

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Jessica Thompson Ambriz
<b>Project Title</b>	Birds' functional and taxonomical diversity in anthropic landscapes of Altos de Chiapas region
<b>Application ID</b>	36940-1
<b>Date of this Report</b>	21 December 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
Conduct bird observations using the point count method				We successfully completed the bird survey thanks to the the equipment, assistance and fuel provided by the grant.
Obtain bird morphological measurements from museum specimens and through mist netting, capture, measurement, and immediate release of birds				We successfully obtained the bird morphological measurements using the bird nets and measurement tools provided by the grant.
Perform vegetation sampling and disturbance assessments on each point count site				We successfully completed the vegetation surveys using the measurement tools provided by the grant.
Measure landscape attributes satellite imagery to analyse its influence on bird community structure				We are still working on the development of the second manuscript that is based on landscape ecology and bird functional diversity.
Perform taxonomic and functional analysis with the data collected to address my research questions				We are still working on the development of the second manuscript that is based on landscape ecology and bird functional diversity.
Perform workshops about bird importance and conservation in ten elementary schools located in the municipalities where we will be performing our research				We fully accomplished the implementation of 10 workshops with students but instead of all being elementary schools as proposed, we also included five elementary schools, two middle school, one high school and two summer camps.
Perform collaborative workshops for the authorities that manage the communal reserves to communicate key results of our research and to provide them with materials that				Thanks to the time extension received, we were able to create the materials that allowed us to communicate in a simple and appealing way the results of our research with the authorities of the private and ejidal reserves where we did the bird surveys.

can be used to share the importance of their lands for bird conservation and initiate bird community monitoring on their reserves				
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**2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- a) We contributed to the understanding of the relationship between forest use and its ability to maintain diverse bird communities, through the identification of key stone elements of the forest.
- b) We raised awareness about bird conservation among the students and local authorities that participated in our workshops.
- c) We created educational materials that can continue to be use as valuable conservation tools on future workshops about bird conservation and local forest restoration and management.

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

We had a delay on the implementation of the workshops with the local authorities due to the time demands of the PhD programme. We solved this difficulty by asking for a time extension.

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

We performed the bird and vegetation surveys with the approval and accompaniment of local indigenous people who own and manage the forests we visited. During these periods we had the opportunity to learn about their relationship with the forest, which encouraged a dialogue of reflection around the ecological value of these forests and how their use and conservation can be reconciled. These issues also were addressed directly in the workshops with the local authorities.

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

We have a very strong interest to continue implementing workshops with groups of students and reserve managers that could be focused on the monitoring of high priority species such as the pink-headed warbler (*Cardellina versicolor*), blue-throated motmot (*Aspatha gularis*), wine-throated hummingbird (*Selasphorus ellioti*), black-throated jay (*Cyanolyca pumilo*) and garnet-throated hummingbird (*Lamprolaima rhami*), among others, and the restoration of the forest through the reintroduction of native plants with high ecological value that have been extirpated locally.

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

We plan shared our results on two ways: 1) through the publication of two scientific papers in specialised journals of Forest Ecology and Ornithology; and 2) we have created educational materials (vinyl posters, table games, cards with information about bird habits and distribution, posters with bird silhouettes and migratory routes and bird and cats masks) that allowed us to communicate in a simple and appealing way the results of our research on student workshops and with the local authorities.

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

We think that is important to continue working with the schools through workshops and to work closer with the authorities that manages local reserves to create a monitoring and restoration plans.

**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, we used the logo on the educational materials we made for the student workshops, handbooks, and posters.

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

My teamwork is comprised by my PhD Committee and me. My PhD committee is comprised by Dr. Dario Navarrete Gutierrez, Dr. Amanda Rodewald, Dr. Victor Arroyo Rodríguez, and Dr. Neptalí Ramírez Marcial. They are researchers highly specialised in ecology and biological conservation. They have overview dozens of graduate students some of whom have received Rufford grants and successfully completed their research with they support. Specifically, Dr. Dario Navarrete has provided advisory in terms of the theoretical, methodological and analysis design of the project and in the development of the geographical analysis. Dr. Neptalí Ramírez Marcial provided advisory in terms of theoretical, methodological and analysis design around disturbance and forest dynamics. Dr. Amanda Rodewald provided advisory in terms of theoretical, methodological and analysis around the bird diversity assessment and the conservation approaches. Dr. Victor Arroyo Rodriguez provided advisory about the study design and analysis primarily in terms of the landscape ecology approach. I have been working on the analysis and prepare the peer reviewed papers with the advisory of my PhD Committee.

I carried out the field work with the help of local guides Don José Diaz (Chamula), Don Miguel Gomez (Tenejapa), Don Filiberto García (Tenejapa), Pedro Bolom (Huixtán), Javier Perez (Huixtán), Antonio Hernández (Zinacantán), Don Armando (San Cristóbal), and with the support of Guadalupe Álvarez and Eugenio Dorantes owners of the private reserve El Encanto de Los Robles (Comitán) and Victoria Castillo owner of the private reserve El Encuentro (San Cristóbal).

The preparation and facilitation of the workshops and educational materials was performed in collaboration with Laila Yunes and Karina Vasquez, members of PAU San Cristóbal.

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

We greatly appreciate the support of The Rufford Foundation and hope that our work has contributed and can continue to contribute to the conservation of the birds of Chiapas Highlands region.



