

## Final Project Evaluation Report

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We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF 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 – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Complete the form in English and be as concise as you can. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Rodrigo Garcia Pingaro
<b>Project Title</b>	Towards community-based marine protected areas, for Uruguay's coastal and ocean waters: "Guardians of the Whale and Dolphin Sanctuary"
<b>Application ID</b>	19415-D
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£ 9898
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:rodrigo@occ.org.uy">rodrigo@occ.org.uy</a>
<b>Date of this Report</b>	April 5th 2017.

**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
Educational talks for primary students, youth and local community leaders, based on "needs and actions for the Sanctuary"				The basic talks planned in schools were fulfilled. However, in the last period new needs emerged in the communities in relation with the fisheries collapsed in Uruguayan waters as global situation. New talks about Chinese fishing investments with community leaders.
Community participatory meetings and actions to advance with management plan				It takes more time for all the institutions involved to participate and the plan is a real success. New stakeholders with contributions to the Plan.
Reinforcing and promoting responsible tourism and sustainable WW (high-quality)				As an organisation we have completed the product of responsible tourism whale watching, with the qualification of companies that comply with good practices, jointly with the government.

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

The management plan of the sanctuary needs much more participation and time to move forward because there are no antecedents in marine management or plans in this respect, and the conflicts are very deep-seated, where there is economic and political pressure and a lot of power of marine companies fisheries. Corruption is also suspected be part of it (confidential informants) and leads to not controlling IUU fishing that passes through the port.

In relation to the management of whale watching, promotion and marketing does not correspond to the OCC, and that aspect is the missing one. For companies it is not profitable to do so and the government does not support them to be in specialised fairs.

New topics such as IUU fishing (illegal, undeclared, unauthorized) it is discovered that Montevideo is the second largest port in the world with IUU fishing in international waters according to Global Fishing Watch and Oceana (2016). In addition there are investment plans of the Chinese Government in this port and in La Paloma

(agreement between countries by the Presidents), without guarantees of responsible fishing and whose impacts would be for the entire Sanctuary and the South Atlantic. The problem of fisheries emerges as a very relevant aspect for the Sanctuary's plan, where management, control and surveillance have been very deficient. It is a serious conflict identified. A new independent institution of government and policy will be needed to participate in the co-management of the exploitation of the marine resource, with the Organized and specialized civil society as a fundamental part involved.

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

- a) Greater recognition of OCC, and community involvement in actions for the Sanctuary management plan as the only organisation involved in marine and advocacy management.
- b) Strengthens the responsible marine tourism based on a protocol of good practices and a certification endorsed by the government, where those boats that do not have been denounced by the own community and the naval authority proceeded to penalty fee and sanction them.
- c) For the first time in the country, the serious situation of fisheries in our waters (90% close to collapse) is being reported and denounced, including the incapacity of control and government surveillance, never before known by citizens and other organisations.

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

As we mentioned, the coastal community has been key to managing and avoiding negative impacts to whales and people, denouncing nearby vessels that are not certified. This was magnified with the use of the Facebook page of the Whales and Dolphin Sighting Network, which in real time made the complaint including photos and videos. Immediately the naval authorities, with whom OCC meets annually, acted withdrawing the boats and fining 5 boats in 2016.

In many cases the OCC did not need to intervene and it was the community itself that acted directly with the naval authority, raising the self-esteem of several self-organised groups in the defence of marine nature.

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

The plan must continue, for this it continues seeking financial support and in other cases it is an honorary and voluntary work. It is essential to continue with basic actions and reach a higher level of incidence in environmental policies. Now with the new component to influence fisheries management and stop any investment that adversely affects already depleted marine resources.

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

We have created a new page called #Oceanosanos #Healthyoceans and in Instagram with the public artist and famous people @oceanosanosUY where we are turning all the information and actions related to the fisheries in Uruguay and the Asian investments that threaten to arrive without guarantees at all.

Using the most important media, OCC's own page and inaugurating its own open radio space on a well-known radio in the nation's capital, as well as touring the main media like never before.

<https://lapalomadiariodigital.com/2017/05/10/video-rodrigo-garcia-sobre-inversiones-chinas-en-rocha/>

<http://radiouruguay.uy/deochoadiez/denuncian-falta-de-informacion-sobre-proyecto-pesquero-chino-en-la-paloma/>

<http://www.entrelneas-uy.com/noticia-ampliada/?post=otros&id=612>

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

GSR support has been essential in several stages of the project presented. Although it is a very small fund for the real project, it has served to affirm the short time objectives fulfilled. The project is at least 5 years longer to have a constituted base and a long-term state policy. However, the basic pillars have been established, especially involving the committed citizens.

**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
1. Administration	1.190	0	0	
2. Broadcast materials	1.972	0	0	
3. Specialists Contract Fees	3.218	0	0	
4. Training workshops and research	1.718	0	0	
5. Transport and materials	1.800	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	9.898	0	0	

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

Continue with the stated objectives and emphasise the new needs manifested in relation to the fisheries and the crisis that is lived in the management and populations of different species.

Due to the complex situation of marine management and the fisheries policies, it will require the support of strong international organisations, both for the technical and financial aspects. Supported by local fisheries specialists, international support provides independence in evaluation and advocacy. It is planned to request support from large organizations and RSG to continue to be involved in this historic project, with no precedent in the country.

The involvement of parliament has already begun with audiences' in various commissions (Representative Chamber), several politicians are being advised to focus on strengthening the fisheries law and to achieve co-management of fisheries and the Sanctuary through a strong participation of national and international civil society. In the future perhaps we can be an example to extrapolate to other regions or countries with the same problems.

**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?**

We used the logo in all the announcements referred to the different objectives and their results, in the materials made and we highlight in the media the support of RSG. RSG has been mentioned in the social networks and respective pages in recognition of the support and financing, since in many cases society is also questioned and is subject of institutional transparency.

**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 apologise for not being able to send the report on date and form; it was a month that was unexpected of enormous intensity for such a small NGO related to the Chinese investment in Uruguay, not announced before. It would be important not to lose continuity and be able to apply to the next GSR fund before of the next able for us, ideally in order to follow a line of work. We know that it is expected a while before, but due to the enormous problem that is experienced, where fisheries are at risk of disappearing (according to studies), it is crucial to act as soon as possible.