

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	Mey Ling Reytor González
Project title	Assessing the prevalence of a lethal fungus on populations of an endangered Cuban amphibian: rising awareness and developing conservation efforts.
RSG reference	18878-1
Reporting period	April 2016- April 2017
Amount of grant	£ 4972
Your email address	meyreytorg@gmail.com
Date of this report	17 April 2017

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
1. Determine the prevalence of Bd in several populations of <i>P. longinasus</i> , as well as in its breeding habitat.				75% achieved We proposed to conduct our study in four localities: Locality 1: "Viñales" National Park, located in Western Cuba. Locality 2: "Sierra de San Carlos" Ecological Reserve, located in Western Cuba. Locality 3: "Topes de Collantes" Protected Natural Landscape, located in Central Cuba. Locality 4: "Alturas de Banao" We could not visit Banao. However, we were able to take and process samples of other species in three additional localities.
2. Develop educational actions to rising awareness about its potential negative impact.				We developed and distributed 3 different educational materials.

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

We had a delay longer than 1 month for retrieving the funds at Cuban banks, due to a bank policy involving the USA-Cuba embargo. That delay slightly affected our schedule and we were not able to visit one of the four localities. However, other localities (of more easy access) were visited and other amphibian species were sampled, compensating in this way the amount of information corresponding to the missing locality.

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

- a) Skin samples (using non-destructive methods) and environmental samples (water filters) were collected at six localities and 18 amphibian species. As a result, Bd is been reported for the first time from additional species and localities in Cuba.

- b) Awareness about the conservation status of the target species was raised at three localities. Strong and positive relationships with local settlers and authorities were built.
- c) The results of this project have been already submitted for publication in a peer review journal.

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

The persons living at each locality welcomed us. They were in general motivated and interested in our work there, actively participating in our educational talks. Some locals asked us many questions about the fungus. Also, they contributed with useful information for our visual surveys, because in many cases they told us about the most appropriate sites within each locality to search for our target species.

We distributed our educational materials in all visited localities, spreading in this way the knowledge about Cuban amphibians in general, and *P. longinasus* in particular. As some localities have an intense touristic activity, we expect our pamphlets to also contribute to educate the foreign visitants about our natural environment. This can be considered as a plus in the attractions of the place.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes.

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

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

Our results have already been presented in many different contexts:

1. A scientific publication has been already submitted to a peer review journal.
2. Oral presentations at: 1) American Museum of Natural History of New York, USA; 2) The Bronx Zoo, USA; 3) Faculty of Biology of Havana University, Cuba.
3. Talks about our main findings with the population living in the visited localities.
4. In addition, we plan to publish another research article involving the information related to the genetic material collected during this project. Acknowledgements to RSGF have been given at all of these outcomes.

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-Chyrid fungus test	1471	1471	0	
2-Educational materials	320	320	0	
3-Educational activities	300	260	- 40	We were able to acquire some products in a price cheaper than expected.
4-Submergible Environmental Data Loggers (2)	164	164	0	
5-Head Lamps (2)	35	35	0	
6-Hiking boots (1)	40	80	+ 40	We bought an extra pair of hiking boots.
7-Batteries AA (96)	90	100	+ 10	A slightly change in price/availability/quality.
8-Photographic camera	300	275	- 25	We were able to buy a good camera in a price cheaper than expected.
9-Data show	80	120	+ 40	We bought a slightly more expensive data show (better quality).
10-Laptop computer	500	500	0	
11-Transportation	800	880	+ 80	We were not able to visit one out of four localities scheduled. Instead, we visit three new localities not previously planned. This made us to expend a slightly higher amount of funds basically in transportation and food.
12-Food and water	672	700	+ 28	We were not able to visit one out of four localities scheduled. Instead, we visit three new localities not previously planned. This made us to expend a slightly higher amount of funds basically in transportation and food.
13-Contingences and shipping costs Shipping costs: 100 Contingences costs: 100	200	200	0	<p>We used around £ 100 paying shipping costs.</p> <p>The £ 100 left for contingences costs were used to pay the 133 £ balance corresponding to the items mentioned before (with changed prices).</p> <p>Thus, we pay an additional amount of £ 33 of our own.</p>
TOTAL	4972	5005	33	

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

We will apply for additional funds to amplify the monitoring efforts of other Cuban species of amphibians, as well as the educational activities.

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

Yes. We used the RSGF logo in all posters and presentations. Additionally, one scientific publication was submitted. In this article, we acknowledged the financial support offered by RSGF.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?

We would like to thank the invaluable support of RSG to this project.