

Rufford ID: 42068-1

Project Title: Mapping Galapagos Invaders with Drones and Machine Learning: An Estimation of Spread Rates of Invasive Plants and Identification of Management Keys for Endemic

Update (March 2024): My data collection fieldwork in the Galapagos began on 12.02.2024. Since then I have been collecting aerial photographs of land cover in rural areas and adjacent protected areas on the islands of Isabela, Floreana and San Cristobal. I am currently starting my sampling in Santa Cruz and will later hold workshops with farmers. The fieldwork will continue until the end of April.

Due to the ENSO (El Niño Southern Oscillation) event this year, we have had a lot of rain in the Galapagos, but fortunately there have been windows of time when I have been able to go into the field and fly the drone. The equipment cannot be used in the rain. Unfortunately, the rain is becoming more frequent these days, so sampling in Santa Cruz will be a little slower than in the other islands.