

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Flavia Cassinelli
Project Title	Use of nest boxes for the management and conservation of cavity-nesting birds in logging subtropical forests Northwestern Argentina.
Application ID	39458-1
Date of this Report	16-03-2024

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
Placement of nest boxes		X		We placed 100 nest-boxes in one forest, and the remaining 50 in a small patch of native forest.
Placement of camera traps		X		A few camera traps were placed for the first 5 months.
Management programs		X		We need to reach more public to make programmes useful.

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

a). Main results established an 80% occupation rate for nest boxes (100 in total) by cavity-nesting birds. Species which occupied these boxes were: house wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), streaked flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*), buff-browed foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla rufosuperciliata*), narrow-billed woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes angustirostris*), montane forest screech-owl (*Megascops hoyi*), and barred forest-falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*). In addition, other groups of animals occupied the boxes such as exotic bees (*Apis mellifera*), middle-sized mammals (*Didelphis albiventris*), small mammals (*Thylamys venustus*) and even amphibians (*Boana pulchella*)

b). Another important output is the fact that there's important competition between these different groups for the use of nest boxes.

c). Thanks to the contributions of The Rufford Foundation to this project, we obtained information about bird diversity and abundance in the native forest of Yungas. To our knowledge, studies regarding the use of nest boxes by birds and other animals in tropical and sub-tropical forests of the Neotropics are scarce. So, we consider our results a big contribution.

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

We struggled with the climate since the area selected had a period of intense rainfall during summer. Therefore, there was some monitoring data that we couldn't get in the summer months due to the fact that the sites were difficult to access.

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

Schools near the project sites heard about our work and showed interest in the project. Mostly about conservation issues which they ignored. So, we settled for future visits in schools to talk about diversity of Yungas forest and conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Not for the moment as this kind of project requires too much time and many volunteers which we don't always get for the fieldwork. Maybe in the future, with a better organisation, we could continue carrying out work on different land uses and biodiversity. As well as involving different sectors of society in the monitoring of native fauna.

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

Our most ambitious goal is to work with researchers from different country areas on scientific papers associated with conservation. This allows knowledge sharing and a chance for new contacts. Our final report about the use of nest boxes by cavity-nesting birds will be published and shared with forestry companies, local and global community so they all get the chance to read about it.

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

We strongly believe that to truly carry out a conservation programme we must involve different social actors in the sustainable management of the Yungas forests from Argentina; as well, we want to generate priority areas to guarantee the conservation of different groups of animals.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used during the project in meetings and workshops we've carried out in the university, schools and government entities from the province. This logo will be used in presentations on national congress to be done this year too.

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

Clarisa Otero, Antropologist: social development, education material and workshop.
Miguel Cura: PhD student in biology: camera trap analysis, photographer and fieldwork.

Alejandro Schaaf, PhD in biology: fieldwork and statistical analysis.

Agustina Murgia, student PhD in Biology: fieldwork and camera trap analysis.

Volunteers who participate in field campaigns: volunteers were undergraduate students, essential for fieldwork.

10. Any other comments?

We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to The Rufford Foundation for its contribution given that its financial assistance made our project and other projects, possible. We hope that future funding will contribute to this and other projects as well.