Interim report to The Rufford Foundation Grant 50715-1

*Community-Based Monitoring of the Critically Endangered Great Green Macaw in the Changing Landscapes of Darién, Panamá*

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During August 2026, we conducted field training, semi-structured interviews and participatory workshops with ADASA and OEFAM community collaborators, IFAD students and protected-area personnel in Darién. These activities addressed the proposal's commitments to strengthen local monitoring capacity and document local knowledge of macaw habitats and threats.

Intensive field training covered acoustic equipment handling and installation, selection of monitoring locations and recording field observations. One-on-one interviews with experienced forest users explored their knowledge of macaw habitats and the pressures affecting them. In knowledge-sharing workshops, breakout groups discussed conservation priorities and mapped potential nesting and feeding areas and associated threats. These exercises contributed to the initial participatory mapping proposed to guide field surveys. Interview and workshop records are being consolidated.

We used GIS to translate the information gathered through participatory mapping into spatial data representing collaborators' knowledge of macaw habitats and threats. We also examined land-use change across the broader region. Together, these sources are guiding recorder placement to sample locally identified areas of importance and different landscape conditions.

We purchased ten acoustic recorders, a GPS, memory cards and protective cases. Shipping logistics from the United States to Panama delayed

equipment availability, and the recorders will be installed during the coming dry season. Batteries will be purchased shortly before deployment.

The December 2026 to March 2027 field campaign will continue the activities set out in the proposal: acoustic monitoring, synchronized point counts, nest surveys and observations of habitat use, with community participation. Remaining funds will support field travel, local field support and participatory activities.

## Expenses and remaining balance

**[Intentionally removed]**

## Field activities



Field training with student participants.



Student monitoring brigade.

## Community interviews and workshops



One of the semi-structured community interviews.




Breakout group during the participatory workshops.