

RSG Mexico Conference 2022

3rd & 4th APRIL 2022

Venue: *Planetarium Ka Yok, Av. Av Tulum y Nichupte, Supermanzana 11 M2 L3, 77504 Cancún, Q.R., Mexico*

Organiser: *Karen Fuentes, Manta Caribbean Project*

Summary of conference objectives:

The objective of the conference is for RSG grantees to present their research, conservation, and educational projects funded by The Rufford Foundation. It was an opportunity for grantees to present their work to their peers, showing how impactful, and game-changing their projects have been. Through their project's how they have developed the conservation or research strategies in ecosystems or species within Mexico and other countries in Latin America.

The conference:

After two days of incredible presentations of remarkable projects during the conference in the Planetarium Ka Yok in Cancun 2022, and a field trip to a Flora and Fauna Natural Protected Area read about the highlights during this event.

On the first day of the Rufford Small Grant Conference, we welcomed the grantees to the Planetarium Ka Yok, Cancun. The Director of The Manta Caribbean Project gave a keynote presentation related to mantas and devil rays research and conservation in the Mexican Caribbean region. While some participants were able to attend the conference, other grantees presenting their conservation and research work through a virtual platform set up for this event, a total of seventeen attendees.

The objective of the conference was for RSG grantees to present their research, conservation, and educational projects funded by The Rufford Foundation. The first day presenters explain how their work has been impactful, and game-changing for their established objectives in the region where they develop their conservation or research strategies in ecosystems or species within Mexico and other countries in Latin America.

From sea turtles' health, Chondrichthyes species in Oaxaca coastline, ongoing genetics research in the Mesoamerican coral reef, women's traditional medicine knowledge in the tropical forest, mountain ecosystems, ecology and conservation of bats, temperate forest, and biological and co-evolution of moths. Restoration, conservation, research, and communities-based projects related to ecosystems and species were some of the highlights during the first day of the congress.

The richness of biodiversity was presented during this first day, different individuals working towards sustainability, conservation, their leadership, and The Rufford Foundation support has contributed substantially to projects within Mexico and Latin-American countries that have improved the awareness, knowledge, lifestyles within their communities, and improve scientific knowledge.

The importance of financial support for conservation and research projects is fundamental for the development of initiatives and strategies that help to sustain fragile ecosystems, poorly studied species, face climate change and the current climate crisis, including vulnerable and endangered habitats, with the ultimate goal to raise awareness, increase knowledge, and improve scientific literature that creates along with the collaboration with local communities, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations or governmental entities, and the private sector.

Grantees exposed some of the key factors for the degradation of ecosystems as a result of deforestation, cattle raising, monocultures, lack of legal framework, overfishing, climate crisis, and communities' inequality.

On the second day, we started our day early morning with a field trip visiting The Natural Protected Flora and Fauna Mangroves of Nichupté. Our local guides took us on an adventure around the vulnerable mangroves' ecosystems where through the tour different species of birds and coastal ecosystems were spotted. Furthermore, the expedition allowed the RSG grantees to interact with each other and enjoy nature during this conference and get to know one of the most emblematic ecosystems in Quintana Roo State.

The main conference started with Dr. Ramon Bonfil an academic from ECOSUR campus Chetumal, and CEO of his own non-profit organization Océanos Vivientes, with the title: Environmental DNA of Sawfishes in Mexico.

The talks continued with a series of presentations related to microplastic and other pollutants in whale sharks in Bahía Magdalena, sustainable gray whale watching in Baja California Peninsula, sea turtle species population trends in Oaxaca, Avitourism, and more.

Sharing experiences, and knowledge and improving our way of thinking could potentially help to develop more effective and efficient proposals, assessments, planning, and approach to our professional journeys depending on our work efforts, regions, culture, and field of expertise.

We want to thank The Rufford Foundation for their support during the last years, and we wish you the best of luck for future potential projects.

List of participants, conference schedule and abstracts

A	B	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
DAY 1	TIME	TITLE	Activity	Speaker	Contact	Modality	Language	links per	Room	File Presentation
DAY 1	WE ASK ALL PARTICIPANTS TO CONNECT TO THE PROVIDED LINKS, NOT ONLY TO THE VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS. IN THIS WAY WE CAN ALL SEE THE MATERIAL TOGETHER									
03.04.2022	12:00	Start of day 1. Registration of participants and delivery of materials. Cancun City Planetarium	30				*			
	12:30	Opening Remarks by Josh Cole, Grant Director of the Rufford Foundation	30	Josh Cole		CANCUN	ENG	https://me	RuffordD1S103.04.2022	
	13:00	Keynote Conference 1: Mantas and Devil Rays of the Mexican Caribbean: Research, conservation and environmental education	20	Karen Fuentes		CANCUN	ENG	https://me	RuffordD1S103.04.2022	
	13:20	Sea Turtle Health Assessments in Baja California Sur	15	Eduardo Resendiz	jresend	CANCUN	SPA	https://me	RuffordD1S103.04.2022	
	13:35	Assemblage and diversity of the Chondrichthyes in different shallow and mesophotic environments of the Oaxacan coast	15	Israel Moreno	israelm	Virtual	SPA	https://me	RuffordD1S103.04.2022	
	13:50	Acropora population genetics applied to coral reef restoration	15	Viridiana Alvarado	vir_alva	CANCUN	SPA	https://me	RuffordD1S103.04.2022	
	14:05	Question session and brainstorming	10							
	14:15	<i>COFFEE BREAK INCLUDED</i>	15							
	14:30	Identification of adaptive hotspots in endangered high montane ecosystems along the Sierra Madre Oriental in Mexico	15	Katia Treviño	katialize	Virtual	ENG	https://me	RuffordD1S203.04.2022	
	14:45							https://me	RuffordD1S203.04.2022	
	15:00	Priority areas and sites for the conservation of tequila and mezcal bats: <i>Leptonycteris nivalis</i> and <i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i>	15	Marisol Martínez	marisol	CANCUN	ENG	https://me	RuffordD Si	
	15:15	Seasonal ecology and conservation of <i>Leptonycteris yerbabuenae</i> in Central Mexico	15	Aquetzalli Rivera	godmost	Virtual	ENG	https://me	RuffordD1S203.04.2022	
	15:30	Question and exchange session	15							
	15:45	<i>SNACKS INCLUDED</i>	1hr				*			
	16:45	Seasonal dynamics of the fish community in a subtropical lake in central Mexico	15	Arely Ramirez	are.ly32	Virtual	SPA	https://me	RuffordD Si	
	17:00	Biological diversity resulting from the co-evolution between yuccas and moths	15	María Clara Arteaga	mariacl	Virtual	SPA	https://me	RuffordD1S303.04.2022	
	17:15	Remnant <i>Quercus</i> trees as ecological resilience factors in temperate forests impacted by bark beetle in southern Mexico	15	Guadalupe Pacheco	lupispa	Virtual	SPA	https://me	RuffordD1S303.04.2022	
	17:30	Traditional medicinal knowledge of arboreal flora as a basis for the restoration and conservation of the humid tropical forest.	15	Juana García Flores	juana.g	Virtual	ENG	https://me	RuffordD PENDIENTE	
	17:45	Question and exchange session	15							
	18:00	End of session day 1					*			
DURATION TIME			6 hrs							

DAY 2													
04.04.2022	5:45	Lobby meeting of the host hotel for the field trip	30					*					
	6:15	Departure from the host hotel for a field trip	45					*					
	7:00	Field Trip Start	3 hrs					*					
	14:00	Start of day 2. KEYNOTE SPEAKER DNA OF ENDANGERED SAWFISHES IN MEXICO DR. RAMON BONFIL	10	Ramón Bonfil		CANCUN	SPA	https://me	RuffordD2S404.04.2022				
	14:30	Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in whale sharks and zooplankton, as well as the presence of microplastics in Bahía de los Ángeles	15	Itzel Villagomez	jimdoor	CANCUN	SPA	https://me	RuffordD Si				
	14:45	Promoting the Sustainable Development of Whale Watching in Baja California Sur, Mexico	15	Omar García	b.m.om	CANCUN	SPA	https://me	RuffordD2S404.04.2022				
	15:00	Evolution, history and conservation of two species of sea turtle on the coast of Oaxaca	15	Carlos Castillo	castillo.	CANCUN	SPA	https://me	RuffordD2S404.04.2022				
	15:15	Question and exchange session	15										
	15:30	SNACKS INCLUDED	1hr										
	16:30	Community avitourism as a strategy for sustainable livelihoods in Totontepec Villa de Morelos	15	Elisa Platas	elisapla	Virtual	SPA	https://me	RuffordD2S504.04.2022				
	16:45	Fauna Steps: reconnecting the jaguar and other animals	15	Alberto González	fodopoc	Virtual	ENG	https://me	RuffordD CAMBIO DE DÍA				
	17:00	Conservation of Quercus in Mexico: A genetic perspective.	15	Hernando Rodríguez	hrodrigu	Virtual	SPA	https://me	RuffordD2S504.04.2022				
	17:15	Diversity and traditional management of stingless bees (Apidae: Meliponini), in Michoacán, Mexico, bases for their conservation and sustainable use.	15	Alejandro Reyes	argboy	Virtual	SPA	https://me	RuffordD2S504.04.2022				
	17:30	Question and exchange session	15										
	17:45	Coffee Break	15										
	18:00	Dialogue of knowledge about wildlife in cloud forests: The case of the El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Mexico	15	Nathalia Castillo	nmch14	Virtual	ENG	https://me	RuffordD2S604.04.2022				
	18:15	Guidelines for the Evaluation and Mitigation of the Impact of Wind Farms on bats in Mexico	15	Minerva Uribe	minerva.	CANCUN	ENG	https://me	RuffordD2S604.04.2022				
	18:30	Tiny and Elusive Insects Hidden Inside the Mountain: How Threatened is Leafhopper Biodiversity Within Native Forests of the Sierra Madre Del Sur, Mexico?	15	J.Adilson Pinedo	adilson	Virtual	ENG	https://me	RuffordD2S604.04.2022				
	18:45	Conservation through a "Place-based" environmental education strategy: birds, ecotourism and community monitoring	15	Daniel Couceiro	daniel.	CANCUN	ENG	https://me	RuffordD Si				
	19:00	Question and exchange session											
	19:15	Wrap up END OF THE CONFERENCE											
	DURATION		6 hrs										
Día 3													
05.04.2022	6:00	Breakfast included at the hotel	4 hrs	EVERYONE		CANCUN							
05.04.2022	12:00	Check out	6 hrs	EVERYONE		CANCUN							



Figure 1. Rufford Conference, Cancun, Mexico April 2022