

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Jorge Antonio Gómez Díaz
<b>Project Title</b>	Conservation of Palmita Cycad ( <i>Zamia inermis</i> ) and its Habitat through Ecology and Sensitizing Local People
<b>Application ID</b>	34516-1
<b>Date of this Report</b>	May 29 <sup>th</sup> 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
To learn what people know about the species				We have no problem with this objective; people were open to collaborating.
To present the project and identify key actors who will help us during the project				We have no problem with this objective; people were open to collaborating.
To study the phenology and pollination process of the species				We learn a lot about the species with this objective. The information generated will help to establish reproduction and reintroduction programmes.
To generate information on abundance and spatial/geographical distribution				We are fine with this objective since the information was available.
To determine population size				We have some issues reaching the field populations because of the area's mining activities.
To assess the habitats (in condition, suitability, and threats)				We are fine with this objective since the information was available.
To identify the forest fragments which are a priority for the conservation of the species				We are fine with this objective since the information was available.
To present the project results and deliver guidebooks				We delivered the information to the community and learned about the people's interests.

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

- a). We have found the pollinator of *Zamia inermis*, which was thought to be extinct.
- b). We described the phenology of the species.
- c). Local people were engaged in the conservation of the species.

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

The mining activities in the study area difficult the fieldwork. We have some issues working in some areas because the access was blocked. We started collaborating with local people, and finally, we could reach some populations. Also, we began to work more with the people's plants in their gardens.

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

Local communities were very interested, and we have the support of one key actor (Don Lencho), who greatly helped us. Thanks to him, we could capture the pollinator of the species.

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

Yes, one student will make her Licenciatura thesis with social activities. Also, we are planning to create a greenhouse to cultivate the species.

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

We are planning to publish our results in some scientific journals. Also, we would like to create some flyers and give the information to the authorities. In the future, we will make some videos to reach more people.

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

It is important to involve more people in the community. Also, we are interested in reproducing the species, and that can convince the authorities to declare the area where the species habit as a protected area.

**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?**

Yes, for presenting the results to the local community and the deliverables we give to the people.

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

**Jorge Antonio Gómez Díaz**, leader of the project

**César Isidro Carvajal Hernández**, Scientific advisor

**Merbin Jafet Tornero Conde**, student, data collector, field help, and photography

**Brenda Izabeth Perea Valencia**, student, data collector, field help, and photography

**Jonatan Josué Torres Díaz**, data collector and field assistant.

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

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the sponsors of this project for their invaluable support and funding. Your contribution has played a crucial role in enabling us to gather the essential information needed to conserve the palmita cycad (*Zamia inermis*) species. Thanks to your support, we conducted extensive research on the phenological and pollination processes of *Z. inermis*, providing critical insights into its reproductive cycle. This knowledge is instrumental in developing effective conservation strategies and interventions to ensure the species' long-term survival.

Furthermore, your sponsorship allowed us to engage and sensitise the local community about the importance of protecting the palmita cycad and its habitat. Through workshops and the distribution of guidebooks, we successfully raised awareness among local landowners and stakeholders, empowering them to participate in conservation efforts actively. This heightened awareness and commitment from the community will have a lasting impact on preserving *Z. inermis*. Additionally, your support enabled us to assess the long-term effects of current forest management practices on the species' habitat. By identifying potential threats and challenges, we can now develop targeted conservation programs that mitigate these risks and preserve vulnerable populations.

The map of hotspot areas requiring immediate conservation action, made possible by your sponsorship, provides a crucial tool for local leaders, politicians, and stakeholders to prioritize conservation efforts effectively. This targeted approach will maximise the impact of conservation interventions and help protect critical areas for the species' survival. In conclusion, the information obtained through this project, made possible by your generous support, will be instrumental in conserving the palmita cycad. Your sponsorship has contributed to scientific research, raised awareness, empowered the local community, and provided valuable resources for ongoing conservation efforts.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors for their vision, commitment, and dedication to preserving *Zamia inermis* and its habitat. Your support ensures a brighter future for this endangered species and underscores the significance of collective action in conservation endeavours.