

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Mayra Alejandra Galindo Panqueva
Project Title	Wild Bees and Agroecology: Strategies for the Protection and Conservation of Wildlife in Tropical Dry Forest.
Application ID	27288-2
Grant Amount	£4950
Email Address	fundacionuraku@gmail.com
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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
Agroecological transformations in four (4) productive units associated with tropical dry forest.				Taking into account the situation derived from the COVID - 19 pandemic, it was difficult to enter the community and the undertake development of activities that depend on the seasonal nature. In addition to increasing the time for the development of the activities. However, it was possible to carry out most of the activities aimed at agro-ecological transformations, pending the planting of native seeds previously acquired due to the situation described above and the subsequent heavy rains.
Contribute to the implementation of the meliponiculture activity and knowledge of the importance of pollinators.				The respective training and knowledge of species in the region were carried out, as well as the installation of traps to capture bees and subsequent transfer to the boxes for the development of the meliponiculture activity. The boxes were acquired, but due to the situation described above, it was not possible to install the meliponario, considering that the meliponiculture process requires constancy and vigilance in its beginnings.
Develop local informative material focused on native bees and agroecological practices.				The two populated informative materials were developed, consisting of a poster with species identified in the tropical dry forest and in the study area and a booklet focused on agroecological practices at the local level. Physical delivery to the community is pending until the situation returns to normal.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The situation decreed worldwide for the COVID-19 virus took us by surprise, adding another problem to those already present, such as the difficult access to the area and the absence of electric service.

Initially, the restrictions in the urban area were severe, taking into account curfews, specific days off for shopping and the closure of most stores.

In addition, in the rural area and with the indigenous communities we worked with, there were also restrictions that prevented access by outsiders.

During this situation, the community maintained the areas prioritised for the development of the transformations by means of terraces where the subsequent planting would take place.

Additionally, the foundation's team worked on the design and production of informative material such as content and illustrations, times that were also affected since it depended on several people who were affected by the aforementioned pandemic.

Subsequently, access to the community was requested with all the biosecurity measures and sometime later it was approved. Many activities were carried out, including medicinal plants, composting, installation of camera traps to monitor the community, transfer of hives captured in traps to rational boxes, among others. Then came the rainy season in the region that caused crop losses, loss of access roads, accidents, which made it impossible to continue with the activities of the expected planting season of native species that were purchased in advance.

The advantage of this process is that it is built daily with the community and with the support of different organisations, which guarantees its continuity regardless of its delay. The community is aware of the importance of these processes and even more so now with the current situation, in which restrictions are beginning to be imposed again due to the increase in the number of cases. This is a process that continues to be developed by the URAKU Foundation and the community.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- The transmission of knowledge about agroecological practices that offer autonomy, freedom and individual and family health to each member of the community, thus freeing them step by step from dependence on external inputs that affect their economy, soils, nature and health.
- The socialisation and implementation of information that involves the knowledge of the territory and the soil in order to understand the dynamics that are related such as the species of fauna and flora involved in the harmony and balance of ecosystems. Recognise the dynamics of the soil to understand the manifestations in the crops and how the external inputs of the commercial houses directly affect all this balance.
- The development of informative material that serves for consultation and to continue transmitting the message of conservation involving different aspects and the creation of the network of beekeepers with which we seek to strengthen the processes.

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

Something characteristic of the community with which we are developing the processes is that from the beginning they evidenced the need to make a change in their practices, since the ones they had been developing resulted in soil, ecosystems, crops and family diseases. This makes the community to be proactive and resistant to the current situation, and to be able to overcome the current crises. The community has stated that they have directly benefited from the medicinal plants delivered and socialised their benefits and preparation, since a medicinal garden was created in each one, which arose from the community as an alternative due to the absence of health posts in the area.

At present, they say that they are more respectful of their environment, avoiding indiscriminate hunting practices. They are also continuing to develop agroecological practices in their crops, which has resulted in a decrease in the use of toxic chemicals.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Totally, with the URAKU Foundation, we have been developing processes aimed at agroecological transformations in crops associated with tropical dry forest in parallel with the processes with native bees and pollination processes in these forests that support agroecological production in the region and continue to replicate practices that will benefit the fauna and flora of these threatened ecosystems.

Additionally, the organisation is managing a natural reserve area that will serve as an example for the development of the aforementioned practices and can be replicated throughout the region.

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

A) The information will be shared with the community with the support of allied institutions and social networks as well as the web page where information is free. Through the Bee Guardians Network, we will be able to reach environmental authorities, educational institutions and producers' associations.

B) The scientific community will be informed by means of a scientific article and publication in biological information systems.

C) A poster and booklet were published on social networks and a freely accessible web page, and when the pandemic is over, they will be physically delivered to the participating communities.

D) There are plans to hold a national event related to bees in the Colombian Caribbean, where information on the projects supported by the Rufford Foundation will be shared.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

It was planned from May 20, 2019 to May 20, 2020. However, in 2020, where the installation of meliponario and planting was planned, it was hindered by the situation described by COVID-19.

All the products were postponed until January 2021, but this date was modified while waiting for the graphic products. The resources were executed throughout the development of the process and taking into account the unforeseen events presented.

8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Passage and stay in camp researcher 1 (84 days)	950	1526	+576	More people from the community joined the activities and at the time of the pandemic we provided support with markets to the project members, regardless of the fact that we were not in the field.
Field Assistant local - Support field activities (measurement and sample collection in the field)	1450	1923	+473	
Field equipment (boxes for bees, agricultural elements)	1450	1750	+300	Many of the equipment, elements and supplies were imported from other cities or countries, taking into account the shortage and closure of many warehouses in the city, which made it difficult to acquire supplies and elements.
Transportation to the trails	1100	1320	+220	For the conditions of the tracks, it was necessary to make additional arrangements for transportation and support for the pickup, as it was breaking down and we could not move forward.
TOTAL	4950	6519	+1569	

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

Publish and socialise the information obtained from the processes so that they can be replicated locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Acquire a conservation area to materialise the processes and in this way make it much easier to demonstrate the changes and transformation that occur in the field of agroecology focused on the conservation of nature, in addition to becoming a satellite teaching unit.

10. 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?

The logo has been used in the virtual and face-to-face activities that have been developed within the framework of the project financed by the Rufford Foundation and in the dissemination material generated.

The logo will be used in all the products of this research with its respective authorisation.

The dissemination material generated is attached.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Cesar Augusto Sierra Baldovino - Coordinator

Pablo Andrés Galindo Panqueva - Advertising and communications

Diana Marcela González - Advertising and Communications

Hugo Alberto Galindo - Field Assistant

Jhorman Silva Moreno - Advisor on issues related to Environmental Education

Guzmán Quintero - Advisor in bee management and elaboration of bee boxes.

Fernando Del Moral- Field advisor for community sampling and design of alternatives for coexistence with wildlife.

Mayra Alejandra Galindo Panqueva - Director.

12. Any other comments?

Each product of this research will be notified to you and a copy will be sent to you. Thank you very much for your significant support for the development of this research.