

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Nathalia Montserrat Castillo Huitrón
Project Title	Knowledge and emotions to improve human attitudes toward wildlife conservation in El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve, Mexico
Application ID	40320-2
Date of this Report	August 6, 2024

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
Invite to 30 human communities of El Triunfo to participate in etnozoological walks and storytelling workshops.				23 communities of El Triunfo participated in the project. The fire season avoid the entrance to some communities. Besides, insecurity events promote that some communities were not visited. 42 workshops were applied and 10 etnozoological walks.
Evaluation of the success of etnozoological walks and storytelling				12 etnozoological walks were done and 50 stories were created by participants during storytelling workshops. The storytelling activity was preferred by participants, besides this activity had a higher scope. The etnozoological walks were less accepted due to the time available of participants.
Collect information related to human emotions caused by animal species, perceptions, attitudes and local knowledge.				Information was collected and is being transcribed and analysed. It is relevant for gaining a better understanding of human-wildlife interactions. Additionally, it will be useful for El Triunfo managers in designing future conservation and management actions.

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

a). The most important outcome of the project was the participation of human communities (446 children and adults) of El Triunfo in conservation activities. Scientific and local knowledge were exchanged during the etnozoological walks and storytelling workshops. Besides, the activities allowed the participants to reflect on the importance of the focus animal species (*Pharomachrus mocinno*, *Oreophasis derbianus*, *Tapirus bairdii*, *Panthera onca*, and *Ateles geoffroyi*) and their ecosystems.

b). The evaluation of the implemented methodologies (ethnozoological walks and storytelling workshops) will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of these techniques for future conservation projects.

c). The information collected is a scientific base for a better understanding of people's attitudes toward the focused species. The findings have been shared with the managers of El Triunfo reserve for future conservation actions.

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

The main challenges we encountered during the project implementation were environmental and social problems. The access roads to the communities were frequently blocked during the fire season, and there were frequent security incidents on the roads from January to March, including within the communities. As a result, we had to postpone fieldwork and extend the schedule to complete the project. We conducted additional workshops in some communities to make up for the ones we couldn't access.

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

In the course of the project, local residents including children and adults, as well as the managers and staff of El Triunfo, actively participated in various activities. These activities encouraged people to explore the rainforest, fostering a sense of curiosity about finding animal tracks and enhancing their perception of the natural environment. Storytelling workshops also provided a platform for participants to contemplate the various animal species and the implications of globalization, especially in contemporary times. The project also facilitated the exchange of knowledge across different generations, while also serving as an opportunity to improve social cohesion among community members and between these communities and the management of El Triunfo. The specific activities carried out in the project led to the identification of particular communities and key individuals who could be involved in future projects related to wildlife conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there is. Some communities and key actors were identified to develop a project where participants could improve their skills like environmental educators and could develop conservation and ecotourism activities inside of their communities. In this way, conservation will be perceived as a lifestyle and will be lived in a sustainable form.

Besides, the stories created by the participants during the storytelling workshops will be processed and shared with communities in mp3 format. Besides, some stories will be useful for designing theatre plays.

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

The stories created by participants during the storytelling workshops are being transcribed. Then, they will be recorded in mp3 format. These formats will be shared with all communities of the reserve.

The stories and the drawings will be processed and published in a digital book.

The information obtained has been shared with CONANP managers to define actions towards the conservation of the targeted species. The project has also been shared on social media <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ikbrrLCtLLazP7h2/>. Lastly, the findings are currently being analysed and will be documented in a manuscript for publication in a scientific journal.

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

During our activities, I noticed that even though people live within El Triunfo reserve, they are not familiar with the local wild animals or the significance of the cloud forest, particularly the younger generations. It's important to establish interdisciplinary projects to develop strategies to encourage activities that enhance appreciation for wildlife and promote its sustainable utilization.

I am planning to create a group of key actors inside El Triunfo Reserve. This group can develop environmental activities constantly.

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?

Yes, the logo was used. During the workshops in communities, the materials given have the logo. Besides, in academic and divulgation talks the PowerPoint presentations had the Rufford's logo. Also, the logo was in the cartel exposed during the XV Ethnobiology Mexican Congress.

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

Nathalia Castillo: Project leader. She designed the activities of the project and applied all ethnozoological walks and workshops. She transcribes all stories and analyzes the information. She wrote the final report and will do the scientific article to be published in a conservation journal.

Eduardo J.. Naranjo: The main assessor of the project and co-author of the scientific article.

Dídac Santos: Assessor of the project.

Janette González: main manager of El Triunfo Reserve. She gave her support to select the participant communities. She helped with logistic aspects and contacted the communities' leaders to develop the project.

El Triunfo staff: The team of El Triunfo contacted people inside of the communities and helped with the application of all ethnozoological walks and storytelling workshops.

10. Any other comments?

Communities in El Triunfo Reserve are very far and access to some of them is difficult. These aspects make the fieldwork be very expensive. The Rufford support allowed me to arrive at this kind of communities. It was a support for my research but also the activities were valued by people of the communities. The team of the project

believes that it is elemental the exchange information about wildlife, especially about the endangered and endemic species which were the focus of this project.



Figure 1. Storytelling with women. They are sharing their stories about *O. derbianus* and *P. mocinno* and explain why and how they created them.



Figure 2. Groups sharing their stories.



Figure 3. Young groups share their stories.



Figure 4. Ethnozoological walk with women.

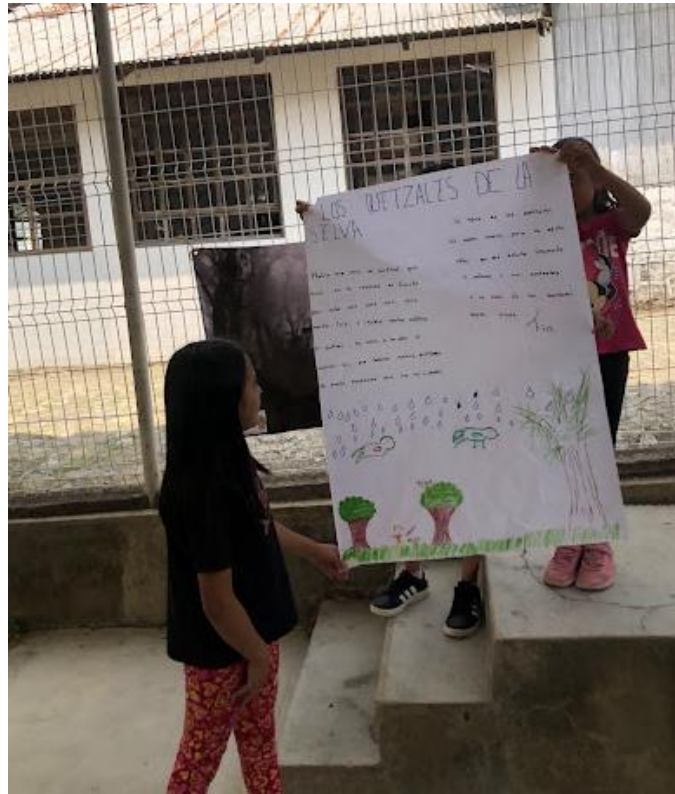


Figure 5. Children expose their story about *P. mocinno*.



Figure 6. Ethnozoological walk with children.