

## Final Project Evaluation Report

---

Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Mireya Carrillo Garcia
<b>Project Title</b>	Reinforcement for community bird monitoring in a Ramsar site in Chiapas, Mexico
<b>Application ID</b>	23393-1
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£5000
<b>Email Address</b>	gcarrillo@gmail.com
<b>Date of this Report</b>	22/01-2019

**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
Bird monitoring. Carried out 4 days monthly, 2 days for community, in the morning and at evening, for 12 months (Jan-Dec 2018).				We finished the avian monitoring with community monitors in two communities through 20 point counts and transects counts in each community, inside the wetlands of the Santuario Playa Puerto Arista Natural Protected Area.
Participative workshops with community groups.				<p>Four workshops were designed and performed, three involving children and local monitors in Belisario Domínguez and one with women in Manuel Ávila Camacho, Chiapas, Mexico. We reinforced the community capacities for bird identification and environmental interpretation for avitourism.</p> <p>Girls and boys demonstrated interest on learning about birds in their community and also enjoy using binoculars and telescope as tools to identify birds. Also women were very excited about watching birds and share knowledge about them.</p>
Do databases with data collected monthly to do the analysis of bird diversity.				Information collected during 12 months is captured on a digital database. Nowadays we know that the richness if the total study is 135 bird species associated to Laguna La Joya-Buena Vista, in the Santuario Playa Puerto Arista Natural Protected Area. .
Involve local people into bird study and revalue of nature trough bird observation.				People, especially children, enhance conscious about ecological importance birds, identification, conservation and observation as a way of.

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

There were not big difficulties during the project. In the community Manuel Ávila Camacho because we worked with people from an ecotourism centre, people were often busy with its work, so we talk with people really interested and compromised with monitoring birds to do the field work monthly.

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

- a) I continue the work initiated in 2016, with a monitoring during 2018. Now I have sufficient data about the birds of this important region to resident and migratory birds associated with La Joya-Buena Vista wetland, inside the Santuario Playa Puerto Arista. About 135 species were monitored over 2 years, including five species endemic to Mexico and one near threatened (IUCN), the reddish egret.
- b) Involving people of local communities in monitoring birds is the best way to involve people from local communities in conservation actions. Conservation is an interdisciplinary work that must be done with local people.
- c) We noticed that people in local communities had a close relationship with birds, they can distinguish, name them, used them to ornate, as food or in many songs and legends.

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

All bird monitoring were made with local people, they also recommend the sites of monitoring. Involving local people in monitoring let them improve their skills of bird identification, because they reinforces the skill of identify all species that inhabit the natural protected area and let them reevaluate nature. Also local monitors receive an economic income for their work with me.

Adults and children in the workshops reevaluate nature and enhance consciousness about the importance of them as habitat of birds. By sharing knowledge between local people and me as a biology scientist; nowadays we all are more conscious about bird conservation, and could identify and name all birds with local and common names. Involving women in our activities show people that birdwatching is not exclusive to men, as usually think people in communities where only men go to field work. Local people are changing their extractive activities to others less destructive like ecotourism, avitourism and environmental monitoring in these sites.

People in the community Manuel Ávila Camacho, have great capacities to reinforce avitourism offer as a way to obtain economic resources inside its ecotourism centre. The avitourism could generate to local people, economic incomes and conservation of birds and it habitat, in these communities which

receives low incomes. I designed and let them a short bird guide with photographs as a material to well guide tourists in their boat tours in Laguna La Joya-Buena Vista.

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

Yes, I would like to continue this monitoring work to know the fluctuation of birds between years, and to know the main threats for wetland birds, these monitoring could bring to the Santuario Playa Puerto Arista Protected Area the support to make conservation decisions. I would like to continue with bird research, many research questions come after this work.

Also, people is really interested in continue monitoring birds as a way of knowledge, as preservation action and even as a small income.

I would like to continue the workshops with children who are very interested on birds and its conservation.

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

I designed and let the people a short bird guide with photographs as a material to well guide tourists. People is using the guide in their boat tours in Laguna La Joya-Buena Vista, sharing with tourists and visitors the learned knowledge about birds.

First with electronic media, because nowadays is a very helpful way to share information. Also I am planning on writing an article to share this information.

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

The grant was used over 12 months, during 2018. It is exactly the time it has been planned.

**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
Gasoline and oil for boats (GBP 86 per month, for twelve months of monitoring)	1032	1032		We were able to face the increase in gas prices, because some monitoring could be done by walking.

Travel expenses from San Cristobal de las Casas to Tonalá, Chiapas (transportation or gasoline, host and alimentionation will be with a family in the community) for one person per month, for twelve months.	1400	1465	+65	Travel expenses become higher because bus tickets and gasoline prices increase along the year. We use the extra £56 from equipment expenditures.
Subsistence payment for one boat driver and one community monitor (GBP 10 per day, two persons for field visit, for 4 days, every month, for twelve months)	960	960		I paid subsistence for local for bird community monitors, for 4 days, in twelve months.
Workshops (paper, material design, lunch and transportation for participants, 353 per workshop)	1060	1060		This amount was used to workshops design and to give a coffee break to all participants in the workshop. I designed and press a short bird guide to the birds of Laguna La Joya-Buena Vista, which is been used by tourist guides and visitors to well identify birds in boat rides. Also could we include travel expenses to 4 bird specialists which contribute in the workshops.
1 Binoculars, for community monitoring	203	138	-65	I use the material in all the monitoring and one binocular was donated to bird monitors. The extra £65 was used for travel expenses.
1 Projector (for the workshops)	345	494	+149	I previously confirmed with The Rufford Foundation the possibility for change the projector for a camera because the lack of electricity in the communities made the projections difficult. and I paid the extra £149
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5149</b>	<b>-£149</b>	Notes to Budget box. 1GBP= \$24.31 Mexican pesos

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

Share the results with Santuario Playa Puerto Arista Natural Protected Area, to lead to make decisions to management and conservation of these wetlands.

Also, continue the work with children and people from these communities in order to provide continuity to the conservation of birds of the Santuario Playa de Puerto Arista Natural Protected Area.

I would like to continue with bird's research, many doubts come after this work, and for example, monitoring the colony of aquatic bird's nests in this area to protect them, and also the population of reddish egrets actually near threatened.

**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?**

I use it in all our letters to inform local authorities.

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

Collaborator	Role	Adscription
Mireya Carrillo Garcia	Team leader, perform workshops, do research, design the field guide to the birds, do social link between communities and the team.	Amigos de Sian Ka'an A.C.
Laila Yunes Jiménez	Academic tutor. Field design, field work, social work, designs and performs workshops.	Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas
Eli Esau Morales Alfaro	Student of the UNICACH, he is doing its Bachelor's thesis work and help me to perform the bird monitoring.	Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas
José del Carmen Vázquez, Adrián Natarén Ricardo Vázquez, Margarita Ruiz.	Community people d local community monitoring, participate and give facilities to do workshops, and hosting	Grupo de Monitores de la Barra, Belisario Domínguez, Tonalá, Chiapas.
Orlando Vázquez, Octavio Vázquez, Silvia Nolasco, Elizabeth Interiano, Bersaín. Eduardo.	Community people, support with local community monitors, facilities to do workshops, and hosting.	Grupo Ecoturístico El Madresal, Belisario Domínguez, Tonalá, Chiapas.
Rodrigo A. González Arrieta	Perform workshops, academic and field recommendations.	Jardín Etnobotánico Francisco Peláez

**12. Any other comments?**

Thanks to The Rufford Foundation for the trust and the support because without it, this research could not be done concluded. Conservation implies link between local

people inhabiting natural areas. We as young researchers are doing it very compromised with biodiversity conservation.





Top: Women birdwatching. Middle: Children in birdwatching activity. Bottom: Children using the short guide to identifying birds.