

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Changjie Zhao
Project title	Studies on the invasion patterns of alien crofton weed and its impacts on the local ecosystem and communities in Liangshan Yi People Autonomous Prefecture (LYPAP)
RSG reference	03.06.08
Reporting period	October 2008 to December 2009
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	croftonweed@163.com
Date of this report	12 th May 2010

1. Please 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
Invasion pattern and intensity			Yes	Through difficult surveying, it has been calculated that 612,386 ha has been invaded by croftonweed, which accounts for 10.11% of the area of LYPAP.
Characteristics of the invaded habitat			Yes	This part has been finished.
Environmental education and consciousness improvement			Yes	Members lectured local students in school and undergraduates from the local colleges.
Data collection and academic outcomes			Yes	Made seven presentations. Collected data and academic papers have been prepared.

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

We did not foresee the safety problem. During the habitat sampling in the established croftonweed which were higher than 2 m, the team members were always feeling uncomfortable and vomiting, just because of the poisonous chemical coming from the croftonweed. Furthermore, it was not easy to persuade the certain fundamental government from restoring the degraded habitat with croftonweed.

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

- In LYPAP, 612,386 ha has been invaded by croftonweed, which accounts for 10.11% of the area of LYPAP.
- All the ecological message included in variables could be decided by three most principal factors, i.e. general ecological characteristics, humidity and light, and botanic biodiversity. In principal, the occurring frequency of croftonweed will be related to 11 ecological factors such as elevation and landscape type.
- It is useless to use single methods to control croftonweed invasion, but the integrated controlling method, including chemical control, mechanical control, manual control and biological control should be adopted and publicised.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Our project employed the local Yi peoples to work as the guides and helpers in the team, which gave the economic benefit and knowledge about alien species. Also, through lectures and public presentations to the local communities, the environmental consciousness of the local Yi peoples has been improved. Moreover, the researchers in local colleges and the fundamental staff in the

managing bureau have been organised and directly participated in the project, which helped them to improve their research skills and related knowledge.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Actually, we are trying to find funding to continue this croftonweed works.

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

Firstly, we have been managing collected data and trying to publish our results in international journals, and we will continue to publicise the results through participation in related conferences.

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

- From September 2008 to October 2008, the team consisted of more than 20 members including the students and teachers from the local college and Central University for Nationalities, worked in LYPAP.
- From June 2009 to August 2009, the team consisted of more than 20 members including the students and teachers from the local college and Central University for Nationalities, worked in LYPAP.
- From September 2008 to October 2009, members from the local managing authorities, such as fundamental government and Grass Bureau, have been surveying the invasion pattern and the intensity.

8. Budget: Please 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.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Fee for local guide	£1,500	£1,200	£300	£5 a day per guide × 30 days × 8 guides
Travel in LYPAP for surveying	£2,000	£2,000		Car rental and fuel purchase
Public presentation and visiting in Yi People household etc.	£1,000	£1,000		
Materials and equipment	£500	£700	£200	Living provision and equipment such as raincoat, sleeping bag and camp
Travelling	£500	£600	£100	Travel between Beijing and LYPAP
Map purchasing	£500	£500		
Total	£ 6, 000	£ 6, 000		

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

When projects are conducted in minority area, it is very important to make the local communities and authorities participate in the project, which should maximize the effect of the project, especially those under international funding.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, the RSGF logo was used in public presentations to local authorities and students in university. Owing to some reasons, such as the relatively inconvenient internet accessibility, the publicity did not submit to RSG foundation, we believe, which could be improved if there is opportunity to conduct the next RSG project.

11. Any other comments?

We thank RSG for the funding, which help us do something interesting and to improve the environment in minority area.