

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Inés Ramos Vértiz
Project Title	Proposal for an Ecological Corridor in the Cuña Pirú Valley, Misiones Province, Argentina
Application ID	33714-1
Date of this Report	November 23, 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
Define the area to be conserved and the critical zones of the Cuña Pirú Ecological Corridor.				After the preliminary studies and the field survey, the area and critical points of the Cuña Pirú Ecological Corridor were defined.
Submit the proposal to the local authorities together with the endorsement of the relevant stakeholders who live and/or work in the corridor area.				Due to operational reasons, the planned workshops could not be carried out, so the proposal couldn't be presented together with the endorsement of all or most of the stakeholders. Individual visits were held, and the proposal was presented with the guarantees obtained. Visits are still being held which will be sent together with the already submitted proposal.

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

- a). The map of the ecological corridor defines the zone of the corridor, the critical sites, the zones of cost of movement, barriers and tourist sites.
- b). The endorsement of the stakeholders involved, embodied in letters of adherence to the proposal for the Cuña Pirú Ecological Corridor.
- c). Joint work agreements signed by municipalities and tourism companies in the area of the Cuña Pirú Ecological Corridor

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

The first inconvenience we encountered was that during the field survey the drone presented a technical failure and was lost, for which reason we could not finish the survey on that occasion. The technician who did it was not available, so we had to find another one to finish it, this also took longer than expected.

On the other hand, after the first survey in the field, there was a problem and the images obtained with the drone could not be transformed into the corresponding format to be included as layers in the geographic information systems. Solving this issue took considerably longer than expected.

Finally, another drawback was the impossibility of carrying out the planned workshops. We had to make individual visits, we had to form a team to carry out the visits and coordinate with all the stakeholders, this took us long enough because the coordination of days and times were complicated.

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

The community in general was very interested in the implementation of the Cuña Pirú Ecological Corridor.

During the personal meetings they told us that in addition to the conservation of the rainforest and its fauna, there are other reasons why they want the corridor to be formalised.

The Guaraní communities that live along the route requested measures to control the speed of vehicles on the route to be included in the proposal for the Ecological Corridor of the Cuña Pirú Valley. The risk of accidents is high and there have already plenty in the area.

The actors related to tourism want to promote the tourist capital that the region presents, from the viewpoints, the campsite, the Yvytú Porá trail and the ecotourism activities in the region, wildlife watching, bicycle tours, among others. They want the Corridor to present an identity and thus the promotion of the area becomes stronger.

Several stakeholders signed the letter in which they formally support the implementation of the Ecological Corridor of the Cuña Pirú Valley.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Along with Red Yaguareté Foundation we are going to continue working in the area and in the region. We will continue to promote the Ecological Corridor of the Cuña Pirú Valley, even once it has been formalised.

We are already placing camera traps for wildlife monitoring and working with the social actors involved to optimize the functionality of the corridor.

In addition to protecting the rainforest, we will continue to carry out actions to conserve the jaguar and the fauna of the area.

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

Communication will be oriented in different directions.

The stakeholders involved are visited and will continue to be visited, material such as brochures and reports will be shared, posters are already placed in public places, and they are invited to dissemination and participation events.

To reach the general public, in addition to the posters in key places of the zone, the project is and will continue to be disseminated on social networks and local media such as radio, newspapers and provincial television programmes.

Finally, publications will be made in magazines specialized in environmental conservation to share the work done with colleagues and people involved in conservation and environmental studies.

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

The proposal for the Ecological Corridor of the Cuña Pirú Valley is already made. The next step is to ensure that it is formalised and implemented accordingly, for this the interest and request of the community is essential. The next step is to continue working with the community so that more and more stakeholders demand the authorities for the implementation of the corridor.

It is also important to make the site known and attract tourists, the increasing economic activity will drive the attention of the authorities.

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?

We use the Rufford Foundation logos on all broker presentations and reports. There was no publicity in effect, but the foundation was mentioned in interviews and in the media.

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

Inés Ramos Vértiz

Project coordinator. Among the tasks performed are writing the initial project together with the advisors. Create a budget, coordinate the team, organize the field trips, define the corridor area and the critical conservation sites and make the maps, design the plan to contact the stakeholders and dissemination, visits to the stakeholders, writing reports, agreements, letters of adhesion and dissemination material.

Nicolas Lodeiro Ocampo

Adviser, director of the Red Yaguareté Foundation, participated in writing the project and advising throughout the process. He was the main person in charge of generating meetings with ministers and mayors. He participated in all the interviews in the media in which the project was discussed.

Mariela Gantchoff

Technical advisor. She participated in the drafting of the initial project and in the processing of satellite images and generation of preliminary maps for the study of the corridor area.

Ana Cardozo

GIS specialist. Assisted in the analysis of satellite images and generation of preliminary maps.

Pablo Rodriguez

Drone technician. He designed the drone survey methodology and carried it out.

Rocío Vignolles & Leónidas Zaragoza Budeguer

Volunteers from the Red Yaguareté Foundation. Graphic designers of dissemination material.

Marcos Britez

A volunteer from the Red Yaguareté Foundation assisted in the field survey and participated in meetings with the stakeholders and obtained their endorsement to present the corridor proposal to the relevant authorities.

Karina Melemborg, Carlos Diello & Christian Boichuk

Volunteers from the Red Yaguareté Foundation, the team was formed mainly to hold meetings with the stakeholders and obtain their endorsement to present the corridor proposal to the relevant authorities.

10. Any other comments?

This was the first conservation project in which I had an active coordinating role. I had many unexpected problems, despite having planned, the activities turned out differently in some cases and the terms were longer. It has been a rich experience, full of learning throughout the process, learning to solve unexpected situations at the moment and learning to plan problems for future projects.

It is a very valuable opportunity for me because I am becoming more and more confident that I am eager to work in nature conservation.

On the other hand, despite the drawbacks, the result was as expected, and we had a very good response from all the actors involved.