

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Vanessa Bustamante Manrique
Project Title	Alarm vocalizations: Structure, types and anti-predator mechanisms of the howler monkey (<i>Alouatta caraya</i>) in the humid Chaco region of Argentina
Application ID	42603-1
Date of this Report	23/06/2025

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
Behavioral data collection <i>Alouatta caraya</i>			x	<p>All data collection for the experiments was carried out thoroughly, with the invaluable help of the field assistants.</p> <p>The field data collection lasted 11 months. The number of field assistants varied depending on the campaign, but we always had 4 to 5 people per month. We have not conducted a face-to-face survey with local communities yet. However, we visited 4 local communities to socialize the project. We collected fecal samples for kinship analysis. The samples are stored at the IPE at the National University of Salta, and we plan to conduct a kinship analysis to complement the work with howler monkeys.</p>
Environmental education for both species. <i>Sapajus nigratus</i>, <i>Alouatta caraya</i>			x	<p>Environmental education talks and workshops in different locations for people of different ages.</p> <p>We conducted five workshops in different provinces: Chaco, Corrientes, Salta, and Jujuy. Approximately 300 people participated in total, ranging in age from children to adults.</p>
Dissemination of educational material and related activities			x	<p>The creation of graphic pieces to share with the community was successfully completed.</p> <p>Many posters, approximately 400,</p>

				were distributed virtually by the seedbed, and about 200 posters were distributed physically. In addition to the T-shirts.
Contact with the community near Cachapé, sampling site <i>Alouatta caraya</i>			x	We contacted people living near the reserve, shared the initial results of the project, and distributed educational materials. In the local community, I visited about 60 people in this first stage.
Personal contact with communities in the study area of Jujuy and Salta with the species <i>Sapajus cay</i> .		x		We contacted people living in areas surrounding the Sapajus cay's habitats. We shared our ideas and listened to theirs, and we also shared educational materials with them. This objective has been partially achieved because, due to time constraints and difficult access, there were some communities we were unable to reach. We were also unable to pinpoint some locations, but we are making some contacts for this visit and will finally get started.
Presentation of initial dissemination strategies at scientific events.			x	We shared the initial results at three major scientific events in Colombia and Argentina.
Follow up and begin surveys with <i>Sapajus cay</i>	x			We have not yet been able to begin monitoring the sapajus cay for various reasons beyond our control. We were unable to contact the people who were going to accompany us in time, and inclement weather prevented us from reaching the monitoring areas. Some rivers were swollen and there was excessive flooding; however, we

				<p>now have some meetings scheduled to survey the terrain. Likewise, environmental education and scientific outreach continue with the help of the people directly involved in the project and others who have voluntarily joined the project.</p>
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2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a). Completion of data collection in the Chaco with the black and gold howler monkey, *Alouatta caraya*.
- b). Environmental outreach and education with both neighboring communities and the rest of the country. This is done through clear and didactic educational materials, virtual talks, and the presentation of these results at scientific meetings.
- c). Make effective contact with the people and places we will visit in the company of the national parks and the surrounding community involved in the project with *Sapajus cay*.

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

The initial difficulties of the project with *Alouatta caraya* involved the monkeys disappearing with unusual frequency. This led us to choose another group of monkeys as the subject of our study. Similarly, rain and weather conditions delayed our data collection and visits to communities. As for the project with the monkeys in Caí, contact with the community in the study areas was somewhat difficult due to mistrust of environmental agencies. However, we managed to establish contact with them and, with the help of National Parks, the fieldwork will be a success. Last but not least, the country's economic situation is causing indiscriminate price increases, leaving very little room to meet all objectives. Everything was resolved in the best possible way.

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

The communities have mainly participated in attending the workshops and talks that have been offered. So far, they have benefited from the new knowledge we have brought to them and the link between the project and them. There are some people from the Chaco area who have accompanied us in the field and shared their empirical knowledge with us. The next step is to link the community directly with field activities both in the countryside and in the urban center. Sharing and distributing activities. In the future, they will benefit directly from the influence of the

presence of primates in their residential areas and the conservation strategies associated with them.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the idea is to give the project a stronger start with the caí de las yungas. **Sapajus cay**. Clearly define the monitoring sites and, together with the community, give continuity to this project. Likewise, we have been conducting a survey on economic activities and linking it to the presence of the caí monkey. With regard to the howler monkey **Alouatta caraya**, the respective data is being passed on and materials are being created for the dissemination of the results. Similarly, environmental education activities and conservation strategies are being planned.

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

The data will be shared in different ways, through scientific articles and informative articles focusing on the formal part of the project. Similarly, all possible environmental education and scientific dissemination tools will be used, including videos and audio recordings to share the results of the activities in a more entertaining way. Some educational materials have already been shared with the community and other audiences through social media and physical media.

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

The next most important steps are divided into working with the monkeys and with the community. First, achieve constant monitoring of the **Sapajus cay** to strengthen its natural history. Second, share this information honestly with nearby communities to strongly link them to the project, as they, more than anyone else, know the sites and routes of the monkeys in their areas of residence. With this information, conservation strategies will be prepared and strengthened, with benefits for the community. Finally, we hope and trust that we will maintain a satisfactory relationship with government agencies and national parks in order to ensure both the permanence of the monkeys in the study areas and community awareness of the monkeys' presence in those areas. With these partnerships, our goal is to establish a harmonious relationship between the monkeys and the economic activities of the residents. All of these activities will be carried out mainly by the Argentine primatology seedbed, which I am in charge of. With regard to the howler monkeys **Alouatta caraya**, we are already at a more advanced stage, in which we are analysing and passing on data for the successful dissemination of the results obtained.

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, the logo has been used in various educational materials and documents that we have shared at scientific events. Two educational brochures focused on the howler monkeys **Alouatta caraya** and the capuchin monkeys **Sapajus cay**. We created an image to share educational materials with all primates, a poster at the

Latin American Congress of Primatology in Colombia, two presentations at the Argentine Mammal Conference in San Luis JAM, among other pieces that have been shared in various talks we have given.

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

There have been some major changes in the project's core team. We added a new member to the coordinating team with the aim of having a team that is better equipped for the preparatory work and fieldwork. This new member is Yamila Ruffner, who has a degree in biology and is also pursuing a PhD in the province of Misiones. Below, I will describe the main activities and tasks of each team member. First, we have Ingrid Holzmann, my doctoral project director and undoubtedly the advisor for the entire project. Her intellectual support has been indispensable. Next are Pamela Farfan and Eliana Lattuada, two undergraduate students responsible for outreach from their places of residence to the different educational groups to which they belong. Florencia Levit and Yamila Ruffner, field companions and responsible for disseminating some of the results of this project in the JAM and other media. Carlos Ramírez, in charge of contacting people in the communities and accompanying them in the field. In addition to this, he is responsible for all audiovisual pieces and evidence and dissemination material. And Vanessa Bustamante, responsible for the project, contacting residents, visiting communities, and disseminating the results at other scientific events, as well as coordinator of the Argentine Primatology Seedbed, in charge of scientific dissemination through social media and other means.

10. Any other comments?

Annexes including photographic material and educational content are attached. I have more audiovisual material that I can share by email.

**ANNEX – Financial Report
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