

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	OKAN ÜRKER
<b>Project title</b>	Reviving Oriental Sweetgum Forest in Koycegiz, Southwestern Turkey Using Corridor Method and Community Understanding in the Context of the Environmental Ethics
<b>RSG reference</b>	10022-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	June 2012 – June 2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6,000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:okan.urker@gmail.com">okan.urker@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	2nd June 2013

**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
To ensure the ecological integrity of the forest by identifying suitable corridors between dispersed forest fragments and by replanting these areas by Oriental sweetgum trees, making the fragmented forest the whole again.		*		We finished all the related activities with this objective, but in reality we need so much time to apply the results for lobbying with General Forestry Directorate of Turkey.
To understand how social conscience plays a role in the extinction of the forest.		*		We nearly finished related activities with this objective. But in addition to the results of sociological analyses when we were developing to project we realised new gates such as local environmental history. Then we decided to go further research on this objective.

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

Actually we didn't feel any unforeseen trouble during the project except of the determination of Local Forestry Department's Chief. We spent our time with new chief because of in order to convince the project him.

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

- -Maps, landscape analysis and articles.
- -Sociological analyses and potential ecotourism report.
- -Social corporation works such as Sweetgum Plantation Festival, school gardens and stakeholder visits.

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

- -We especially worked with school children on plantation festivals. We met with nearly 2,000 students during the project. In this sense the project was successful on environmental education issues.
- -We reached to different kind of stakeholder groups such as nature tourism sector, nature sport tourists, locals-villagers, farmers, officers etc. The project region has strongly nature

and health tourism potential inside and around of the sweetgum forest. We tried to show the way how they can benefit from sweetgum forest as ecotourism occasions (nature sport, nature watching, organic sweetgum oil production, health tourism depend on sweetgum forest, nature culture, local's daily consumption etc.).

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

Definitely yes. Firstly we will continue to apply the project results on the project region studying with the collaboration of General Directorate of Forestry. Secondly we are planning to expand the workplace on the scale of Turkey. We want to understand the current status of all sweetgum forest and trees around Turkey (it means southwest of Turkey.). Also we want to study about ecological evolution and wildlife research, new protection and afforestation applying related with sweetgum forests around Turkey.

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

We want to share the results of this project via our NGO (Nature Conservation Centre)'s routes of communication which we had worked during the project.

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

We didn't exceed the time period. Also we didn't have any time scale problem.

#### **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
Coordinator	1500	1500	0	There was no changing
Interns	500	800	-300	We had to work with four interns because of hard sociological survey work instead of two interns
Equipment	500	500	0	We had planned to purchase one SLR camera at the beginning of the project, but when our NGO's GPS was broken we decided to buy one camera and one GPS with the same budget
Publications	100	150	-50	We had to buy some books related with project and we need to pay for forestry data

Transportation-Intercity	500	400	+100	We found cheaper flights between Ankara-Dalaman (Mugla)
Transportation-Local	100	200	-100	We had to increase this budget because of four interns (instead of two interns)
Transportation-Rent a Car	600	300	+300	One project volunteer (Flora Hotel-Alp Giray) gave us his pick-up time to time. He also lodged us in his hotel freely
Field Trips	250	250	0	There is no changing
Sociological Surveys	350	450	-100	We had to increase this budget because of four interns (instead of two interns)
Mapping (GIS)	300	350	-50	We had to work with two different GIS experts because of one of them had to go to Canada for her PhD at the beginning of the project
Plantation Festival	400	400	0	Local Forestry Department supported us on this event
Communication	300	300	0	There was no changing
Stationery & Press	500	350	+150	Some locals supported us on this budget
Cargo	100	50	+50	We didn't need so much cargo issues.
<b>Total</b>	<b>6000 GBP</b>	<b>6000 GBP</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

We nearly succeeded in the main project aim but the project results need to be applied as with all other projects. That's why in next future we will work for applying and watching the results of this project.

### 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?

We used to RSGF logo on our sociological surveys, field forms, maps that we produced during the project, presentations related with project and PhD, plantation festivals etc. On the other hand we wrote two articles during the project, and we acknowledged to RSGF for its support. We also gave some interviews to the local newspaper and local media during the project.

**11. Any other comments?**

This grant has especially big importance for PhD candidates on nature conservation issues. Thank you all RSG Team for all supports to me. With this grant I found a chance to develop myself, I realised my mistakes and fixed it. After one beautiful year I can say, now I am really doing my PhD on nature conservation.