

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Nadia Tamara Rubio Cisneros
Project Title	Human Perceptions of Coastal Exploitation and Landscape Use in Mexico's Caribbean Islands with Growing Tourism Economies
Application ID	32149-B
Grant Amount	10,000
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Date of this Report	February 17 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
Collect fishers 'surveys on Isla Mujeres				60 surveys were undertaken and this year we are planning to go back to the island to collect more surveys.
Collect historical fishing sites on Isla Mujeres				Over 65 fishing sites have been collected on Isla Mujeres.
Collect tourist perceptions of the environment on Isla Holbox				We have undertaken 100 tourist perception surveys in addition to the previous 100 surveys undertaken for our Rufford grant in 2018.
Collect fishers 'surveys on Cozumel				We have collected 71 surveys.
Collect divers' perceptions of the environment on Cozumel				We have collected 30 surveys and we are still working on this. Because of Covid we had to slow down the interview process on Cozumel in December 2021 and January 2022.
Collection of underwater footage of Cozumel's northern reefs				We have collected the footage, but we are still working on analysing the data and preparing the science communication campaign. This process was delayed because of Covid and some crew members in Mexico were not being able to get vaccinated earlier last year.
Kids workshops on the islands				We have developed environmental education material and activities for kids on the islands. Events were in person or a hybrid online and in-person system. This was a challenge but worked. We are still developing these activities; Covid was strong on the islands from January to March 2021 and people were not going out.
We presented our early results of Isla Mujeres and Cozumel on an international Conference (see				

attachment)				
We have a paper near publication on the international open access journal PLOS ONE related to tourists' perceptions of the environment.				The paper was accepted with minor revision despite this the journal is taking a long time for publication which has been disappointing for me.
Our work for this grant will also be presented in June at				

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

Most of the difficulties throughout this project were related to the Covid situation. Fieldwork activities happened much slower, and some people could not travel. However, we overcame it, and objectives of the project were achieved.

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

We collected fishers' traditional knowledge in Isla Mujeres and Cozumel Island. Here, we applied all of our previous field methodologies from Holbox. Collecting fishers' traditional knowledge during Covid was critical since many elder fishers in the region have died because of Covid. There has been a loss of cultural heritage in the area.

We generated new spatial data related to historical fishing sites in Isla Mujeres and Cozumel.

The collection of new data on tourist perceptions of the environment supplements our earlier work from the previous Rufford Grant in 2017. Our first paper related to tourists perceptions of the environment is already submitted and in the final stages of publication at the international open-access journal Plos One.

4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?

5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

We have been collaborating and sharing our results with the community. We have also developed collaborative bonds with educational institutions and other non-profits such as Mundo Azul and Healthy Reefs for Healthy People. We have also developed activities with local kids. We are planning other community events since we are still working on data analysis of our field data. Authorities from the marine park of Cozumel invited us to talk in October 2022 when they have a conference series from people researching the island. We are pleased about this invitation since our results were interesting to them.

6. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are thrilled to continue working on the research line that The Rufford Foundation grants have allowed us to create since 2015. Soon, we are hoping to continue on Cozumel, where Dr. Nadia Rubio found support for her research on two crucial dive shops on the island that are helping with diving activities needed to continue researching the island.

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

- Visual material for online campaigns posted on social media.
- Scientific publications.
- Kids workshops.
- Talks with the community.
- Facebook live talks where other non-profits have invited us in Mexico, the USA, and Europe.
- International scientific conferences.
- We have discussed our work on universities in the USA, Mexico, and Colombia with graduate and undergraduate students.

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

18 months - the timing was very slower because of Covid on the islands.

9. 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
Housing at the field for 5 months. 350 per month	1403	1750	+347	
Meals 180 days at the field x 25 dills per meal per day	3008	3750	+742	
Domestic flights 3	625	800	+175	
Ground transportation for 5 months	321	400	+79	
Ferry Transportation for 5 months	201	250	+49	
Boat rental for 7 days	2247	2800	+553	
Scuba tank rental 2 tanks per	101	125	+24	

day for seven days, for three people/3 dls per tank				
Rental of Underwater housing for Arri-Alexa A Mini 500 per day for three days	1203	700	-503	Because of Covid we had a conflict of interest with the underwater camera person who decided not to collaborate with us. We did the recordings with another camera that costs us 700 to rent for two days. The other 800 dollars were used to pay two extra boat trips on Cozumel Island.
Costs of Material to develop workshops, printing of photographs, booklets, and purchase of USB to share the short conservation videos.	321		-321	
GPS	215		-215	
Compensation for social media helper for the 18 months of the project	355		-355	
TOTAL	10000	10575	+575	

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

Continue with the research. Since I was able to bring my work to the other islands of Cozumel and Isla Mujeres, I am having exciting findings of how humans are coping with changes in the availability and diversity of fishery resources. Or how humans are dealing with changes in their local lives because of a very intense economy towards tourism that is mostly not environmentally friendly.

11. 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?

Yes, and we still have products that are coming out where we will continue to acknowledge The Rufford Foundation.

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

13. Any other comments?

I am very grateful and kindly thank the opportunity The Rufford Foundation has given me to continue this project. It was especially during Covid when it was so hard to find funding for many colleagues working in conservation. I felt beyond blessed that this was not my case, and thanks to the Rufford grant, I was able to continue my

research on Holbox and expand my work on two other islands of the Caribbean. I believe that the results we got from this grant focused on the interdisciplinary science of coastal exploitation are unique and valuable for science and society. And this will keep coming up in our near future results, especially the scientific papers. The alliances and collaborations with other institutions that Mar Sustentable has been able to make in the region are an asset to continue our research here. Since the beginning, The Rufford Foundation believed in my research ideas, something that not many people did. After 5 years of working in the interdisciplinary research line, you allow me to develop many kinds of products, from science and science communication, and collaborations have started nationally and internationally. This has been such a challenging road, but I am grateful for the opportunity, and I am pretty optimistic that my work can and will continue.

I look forward to keeping in contact with you.