

Internship Report

Description of the internship

2.1 The organization Faunagua

Faunagua is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 2004. It works on the development implementation of projects, which contribute to local development, sustainable use and conservation the aquatic ecosystems and resources in Bolivia. The organization facilitates the collaboration between local communities, investigators, national authorities and private institutions. In its vision the aspect of local people is very important. Therefore, in all projects local people are taken into account. By respecting customs and traditional knowledge and without danger for the environment, Faunagua tries to improve the quality of life of local populations (indigenous communities, rural people and fishermen).

An overview of the projects of Faunagua:

- The development of strategies for sustainable exploitation, management and conservation of hydrobiological resources and fishery;
- Studies on the biology and ecology of fauna (*Pteronura brasiliensis*, *Inia boliviensis*)
- Identification of threats for aquatic fauna and fishery
- Development and implementation of management plans for aquatic fauna (Several fish species: Turtles: *Podocnemis expansa* and *P. unifilis*; Caiman: *Caiman yacare*; Giant otter: *Pteronura brasiliensis*; River dolphin: *Inia boliviensis*);
- Monitoring: fauna and aquatic habitats
- Establishment and monitoring of alternative production networks of handicrafts of crocodile fish skins
- Development of cartographic information
- Strengthening of responsible tourism
- Studies on the possible impact of hydroelectrical dam constructions

For NGO's the availability of resources is one of the main factors that determines the scope and duration of projects. To be able to carry out projects of several months, but also projects of several years, sufficient external financial support is needed. Each financier has its own criterions for applying projects.