

Final Evaluation Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF format**. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please DO NOT fill in and submit this form until the project has been completed.

Complete the form in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Rosaura Torres Moreno
Project Title	<i>Vanilla pompona</i> pollinators: identification of bees a start strategy for the conservation the specimens and Medium sub-evergreen forest in Nayarit, Mexico
Application ID	44041-1
Date of this Report	06 of January 2026

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
Permits were obtained from both governmental authorities and local communities to carry out conservation and research activities related to <i>Vanilla pompona</i> .			X	Fortunately, the communities have shown strong interest in the project activities and have granted permission for the project to be carried out.
Exploration and identification of areas for observing and collecting pollinators at the sites of interest.			X	<p>Observations and collections were successfully carried out.</p> <p>In the locality of El Taixte, 3 sampling points were collected, and in the locality of El Zopilote, 5 sampling points were collected, both referenced in the report from the first period.</p>
Conduct educational talks and develop didactic materials to raise community awareness of the importance of pollinators and the conservation of vanilla.			X	<p>The activities were successfully carried out.</p> <p>We conducted three awareness talks on the conservation of vanilla and its pollinators in each community, as well as one presentation showing entomological material of the pollinators collected at the sites. Interactive presentations were created using photos and videos taken at the vanilla sites and of their pollinators to explain the importance of species conservation, as well as a small entomological collection of the</p>

				<p>pollinators that were collected and identified for better visualization and appreciation of their structures.</p> <p>A workshop was also conducted on how to select, care for, and maintain vanilla for its reproduction in an agroforestry cultivation system, including the preparation of Bordeaux mixture to seal the plant and keep it free of diseases.</p> <p>At the El Taixte site, we were able to talk with around 15 people, while at El Zopilote there were 8 people. It should be taken into account that these localities have few inhabitants, and many of them, although invited to the talk, were not interested in participating.</p> <p>Two working groups were formed as a result of the project. The first group formed was by Natanael and his family in El Taixte, while the second group was formed in El Zopilote by Mr. William, his wife, his brother, and his brother's wife.</p>
<p>Observations, collections, and taxonomic determinations of floral visitors and pollinators of <i>Vanilla pompona</i> at the research sites.</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>This activity was one of the most important and generated strong interest within the communities.</p> <p>Between two and three visits were conducted per site over a three-month period: April, May, and June. A total of 70 flowers were sampled across both study sites.</p> <p>The bee <i>Eulaema polychrome</i> (Mocsáry) (Hymenoptera:</p>

			<p>Apidae) recorded the highest number of observations, visiting <i>Vanilla pompona</i> flowers in 91 instances. Photographic evidence documented its entry into the labellum and the presence of pollen masses attached to the scutellum. In addition, <i>Eulaema cingulata</i> (Fabricius) (Hymenoptera: Apidae) was recorded with two observations, <i>Eulaema seabrai</i> Moure (Hymenoptera: Apidae) with six observations, and <i>Euglossa</i> sp. Latreille (Hymenoptera: Apidae) with thirteen observations.</p> <p>Given that <i>E. polychrome</i> was the most abundant species recorded during visual observations, together with the presence of numerous fruits at the sampling sites, as well as photographic evidence of pollen masses attached to the scutellum and entry into the labellum, this species is considered to be the most important pollinator of <i>V. pompona</i> in Nayarit, Mexico.</p>
<p>Carry out conservation activities for <i>Vanilla pompona</i> through the establishment of agroforestry cultivation within the community in order to preserve its pollinators.</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>One of the communities has begun establishing an agroforestry cultivation; however, further outreach and activities with other community members are needed to encourage their interest and enable them to undertake this activity with full confidence, as this type of cultivation requires specific care in order to thrive.</p>

				The two family groups that showed interest in carrying out the activities were also trained in the agroforestry cultivation of vanilla, and one family group has begun establishing their agroforestry vanilla cultivation system.
Dissemination activities of the information obtained with the scientific and academic community, including scientific dissemination through conferences.			X	The activities were successfully carried out.

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

- a). Identification of the pollinators that visit *Vanilla pompona* in the communities where this species occurs and requires conservation.
- b). Initiation of conservation activities for *Vanilla pompona* with the communities that were visited.
- c). The visited communities have shown interest in conservation and demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the biodiversity present in their territory, as well as its potential for being maintained and protected.

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

The study sites were difficult to access and obtaining pollen from bees as well as recording pollination events proved challenging. This process requires a considerable degree of chance, as it is necessary to photograph the exact moment of pollination at a specific location. Additionally, many flowers could not be sampled due to the highly stochastic nature of this activity.

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

The communities were highly involved throughout the project, guiding us to the sites where vanilla occurs, providing places for lodging and camping, and participating in activities where we demonstrated how pollinators visit the plants and explained their ecological role. In addition, community members were trained in the establishment of agroforestry systems, including the specific characteristics required for vanilla cultivation and the necessary management and care practices.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are genuinely interested in continuing to work with the communities due to their high potential for the conservation of vanilla and its pollinators.

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

The results have been shared with both local communities and the scientific community through conference presentations and a scientific article that is currently in preparation for submission to an international journal.

A meeting was held to thank the communities for all their support and to share everything that has been achieved. We also expressed our intention to continue with the project and to obtain additional resources to further support the conservation of vanilla and its pollinators

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

To carry out additional visits to the communities in order to monitor the agroforestry cultivation of *Vanilla pompona*, as well as its conservation, sustainable use, and the benefits it provides to local residents.

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 logos were used during conference presentations, and the communities were also informed that the Foundation was supporting the project through specific funding categories.

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

Dr. Rosaura Torres Moreno, Part-time lecturer at the Tecnológico Superior de Jalisco, specialist in entomology, ecology, biological control, and agricultural pests.

Dr. Jorge Adilson Pinedo Escatel, associate researcher at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, is a specialist in conservation, entomology, systematics, and evolution of insects.

Dr. Álvaro Edwin Razo León, professor and researcher at the Universidad de Guadalajara, specialist in pollinator ecology, plant ecology, and insect taxonomy.

Dr. Ismael Alejandro Hinojosa Díaz, a researcher at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, specialist in bee ecology and sistematic.

BSc. Giovani Angeles, who graduated from the Universidad de Guadalajara, is currently researching vanilla populations present in Mexico and their conservation through the dissemination of knowledge and workshops in rural communities where vanilla is still found in the wild.

M.Sc. Ana Nuño graduated from the Universidad de Guadalajara, as a specialist in botany, plant systematics, and rural sociology.

Carlos Castro Hernández Master in Environmental Engineering and Technology from the Latin American Technological University, for Universidad del Valle de México, a specialist in social organization.

10. Any other comments?

We are grateful to the Foundation for the opportunity to begin this important project, which contributes to the conservation of species at risk of extinction and to the preservation of global biodiversity.

ANNEX – Financial Report
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