

## 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	
Your name	Thiago Orsi Laranjeiras
Project title	Occurrence limits and priority areas for conservation of threatened birds in Amazonian flooded forests
RSG reference	19908-1
Reporting period	August 2016 to December 2017
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:thiago.laranjeiras@icmbio.gov.br">thiago.laranjeiras@icmbio.gov.br</a>
Date of this report	08/03/2018

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
to search for flooded forest threatened and near-threatened bird species in Madeira and Amazon rivers, through standardized surveys				We surveyed flooded forest birds in more than 48 localities, achieving our initial goal; in these surveys, we detected 12 of our focal species.
to identify correlations between occupation of these species and variable features of the flooded forests ecosystems				None of our focal species are widely or evenly distributed along surveyed rivers, and occurrence limits seem to be species-specific. Correlations are being identified in a case-by-case process.
to generate geographic distribution models for these species				We are using different modelling techniques to depict most accurate geographic distribution for our focal species. Different species seem to be limited by different factors.
to identify conservation gaps				The distribution of at least two of our focal species are almost fully uncovered by protected areas. We are identifying other poorly protected species.
to identify priority areas for conservation actions				We already identified two priority areas in Central Amazonia, where full gap species occur. Refining and specifying these areas are yet necessary.

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

We experienced limited access to surveys areas due to ahead of period low water season on Amazon River in 2016. We had to delay part of the sampling activity to the end of 2017 and to the first part of 2018. All other office-based activities were also delayed.

In the firsts sampling activity, we noted only a slight variation in the main variable that was expected to affect bird species occurrence along primary surveying areas (along Madeira and Amazon rivers). Consequently, we expanded our surveying to a

large region, including a higher amplitude of variation in potential environmental predictors.

On the other hand, a high local habitat heterogeneity at the sampling unit limited our analysable data on species abundance variation.

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

1. We have found almost all our targeted flooded forest bird species. Most of them seem to be common yet, at least in their preferential habitat inside their previously known geographic extension of occurrence.
2. We have refined geographic distribution maps for our focal species, which will be used in more precise analyses of distribution patterns and directions for conservation (ongoing).
3. We have already identified crucial gaps in the protection of flooded forest birds and these gaps should be considered in future proposal of priority areas.

In sum, we found flooded forest bird species are common yet, but some populations are completely unprotected and these populations should be priority in conservation decisions.

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

We have involved several people in sampling activities along dozens of rivers and localities throughout Amazon. More than 10 boatman were hired during field activities. Boatman expressed sensitivity and concern regarding population status and vulnerability of flooded forest bird species. We have also discussed bird conservation with managers from more than 10 protected areas, and we are returning to them with data and photos that should be useful in the eco-tourism development and other activities.

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

Yes. Threats to the flooded forest bird species have not ceased. We hope to extend surveys to more localities and regions, implementing a long-term project of research and monitoring, in association with protected areas. We have also to analyse and publish our findings and data, mainly regarding the final goal of our project: a map of priority areas for conservation of flooded forest bird species.

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

We plan to share our results with the scientific community by presentations in conferences and papers in journals. We will also report our data to the Council of the Brazilian Action Plan for Conservation of Amazonian Birds. Besides that, photos and audios of flooded forests birds that were gathered during field activities are

being published in on-line media collections, reaching a wider community of enthusiasts.

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

The grant was used from September 2016 to November 2017 and we believe it was as expected. On the other hand, office-based activities, non-dependent of financial resources, are being conducted and should go to the end of 2018.

**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
Boatman	2400	1480	+ 920	Costs with boatman were highly variable among survey sites.
Fuel for boat	1152	1000	+ 152	Fuel consumption was lower than expected.
Food	960	1120	- 160	Highly variable among survey sites.
Long distance transportation	488	1000	- 512	Higher costs because we surveyed more distant sites than primarily planned
Hotel and field accommodation	0	460	- 460	Costs with accommodation in alternative survey sites
Material and batteries	0	40	- 40	Consumption of batteries in traveling between survey sites.
<b>Total</b>	5000	5000	0	

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

We are working on mapping, modelling and analysing the ranges of our focal species. Also, we are extending these processes to other bird species that may be threatened. Besides publishing results to the scientific community and decision-makers, next steps are: to consolidate a research and monitoring programme in association with protected areas institutions (mainly ICMBio); to produce support material to the sharing of information regarding the richness and importance of flooded forest and its birds.

**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?**

We have no opportunity yet to use The Rufford Foundation logo in any published material, but the RF was acknowledged in presentations to students and in a submitted manuscript for publication. Also RF is cited in all published photos and audios in on-line media collections.

**11. Any other comments?**

We are extremely grateful to The Rufford Foundation for the grant. Without it this project would not have been possible. It would be great to count on the foundation again in a future project.

