Facebook page, with thousands of views.

Student's fieldtrip				We carried out two field trips with students, where they learned methods to evaluate the diversity of an area, and to measure abiotic aspects of the ecosystem.
Mangrove Reforestation				A very successful activity, where students planted more than 1500 seedlings along the margins of the estuary.
CinemaAction				The purpose of this activity was to encourage students to work in group on a short film about a specific topic; environment, sustainability, community, bullying, etc. The festival CinemaAction had an audience of over 3 thousand people.
Astrophotography contest				A photo contest with
Edu-communication methodology				This methodology was applied throughout the goals of the project. The use of social and digital media as a learning tool made this project reach popularity among the students and within communities. Every step of the project as well as side projects utilized edu-communication to engage students to the topic of conservation, and to encourage the community to be part of the programme.

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

In our project, we were able to collect all data we needed, but the quality of the data can be improved. For instance, we were not able to collect different abiotic aspects of the water, as this would have involved an extra entity to do that. However, we ended up collecting other data that are very relevant for the conservation plan, such as the mapping of priority areas for conservation. We achieved that by using local fishermen to guide us through the areas where seahorses and other vulnerable species are still found. Other areas were classified

based on the level of impacts observed in its margins. Thus, we were able to collect different data to create the conservation plan at the end of the project.

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

a) The community:

We were so glad to see the participation of the community during every action of this project. The last event, where students presented the results of activities developed in the project, more than 3000 people watched the students in an open-air square, in Flecheiras beach. Restaurants and hotels are willing to fund our activities for next year. Other events we made with school, such as photo competition, and CinemAction spread the idea of the project to more than 13 schools of the municipality. Teachers and leaders of other communities want to develop similar activities to protect their estuaries and provide their schools with the educommunication-learning methods.

b) Digital Marketing and promotion

Posts on Facebook often reached the 1000 mark of views. The participation of students on our Facebook page confirms the impact the project is having on their presence at school. The events along the year were all successful and well organised by the school staff and students. Our project has been presented in Regional and National Conferences. Our pioneer educational methodology, utilising social media and digital platforms are now an example for other NGOs and schools to apply in their projects.

c) The team

No doubt the success of this project is a consequence of a very competent team. I hereby state that Celio Alves, Fred Osorio and myself were able to assist the project efficiently, and leading others to help voluntarily in this project. I want to praise Celio Alves for being the active teacher that planned and executed activities in the school and in the community. Fred Osorio and I have been very supportive to Celio and working on the publication of flyers, books, and the conservation plan. For this first year of the project we together were able to move a whole community to create practices of conservation and to start restoring their own estuary from human impacts. We are looking forward to see the growth of this project in our communities and the spread of the conservation awareness to other communities.

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

School

The project brought the school new ways of teaching. The reality of public schools in this community is that students are not interested in learning, and most students do not complete their studies. With this project, we saw the participation of many students who had never been active in school. Besides, we strengthened those students who have always shown an interest for studies. Teachers are also benefiting from the project by learning together with students. We invited specialists to talk about marine parks, conservation and ecosystem, and students and teachers were fascinated with the topics. The school is currently in the process of taking the activities of the project as fundamental part of student's grades, thus helping the quality of the education in the public schools of the municipality.

Local Fisherman

For many years, the community of fisherman has realised that fishing is no longer a sustainable activity and therefore they need to find out other ways to provide for their families. When we put together fishermen and researchers, both parts were able to understand a bit more of each other's role in the society. Our fishermen promptly responded to our project, with the hope of having back the abundance and diversity of fish once found in that ecosystem, or at least, to understand the reasons behind the depletion of fish stocks. The project was able to generate an extra income to a few fishermen who helped us in collecting samples, documenting species, and taking us on boat trips to the entrances of the Estuary. They now do realise how the estuary has suffered severe impacts along the years, and that has to change in order to species recover again.

Tour operators

Marcelo operates two catamarans in the estuary. He takes tourists to visit the estuary, from the innermost part. He has told us many tourists complain with the amount of rubbish seen in the margins of the estuary, and that has made his business to slow down in past years. Some activities done in this project, such as the CLEAN-UP day, are bringing tourists back. Tourists are giving better reviews about the area. Like Marcelo, hotels are experiencing less complains about rubbish in the margins of the estuary. We are hopeful that the conservation plan will revitalize the original landscape of the area, and expand tourism activities in the estuary.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The first step of this project has been completed. The Conservation plan is ready to be put into practice. ACTIONS are the next steps of the project, to start in 2017. We

will continue with some activities done with the school, such as clean-up, mangrove reforestation, photo contests, cinema contests, signs for preservation of the estuary, etc. Other activities will be implemented; photo-book of the Conservation Unit, the construction of a discovery centre, and the monitoring of sanctuary zones in the estuary are one of these new actions.

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

Facebook

The project has been shared in social media on Facebook, through the page: [Rizoma de Canaan](#).

Youtube

Some videos of the project can be found on [Youtube](#), and the channel will continue to publish new videos of the project, as well as activities that Rufford had been involved in.

EnviroMentor

The EnviroMentor website, Australia, has been posting the results of the project in its website. The objective of EnviroMentor is to link high schools in Australia with the project in Brazil.

Conferences

III Simpósio do Parque das Dunas (III SIMPARQUE), Natal-RN. The project was presented and received major applauses for the innovative way to conserve the environment while improving the education of public schools.

Feira Estadual de Ciências, Cultura e Meio Ambiente do Estado do Ceará. Students represented the project among schools from the estate of Ceará.

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

We have used the RFS grant for the whole period of 12 months, as previously indicated in our project.

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
Gopro (Strobe)	267	380	-113	We purchased the gopro, but also purchased the strobe to make video quality higher.
Fishing net	125	125	0	Fishing nets are still in great conditions for next projects
Aquarium Air Pump	37	0	+37	We did not need this accessory
Plastic Tanks	25	0	+25	We replaced plastic tanks with nelly bins.
Laptop	585	0	+585	We found unnecessary to buy a computer at this stage of the project. Instead we used personal computers to edit videos, to work on statistical analysis etc. We will wait until we have a physical place to purchase computers to be used by students.
Printing	335	385	-50	The money saved was used to create flyers and print banners to promote our project in the community
Events-logistic	150	400	-250	With an extra left, we were able to take students out more times than we planned. Plus, we were able to serve students and staff with a very basic snack during the activities. We purchased more seedlings for the reforestation activity, and paid for petrol to transport students from school to the area of study.
Shirts	585	635	-50	We used local small business to make shirts for the project. Although "not so great" quality, the money stayed in the community. We plan, however, to obtain better quality products to generate income to the project

Casual Salaries	1000	1150	-150	Casual salaries were used to pay fishermen who helped on fieldwork
Total	3109	3075	34	

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

- 1- Provide the school with the basic income to continue the activities with students throughout the year.
- 2- Look for material to promote the project while generating income to the project.
- 3- Apply for international funds for conservation projects.
- 4- Monitoring the areas where reforestation has begun and the "Sanctuary zones" established in this project.
- 5- Connect the project with other government institutions, such as universities and research facilities.
- 6- Continue to promote the project worldwide, producing more educational material and videos that show the results of the project to the world.
- 7- Establish the Discovery Centre in Canaan, to be used for students and the community, as well as to train teachers and community leaders.

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. The Rufford Foundation logo was used in all events of the project, shirts, and videos. I provided different publicities throughout the year, and still have more to send.

11. Any other comments?

The Budget:

I am unable to match the exact amount spent in this project with the amount budgeted. The reason was we lost some of the money on the currency exchange, due to the delay of a few months to receive the funds. The Brazilian Real (BRL) grew considerably in a few months, which made us to receive less than what we were expecting. Nevertheless, we found other ways to supply the basics for our project. We did not use any money of the grant to cover travel expenses for conferences.

Updates of the Project:

I have material to continue providing you Rufford with more details of the project, if that is of your interest.