

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Enzo Marcelo Rodriguez Reyes
Project Title	Conserving a highly social endangered bird species via reintroduction: the Floreana Mockingbird
Application ID	25355-1
Date of this Report	1/02/2023

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
Collect demographic data				Completed.
Collect behavioural data				Two more trips were pending.
Collect spatial data				No data was collected due to Covid-19.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a). Established a better monitoring tool and an accurate population estimate for the species.
- b). Identified behavioural aspects that could interfere with the success of the translocations.
- c). Designed a method of group harvesting for the reintroduction of the species.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which struck in 2020, was one of the biggest challenges for my project. Two field trips in 2020 and two in 2021 were scheduled for my project. Field trips were unable to take place because of the travel restrictions. My entire study had to be redesigned because of the pandemic and the impossibility to gather data in the Galapagos. Some crucial goals, such as collecting geographical data, had to be modified for new goals that use previously collected but unanalysed data to address conservation related concerns. Using that approach, I added two new goals: researching population demographics and developing a monitoring tool for field-based species sexing. Two of my proposed goals for behavioural study were pursued just using the information gathered during the 2019 field trip (funded by Rufford).

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

Local park rangers' involvement in the field trip in 2019 was an example of local community engagement. Species monitoring and standard banding methods were taught to park rangers. Additionally, I received an invitation to a reintroduction workshop that the stakeholders organised in 2022. In that workshop, I presented the results of my research to the stakeholders and the local Floreana Island community,

offering advice for the management of the species and filling in knowledge gaps prior to the reintroduction to Floreana.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Unfortunately, it's uncertain right now. My former supervisor (who is no longer employed by a tertiary institution), and the Galapagos National Park oversee managing the project. In my case, I'm currently working for the New Zealand Department of Conservation monitoring another endangered species. I would be delighted to explore returning to work in the project if the correct circumstances arose.

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

My research findings have already been presented at four conferences, two of which were international, one local (in New Zealand), and one in Ecuador. The results of my research were also presented in three lectures I gave at two Ecuadorian universities and one organisation dedicated to ornithology in the same country. I've also submitted three research papers to publications, one of them was accepted. Additionally, two more are being reviewed (Animal Conservation and Journal of Avian Biology). If accepted, I'll also pitch a science communication essay for publication in "The Conversation," "Mongabay," or "Biographic" to broaden my target audience beyond academics.

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

It became clear during the reintroduction workshop that community engagement had to be given top priority. Additionally, a suitable plan for reintroduction must be elaborated, considering the significance of the specie's sociality.

8. 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?

In every presentation I gave during my studies and after, The Rufford Foundation was acknowledged as one of the primary funding sources. Additionally, The Rufford Foundation is mentioned at the acknowledgment section of the two research papers in which I used the grant money.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Dr Luis Ortiz Catedral: Project manager and former PhD supervisor

Mr. Daniel Guerrero and **Mr. Marcelo Gavilanes:** Galapagos National Park Rangers were the field support for logistics and data collection during the 2019 trip.

Dr Michelle Roper: Technician helping in the project design and data collection for behavioural data.

10. Any other comments?

Delay in the presentation of this report is explained in a confidential letter attached with this document.