

Project Update May 2024

Upon returning to Hamburg on May 9th, 2024, I am happy to report the completion of my data collection field trip. Following my previous communication, I conducted aerial photography across the planned areas in Santa Cruz, successfully covering all four islands. Subsequently, I organised and facilitated workshops with farmers in both Santa Cruz and San Cristobal, which were met with positive reception and active participation. Institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and local NGOs played an important role in supporting these activities, particularly by encouraging participation.

Regrettably, the workshop in Santa Cruz experienced lower attendance than anticipated due to an unforeseen declaration by the Ecuadorian Government, designating the workshop day as a holiday. This announcement led to confusion among participants, exacerbated by limited phone reception in rural areas, making prompt clarification challenging. Consequently, a few previously confirmed participants were unable to attend. Nonetheless, the discussions on invasive plant species and the crucial role of farmers in their management were productive and insightful.

I had the opportunity of delivering a project presentation to the community at the city hall salon, garnering interest and support. This trip proceeded according to plan, enabling the necessary coverage for the construction of the vegetation cover map in Galapagos rural areas.

At present, I am processing the collected aerial photography and satellite imagery, which will be used as input and verification means of the vegetation cover model.