

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Ilke Geladi
<b>Project Title</b>	Informing a Conservation Plan for Galapagos Landbirds through Building Local Capacity in the Agricultural Zone of Santa Cruz Island
<b>Application ID</b>	36583-1
<b>Date of this Report</b>	May 24 2023

**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
1. Build local capacity through mentoring an Ecuadorian student to investigate landbird services and disservices				<p>This objective was extremely successful. I mentored Jailene Contreras through her undergraduate thesis project. I taught her how to do field work, together we developed a methodology and tested it out, and then she wrote up a report and her BSc thesis. She graduated on time, and I was able to recommend her for another field job. She was hired for the field job and has been working in Galapagos as a field assistant in 2023. I received word from her current boss that Jailene is one of the best assistants she has had in years and appreciated the time I had taken to give her this opportunity and teach her.</p> <p>Jailene completed all the observations of birds which I would say was a success since she collected an ample amount of data. She has written up a report and this will be included in a paper I will publish when I finish the data analysis of other data collected in the field.</p>
2. Disservice observations of birds				
3. Build local capacity through hiring a local field assistant to investigate landbird services and disservices				<p>I hired a local field assistant, a young mother born and raised on the island, and trained her in avian field techniques. She was a hard and diligent worker, and we had a lot of success in the field. The objective of building local capacity through training her has been achieved as she has become a point person for a field assistant for other bird research groups and was hired for part-time work by two other organisations for her skills in avian field techniques and her bird knowledge of Galapagos. She was also motivated to go back to school and</p>

			finish her BSc since she will now use the data, we collected in 2022 for her BSc thesis project and I am currently still involved in her mentoring.
4. Enclosure experiments			We did enclosure experiments of tomato plants with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture on 10 different farms. The experiments were only partially successful since on seven of the 10 farms the tomato plants did not survive well enough to produce fruits. There were various reasons for this including it being a La Niña year which meant it was colder and wetter than usual, there was also limited participation from the farmers since many did not believe it was worth caring for the plants if we were not using pesticides, and lastly because it would have been better to plant them at a different time of the year (which we were only told afterwards). However, from the three farms we did collect data we have analysed the data and even if it is not good enough data to publish on its own, we will include it in a paper we will publish where it is relevant.
5. Crop protection experiments			When I got to Galapagos and had meetings with technicians of the Ministry of Agriculture, who work very closely with the farmers, they informed me that the crops that birds attacked most were watermelon, peppers and tomatoes and these were usually planted around November. We were only in the field until October, so it did not make sense to move forward with these experiments.
6. Create videos to share our research with the community.			We took a lot of footage in the field to create the videos and one video is at the final stages of creation. However, it is only partially complete as these are still a work in progress. Nevertheless, it is still our intention to complete and share these videos with the farmers.

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

- a). Mentoring Jailene Contereras led to her graduation and helped her find a job post-graduation.
- b). Hiring Yanella Tutiven, my field assistant, provided her with the experience to acquire other jobs in the community and inspired her to go back to school and finish her BSc studies.
- c). The disservice observations and crop enclosure experiment results support farmers claim of bird disservices to their crops and will be included in a final report to local authorities to consider when planning a bird conservation plan.

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

One of the unforeseen difficulties that arose was the time and timing it took to do the fieldwork. One hand, it was very time consuming to get between farmed and this meant it was harder to do all the work we planned on doing. In the end, we tackled this difficulty by revising our objectives and prioritising those that were most important and feasible. In this case, we ended up not doing any crop protection experiments since we also did not have the right timing for it – the crops farmers were most interested in protecting were those being planted in November, and we were only in the field until October so we scrapped this part of our work and instead focused on what we could do.

Related to the above unforeseen objective, was the amount of work fieldwork takes and how tiring it is. For this reason, we were not able to make the videos as promptly as we would have liked. However, we took all the footage for it and so we are currently on working on making them, now that the field season has ended, and we have done our analyses.

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

As described above, Jailene and Yanella were both members of the community and were very integrated and supported through the project. Through this project they are both able to finish their studies and have gained enough experience to be hired for other jobs after the project was done. Apart from them, I also advertised our project to any local people who were interested in coming to the field with us and learning methods. Throughout the 8 months of the field work, there were 23 different people from both the local and international community who joined us in the field and learnt about or work and basic avian field techniques. This included a local park ranger who wanted to gain experience in avian field techniques to better be able to support projects as a park ranger and the family of my local field assistant.

Our work also involved commuting to the field every day and we employed local taxi drivers with steady income over the course of our field work. We worked with 4-5 different taxi drivers who also benefited from the project.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, I am currently conducting interviews with farmers of the agricultural zone in Galapagos (through other funding) to determine their perceptions and views of landbirds as well as their willingness and hesitations to planting native trees on their farms, which has been identified as the most important action to help conserve the landbirds. This work will help us better determine how we can best work with the farmers, the local residents and owners of the land, to propose a landbird conservation plan that can be both beneficial to the birds and the farmers.

I will also keep working on creating the videos and have made agreements with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Charles Darwin Foundation, two local institutions, that they will help circulate these on social media to reach a wider audience. They have also agreed to support me in hosting workshops for farmers where we will screen these videos and have discussions and activities for farmers to learn more about the local birds, if further funding is achieved.

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

Basic results of the fieldwork from last year were shared with farmers through sending them a short, individualised report through WhatsApp (the main method of communication) about results on their particular farm. We plan on sharing results with the wider farming and Galapagos community through creating short videos where we explain the objectives, methods and results of the different facets of our project, which will be circulated on social media.

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

I think the most important next steps are to create and share the videos with the farmers. I also think the surveys I am conducting now will be critical in working with the community. Therefore, it will be important to conduct a thorough analysis of the data of the surveys and communicate these results to local institutions as well as local community.

**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?**

Together with my local field assistant and another local collaborator, we presented a talk about our work at a local conference named the IV Simposio de Ciencias en Galápagos where the Rufford Foundation logo was included. We also presented a poster at a poster presentation organized by Galapagos Conservancy where we included the Rufford Foundation logo. I have also talked about the opportunity to apply for a Rufford Small Grants with my local field assistant as well as local collaborator, should they wish to pursue their own conservation research project.

Finally, we will also include and recognise The Rufford Foundation in any future conference talks or poster presentations, as well as any papers we will publish from this work.

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

**Ilke Geladi** – Project leader.

**Claire Kremen** – Supervisor of Ilke Geladi who helped designing the methodology and supervising Ilke throughout her work.

**Birgit Fessl** – Supervisor of Ilke Geladi and helped with obtaining permits, providing useful contacts and advise on bird and field planning.

**Paulina Couenberg** – Ilke's main point of contact at the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) and helped coordinate and organize the support of the MAG technicians who introduced Ilke to farmers and helped her set up her fieldwork as well as helped plant the tomatoes' and build the enclosures for the tomato enclosure experiment.  
**Jailene Contreras** – The undergraduate Ecuadorian student who was supervised by Ilke. She carried out all her field work and data analysis in Galapagos for her BSc. thesis and graduated because of it.

**Yanella Tutiven** - Field assistant of Ilke Geladi

**Wilson Cabrera** – Our main taxi driver who we hired to drive us to our field sites.

**10. Any other comments?**