

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	Zafer Kizilkaya
Project title	Conservation Of Anatolian Orchids
RSG reference	11476-1
Reporting period	July 2013
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	zafer@akdenizkoruma.org.tr
Date of this report	7 July 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
1. Introducing Anatolian orchids as pot plants into market for public awareness of beauty and ecological value.		Partially achieved		Various sample species collected and transferred to a greenhouse and replanted on pots. 60% of the samples lost their vibrant looking in the pots due from stress. Samples kept in the pots in the greenhouse for next season. They will blossom next season in a healthy way without any stress and ideal conditions. Public awareness campaign has a big impact and success. Both government officials and major ice-cream and salep producers contacted with us for sustainable solutions. Two ice cream company started working with Aegean Agricultural Institution in İzmir for agricultural cultivation of orchids. The article I published in Atlas Magazine (100,000 circulation) has reached broad range of public and people living in outdoor areas mentioned that they started planting orchids as a garden plant already.
2. Creating a sanctuary for the species under serious human threats and public awareness			Fully achieved	Three meetings were organised as well as field trips with government officials from Directorate of Nature Protection and National Parks (DNPNP). Urgency for the need of protected areas and collecting pressure were explained. After the field trips, possible conservation areas were discussed and the enforcement methods. DNPNP is still working on the areas we suggested and asked the opinion of local department for conservation areas. More meetings will be done for finalising the location of conservation area(s). In the meantime, cooperation with Ege University Biology Department started to protect species under extinction threat which became very rare by transplanting them to Ege University Botanical Garden.

3. Having informative, important public awareness tool for orchid enthusiasts			Fully achieved	Photographing the western Anatolian orchid species except only a few completed. Approximately 100 species have been properly photographed and prepared for publication. Funding search for the publication of the field guide is still on going.
---	--	--	----------------	--

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

- While replanting orchids in pots and transferring them to a green house, because of the stress of replanting more than half of the samples lost their healthy appearance. In the next season they will grow up without any stress have better looking. We are planning to send them to market next season.
- The areas we were planning to collect the species was vandalised by orchid tuber collectors before we started our work. It was very disappointing witnessing the safe thought areas for years were also discovered by collectors.

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

1. Public awareness on threats and conservation of Anatolian Orchids has very successful outcomes after the article in Atlas Magazine February 2013 issue. Responses from public, government and private sector show that the aimed message was delivered.
2. Ice cream and Salep Company contacted with us and declared that they started agricultural cultivation of orchid tubers for their production and will stop wild orchid tuber use.
3. DNPNP officials are now aware the fact that conservation area(s) are very important for conservation and future of the Anatolian orchids.

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

N/A

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- Yes, the follow up meetings with the government is still going. Bureaucracy is slow in the government side; patient but dedicated follow up will result probably more than one conservation area and action plan in DNPNP.
- Some of the primary orchid areas we have been observing since 2009 in Mugla Milas region were discovered by orchid collectors and there was unfortunately no single species survived in those areas including some very rare species. We decided to transfer and replant rare species to Ege University Botanical Garden.
- Species transferred to the greenhouse and replanted in pots will be introduced to flower market next year.
- Field trips in northern Anatolia are still being carried out as high altitude summer species are flowering in July.

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

We have a new NGO Mediterranean Conservation Society. The project is already on the web site: http://akdenizkoruma.org.tr/html/anadolu_orkideleri.html

I published a complementary article about Anatolian orchid situation in Atlas Magazine February 2013. We will also put the pdf version of the article on our web site. In addition, any update information will also be published both the magazine and online in Atlas Magazine.

Article online:

<http://www.kesfetmekicinbak.com/ask-arzu-ve-ihtiras/3362n.aspx>

<http://www.kesfetmekicinbak.com/ask-arzu-ve-ihtiras/fg1909.aspx?page=1>

News about the new threat to Anatolian orchids by Hydropower Plant in Antalya region:

<http://www.kesfetmekicinbak.com/orkidelerin-son-kalesine-hes-tehdidi/3308n.aspx>

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

Except from the meeting with government officials, the project period is between January and July orchids flower. Monitoring time for conservation and science and commercial collecting of tubers is same and kind of race with time. We spent most of the grant between February and July as anticipated. We still have some more meetings with government in upcoming months for defining the areas for orchid conservation.

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
Administration costs	350	700	-350	We need to pay for the services we got from local community members
OCA field trips with officials	520	715	-195	
Car Rental	1050	1100	-50	
Fuel and transportation	700	600	+100	Still have some trip to go
Green house rental + replanting expenses	470	470	0	
Transportation of orchid pots to Istanbul	530	0	+530	This part has not been put in practice
Accommodation	450	675	-225	More trip took place than originally planned.
Food	880	520	+360	
Meetings	700	400	+300	Still we have more meetings in Ankara and Muğla
Printed material	350	350	0	
Total	6000	5530	470	

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

Follow up meetings in Ankara and Muğla department of DNPNP is very important. We need to push orchid conservation areas to be defined and declared by DNPNP. It is a slow going process with government, though we had very important steps so far. We should convince them putting orchid conservation area(s) into practice and also other measures to slow down massive orchid tuber collection. Besides, field guide is an important public awareness step to be completed.

Finally, from our field trip experiences during the project time we noticed that rare and endangered species should immediately be transferred to safe ground of any kind i.e. botanical garden or conservation areas of any kind. Many rare species we have been monitoring over the years were collected. As the demand on ice cream market increases, collectors extend their collection areas and last wild populations are in serious danger. They should be saved in safe havens.

Agricultural cultivation of certain orchid species will be the solution for ever increasing market demand. This will drop the prices and make wild collection not feasible anymore. We are following up this fact as well with private sector.

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 RSGF logo in posters we published for the public awareness of the project. We also used RSGF logo in our supporter part of the Mediterranean Conservation web site.

<http://akdenizkoruma.org.tr/html/destekcilerimiz.html>

We also mentioned RSGF support in our web site

http://akdenizkoruma.org.tr/html/anadolu_orkideleri.html

also inside the Atlas Magazine February 2013 article on page 86 (attached pdf file)

11. Any other comments?

National and international brand of salep producers contacted with us and mention that they will start agricultural cultivated orchid tuber production after my article published in Atlas Magazine. I was invited by one of them to give them a presentation about orchid conservation. This is very rewarding feeling. It means we could spread the conservation message and sustainable solution ways to producers. We hope this movement will help to save Anatolian orchids.