

## Final Evaluation Report

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| Your Details               |  |
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| <b>Full Name</b>           | Karina Theodoro Molina   |
| <b>Project Title</b>       | Delta Tamanduas – Conservation of Southern Tamanduas ( <i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i> ) in the Brazilian Northeast Coast |
| <b>Application ID</b>      | 28313-1  |
| <b>Date of this Report</b> | July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2022  |

**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  |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| <p>Analyse the correlation between temperament and behavioural variables and the species-habitat relationship of the lesser anteater in a coastal zone</p> |              |                    |                | <p>The Delta Tamanduas project started in September 2019, when I went through the research areas looking for tracks and records of baby anteaters using camera traps, which I installed at some key points.</p> <p>In November 2019, I received the VHF/GPS modules for monitoring individuals in the area.</p> <p>In January 2020, we captured four lesser anteaters and I started monitoring which extended into February. There were 30 days of monitoring and approaching the individuals so that they got used to my presence without changing their natural behaviour.</p> <p>On March 1, 2020, the Environmental Agency Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBio) closed the entry of visitors, tourists and researchers to the Delta do Parnaíba Marine Extractive Reserve, site of the Research, due to the Covid 19 pandemic in Brazil. I was prevented from entering the island until August 2020, and unfortunately, I couldn't hear the radio signals anymore, probably because the batteries had run out. We managed to recover three of the radios.</p> |
| <p>Analyse data from the ecology of the lesser anteater</p>  |              |                    |                | <p>During the 30 days of monitoring and also during the captures, I managed to collect data on habitat preference and resting places, which are of paramount importance for the conservation of the species.</p>  |
| <p>Analyse lesser anteater behaviour data</p>  |              |                    |                | <p>As with the first item, I was unable to collect the behaviour data that we</p>   |

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|  |  |  | would like by preventing the team from entering the island. |
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**2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

a) Identification, preference, description and analysis of resting places for the lesser anteater in a coastal environment.

b) Development of a specific VHF/GPS radio transmitters vest for the lesser anteater.

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

The Delta Tamanduas Project unfortunately could not be fully developed. The study area, Ilha de Canárias, is part of a conservation unit, the Delta do Parnaíba Marine Extractive Reserve. After we managed to capture four individuals of lesser anteaters, entry into the Reserve was prohibited for visitors, tourists and researchers from March to August 2020. So, I was prevented from monitoring the captured animals, and within that range, the battery of the modules ran out, but we managed to recover three.

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

Residents of the communities on the Ilha de Canárias were very helpful before the project, in presenting areas that had already seen the species, and also helped in the search for animals during the capture phase, such as fishermen and crab collectors. The project became known in the five communities on the Canary Islands and Ilha Grande de Santa Isabel. We put up posters in specific places, where many people go, to know how it was being carried out and its importance, in addition to many informal conversations about it with many residents. Currently, community members keep in touch with us whenever they find an individual, not only of a lesser anteater, but of other anteaters as well, so I believe that this project really showed the importance of conservation, not only of the fauna, but also of the environment itself and residents are more concerned with preserving the mangrove and sandbank areas.

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

I'm currently working on a conservation programme in the same area of research, but I couldn't do both at the same time.

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

I presented to the communities the results of the preference of the resting places of the species, added to the importance of conservation, mainly of mangroves, so that this species has the options selected in the areas.

I have already given lectures and classes on the species and the work carried out, including one at the I International Congress on Xenarthra Conservation.

The first article of the Project, "Characteristics of resting places for lesser anteaters, *Tamandua tetradactyla*, in the coastal zone of the Parnaíba Delta, Brazil" is in the process of being evaluated, and I am finalising the second article on the development of the vest for the lesser anteater, for telemetry equipment.

We will publish articles on the published articles (on resting places and on the vest for telemetry equipment) on the social networks of the Instituto de Pesquisa e Conservação de Antandúas in Brazil (>50,000 followers on Instagram).

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

It would be extremely important for the research to restart with the same proposed methodologies, since, every day, more anteaters arrive in zoos, rehabilitation centres for wild animals throughout Brazil, and the difficulty of reintroducing them into nature is great because the management allows the anteaters to get used to the human presence, which is very worrying. The data obtained from this research can help in the best management for this purpose.

### **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?**

I used it in a post on the social networks of the Instituto de Pesquisa e Conservação de Tamandúas no Brasil, in which the foundation was also tagged. In addition, I used the logo in classes and lectures given online.

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

**Flavia Regina Miranda:** she trained me for more than 8t years in working with anteaters in the wild: searches, captures, collections of biological samples, and monitoring. She was my co-supervisor during this research and contributed to the writing of the article.

**Vinicius Peron de Oliveira Gasparotto:** developed the ideal anaesthetic protocol for the lesser anteater and captured the four individuals in this project.

**Alexandre Martins Costa Lopes:** together with me he developed the vest for the GPS/VHF module, carried out with me the searches, captures and monitoring of the four individuals.

### **10. Any other comments?**

First, I would like to thank The Rufford Foundation again for funding this project, which unfortunately did not go as I would have liked, due to the pandemic that the planet has been through in recent years. We are awaiting the evaluation of the first article of the project and will soon send the second one for analysis.