

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Martín Boullhesen
Project Title	Saving the endangered Marsupial Frogs in Yungas forests of Argentina
Application ID	27127-2
Grant Amount	£5000
Email Address	martinbulen01@gmail.com
Date of this Report	10/03/2021

1. 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
The acoustic survey				We recorded 1-year-round at three national parks in order to find advertisement calls of <i>Gastrotheca</i> species.
Processing acoustic data				We listened to the complete set of recordings.
Active searches				We made six field campaigns to two national parks.
Two one-day workshops				We undertook two field-workshops aimed at park rangers training.
Training program				We started the training programme with the use of automatic recording units by park rangers.

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

The main unforeseen difficulty was the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of the proposed activities completely stopped during 2020 and to date it is impossible to reach Baritú National Park due to the frontier closure in Argentina. Taking this into consideration we redirected our efforts in the more accessible national parks (Aconquija and Calilegua) and other "home office" project activities.

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

1. Passive acoustic recordings at Baritú and Aconquija National Park, revealed the acoustic phenology of two cryptic and endangered marsupial frog species (*Gastrotheca chrysosticta* and *Gastrotheca gracilis*).
2. National Park rangers undertook the monitoring programme year-round, despite the pandemic restrictions. They were trained by us to download data and change the recorder batteries, and to download climatic records made by data loggers.
3. We revealed more marsupial frog populations at new localities in Aconquija and Baritú National Parks with the use of passive acoustic recorders.

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

This project was in part destined to the training of national park rangers in passive acoustic monitoring and native anuran surveys. They surpassed our expectations in the excellent use of the recorders and their commitment to the project with a clean and fast feedback and open communication with our team members during the challenging situation of COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We will continue the search for the missing Calilegua marsupial frog until the rediscovery of this Critically Endangered species. We plan to continue with the outreach and educational program in elementary and high schools in the nearest localities of Calilegua National Park. We will deliver audio-visual material about Calilegua marsupial frog in order to increase awareness among local communities about the importance of rediscover this charismatic frog and the preservation of amphibian diversity of Yungas. Also, we will continue to work in collaboration with national park authorities in the protected areas of Yungas Andean forests ecoregion in Argentina in order to increase the awareness about anurans and marsupial frogs among local people.

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

Project results will be posted in a regular basis in our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).

The scientific data on calling phenology of *Gastrotheca gracilis* and *G. chrysosticta* will be published in international high impact journals. These findings are new to the scientific community, so we expect to make great impact.

We will continue with our continuous participation of scientific congresses, formal and informal chats/conferences in virtual and public formats.

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

2019-2021

The project timescale was longer than expected due to COVID-19 pandemic situation during almost all 2020 and part of 2021.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Song Meter SM4 recorder	646		-646	We did not buy this item.
Unforeseen/shipping equipment costs	300	300		We covered travel shipping with this item.
HOBO MX2301 data logger	130		-130	Could not buy due to COVID -19 situation.
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Fuel and vehicle maintenance	1500	1500		We covered fuel and vehicle maintenance with item budgeted
Workshops	300	150	-150	Due to COVID-19 restrictions we did two of three workshops.
Field Campaigns	1200	1200		We covered all field campaigns with the item budgeted
128GB SDXC Class 10 Flash Card	74	74		
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SongMeter recorder SM4	646		-646	
Song Meter SMmini		375		We chose to by this recorder version instead of SM4 to cover a larger area.
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Total	5000	4798	-202	

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

The Calilegua marsupial frog is still missing since 1996. We will continue our efforts to find this elusive and endangered species in the type and neighbour localities. Also, we will implement a training to local guide tours at San Francisco, in order to increase awareness among local and visitors about this marsupial frog species. We will include other native and endangered anuran species in our field campaigns and passive monitoring inhabiting the Yungas forests.

In addition, we will focus on the assessment of different human impacts on anuran diversity in national parks and surrounding areas like wildfires, habitat destruction and oil extraction.

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

Yes, we did. We used The Rufford Foundation logo in every media post done by our team in these past years. We used the logo in a virtual conference about Argentinean National Parks. Also, we used it in two scientific publications made by our team leaders.

Links: <https://www.capacitacionapn.gob.ar/l/aconquija-y-su-entorno/>

Facebook: CANOA

Instagram: canoa_anfibios

Twitter: CanoaAnfibios

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

Martin Boullhesen: leader of the project. Active surveys in field campaigns, acoustic recording analysis.

Mauricio Akmentins: co-leader of the project. Active surveys in field campaigns, acoustic recording analysis. Community manager of the project.

Daniela Cano: Conservation and logistic administrator at Aconquija National Park.

Omar Nieva: Field assistant at Aconquija National Park.

Fernando Falke: Conservation and logistic administrator at Baritú National Park. Also, Fernando was trained to download data from passive recorders.

Diego Bombellii: Conservation and logistic administrator at Calilegua National Park.

Lucía Brunneto: Conservation and logistic administrator at Calilegua National Park

12. Any other comments?

This project is part of a long-term conservation programme of marsupial frogs in Argentina. The Rufford Foundation is one of the main supporters of this programme and for this reason we are grateful and are also proud of the contribution to local and regional conservation of marsupial frogs derived of this project and achieved with your help.