

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	Nguyen Duc To Luu
Project title	Conservation of conifer tree species in Hoa Binh – Son La limestone corridor
RSG reference	11934-1
Reporting period	June 2012 to September 2013
Amount of grant	£6,000
Your email address	ndtluu@nature.org.vn
Date of this report	10th October 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
Information collected on occurrence, distribution, habitat, ecology and population of all conifer tree species in area of Mai Chau district (Hoa Binh) and Moc Chau district (Son La).			X	Baseline information of 12 conifer species have been collected in the study areas. It is not only in the limestone area but also includes part of sandstone mountains in Moc Chau district. The number of studied conifer species thereby is more than expected at the beginning of the project.
Natural and artificial threats to conifers in the sites assessed.			X	Status assessment have been conducted for all 12 conifer species accordingly to IUCN criteria. <i>In situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation actions were proposed from the analysis of the status and threats to the trees.
Specimens of occurred conifers collected and prepared. Sets of the specimens kept in the two reserves for local forest staff and research activities.			X	200 specimens of 11 conifer species have been collected and mounted. Each Nature reserves Hang Kia – Pa Co and Xuan Nha have received two sets of conifer specimens. Part of specimen was sent to national herbarium in Hanoi. Other sets of specimens are maintained by PanNature.
Methods for propagation elaborated and seedlings in nursery propagated. A mini nursery for conifers will be set up in one local community.			X	Propagation experiments have been conducted for six conifer species, both by vegetative and reproductive methods. 400 seedlings of the conifers were produced and maintained in a nursery in Hang Kia – Pa Co Nature Reserve.
300 copies of a booklet on conifer values, threats and recommendations for conservation at Hoa Binh – Son La corridor printed and delivered to local commune authorities, community leaders, schools, local tourist centres and forest authorities.			X	400 copies of booklet “Instruction guidelines for conifers in Mai Chau – Moc Chau mountains of Hoa Binh – Son La provinces” were published and distributed to the stakeholders in the districts, provinces at well to relevant national institutions.

2-4 articles published on website thiennhien.net on conifer conservation issues at Hoa Binh – Son La area.			X	Four articles on conifer conservation were published on the website thiennhien.net
A workshop on conifer conservation held in the project area will directly deliver collected information and elaborated materials to local target audience, including local forest staff of the nature reserves, districts, local communes and relevant researchers.			X	The workshop on conifer conservation in Hoa Binh – Son La was held in 25 September 2013 in Moc Chau town. 30 participants from forest officers of the Hang Kia – Pa Co nature reserves, Mai Chau and Moc Chau districts, Hoa Binh and Son La provinces took part in the workshop. During the workshop status assessment of conifer species and proposed actions were presented and discussed, booklet on conifers were distributed, specimens of the conifers were handed to forest staff. Interest and knowledge of conifer conservation in the area have been enhanced to the stakeholders through the workshop.

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

Project did not meet serious unforeseen difficulties even though natural conditions for the field work in Moc Chau district were hard.

Maintaining the mini nursery for conifers in the community is difficult for conducting propagation experiments. Therefore, the nursery was moved to the area of Management Board of Hang Kia – Pa Co Nature Reserve but it is still located in the Pa Co commune.

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

- Status assessment for 12 conifer species of the studied area have been conducted. During the survey a new pine species (*Pinus aff armandii*) was recorded for Vietnam and unusual populations of *Cephalotaxus mannii* and *Amentotaxus yunnanensis* were found for the first time in Son La province.
- Successful propagation of six focal conifer species by cuttings and seeds, including difficult for propagation pines species (*Pinus kwangtungensis* and *P. armandii*), as well as the endangered species (*Amentotaxus* spp., *Taxus chinensis* and *Calocedrus rupestris*).
- Illustrated instruction guidance booklet incorporating field survey and nursery research information has been published and distributed to relevant partners. The project results were well delivered to local forest officers (nature reserves, district and provincial), to

researchers, local communities and to a wide public through the disseminating the booklets and website articles.

Link for the booklet: <http://nature.org.vn/vn/2013/10/chi-dan-ve-cac-loai-thong/>

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

Local people were involved during the field survey. Information on the use, the needs of local communities to conifer tree resources was included and considered in the status assessment and proposed actions for further conservation and development.

Four community people participated in the technical training for conifer conservation and propagation methods together with local forest officers (some of which are also local ethnic people in the area). Six commune leaders participated in the final dissemination workshop.

60 copies of the published booklet summarising current knowledge on conifers in the area were disseminated to six communes in Mai Chau and Moc Chau districts. 50 copies of the booklet are displayed for local people and tourists in Pa Co commune.

Propagated seedlings of conifers will be used for local awareness raising activities and for trial plantation in the communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

PanNature is requesting Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to include the new discovered pine from Xuan Nha Nature Reserve into the update national list of precious and threatened species for strict protection.

There are several things that should be implemented in the further work:

- Expand survey and assessment to the mountainous areas formed on sandstone in Moc Chau district (not only on limestone). From the project survey results the area in Moc Chau possibly has high unknown conifer diversity, for which the discovery of the new pine is the clear evident.
- Facilitate technically forest officers of the two nature reserves in the areas for implementing *in situ* conservation of the conifers. Zoning of nature reserve for conifer conservation, working with local communities in preventing land encroachment, timber logging are some area of for the future work.
- Promote trial plantations of potential conifers in the areas from propagated seedlings for conservation and forest production purposes.

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

Project activities and results have been widely published and shared in the media. In PanNature website and thiennhien.net:

- In English:

<http://www.nature.org.vn/en/news/projects/a-community-of-endangered-conifers-found-in-xuan-nha-nature-reserve/>

<http://www.nature.org.vn/en/news/projects/another-five-needle-pine-species-discovered-in-vietnam/>

- In Vietnamese:

<http://nature.org.vn/vn/2012/11/tap-huan-phuong-phap-va-ky-nang-dieu-tra-danh-gia-hien-trang-bao-ton-cay-la-kim-tren-hanh-lang-nui-da-voi-tay-bac/>

<http://www.thiennhien.net/2012/12/31/phat-hien-quan-the-cay-la-kim-quy-hiem-o-khu-btt-n-xuan-nha/>

<http://www.thiennhien.net/2013/02/18/phat-hien-them-mot-loai-thong-5-la-o-viet-nam/>

<http://www.thiennhien.net/2013/10/03/chi-dan-ve-cac-loai-thong-o-vung-nui-mai-chau-moc-chau/>
Information of project on other media:

- In English:

<http://www.monre.gov.vn/v35/default.aspx?tabid=675&CateID=58&ID=124276&Code=D5NS124276>

<http://www.monre.gov.vn/v35/default.aspx?tabid=675&CateID=58&ID=125433&Code=UE9Q125433>

<http://talkvietnam.com/2013/02/a-five-leaf-pine-species-found-in-vietnam/>

<http://vietnambreakingnews.com/2013/02/a-five-leaf-pine-species-found-in-vietnam/>

- In Vietnamese:

<http://diendandautu.vn/c10n2013100315464295100/chi-dan-ve-cac-loai-thong-o-vung-nui-mai-chau-moc-chau.html>

<http://www.vacne.org.vn/?newsid=11255>

<http://www.tinmoi.vn/phat-hien-quan-the-cay-la-kim-quy-hiem-o-khu-btt-n-xuan-nha-011143275.html>

<http://www.tinmoi.vn/phat-hien-them-mot-loai-thong-5-la-o-viet-nam-011209806.html>

<http://citinews.net/khoa-hoc/phat-hien-quan-the-cay-la-kim-quy-hiem-o-khu-btt-n-xuan-nha-YXCMVPI/>

<http://citinews.net/xa-hoi/phat-hien-them-mot-loai-thong-5-la-o-viet-nam-F32IEAI/>

<http://diendan.vietgaitri.com/lofiversion/index.php?t746817.html>

http://prettytre.net/index.php?app=news&act=gaitri&task=Chuyen_la&id=152499

http://prettytre.vienlien247.com/index.php?app=news&act=gaitri&task=Chuyen_la&id=152499

<http://m.baoangiang.com.vn/newsdetails/1D3FE1932A3/Phat-hien-loai-thong-bonsai-dac-biet-o-Viet-Nam.aspx>

<http://kienthuc.net.vn/tin-tuc/phat-hien-loai-thong-bonsai-dac-biet-o-viet-nam-190889.html>

http://tinngan.vn/Phat-hien-thong-5-la-dac-biet-o-Viet-Nam_29-162-383981.html

The results of the project will be further shared in the coming national conference on Vietnam flora (18th September 2013). A short paper on the new discovered pine was submitted for the conference. Another paper is being compiled for publishing in an international scientific journal. Survey results will be shared to International Conifer Conservation Program for updating international status the conifer species in Vietnam.

The results will also share to students from Son La province who conduct their master study in Xuan Nha Nature Reserve on the subject of conifer conservation.

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

The project was implemented from June 2012 to September 2013 with total duration of 15 months. The time is enough for field survey, propagation experiments and dissemination of project results. All activities of the project were done in time.

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
Project implementation staff allowance	1,364	2,333	(969)	The field work was more expensive with participation of more local people and staff than planned.
Local guide	591	380	211	
Administration personal allowance	227	739	(512)	Technical advice and management required more manpower since a few activities were conducted in a higher scale (survey for all conifer in the area, compiling the booklet, publication in the media, organising the final workshop).
Field survey equipment (camp, specimen preparation, etc.)	364	308	56	
Nursery tools and materials	455	175	280	Utilised part of nursery equipment and materials from the previous propagation activities of PanNature in the site.
Office stationery, communication	318	62	256	
Referent books, maps	76	70	6	
Travel and accommodation for project staff	606	798	(192)	The fieldwork was more extensive than planned.
Travel and accommodation for project stakeholders	151	156	(5)	
Dissemination workshop	758	479	279	
Booklet design, printing	1,090	500	590	The booklet was designed and published in good quality but with less expense.
Total	6,000	6,000	0	

Exchange rate: 1 £ = 33,090.61 VND.

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

The project activities have been done and the expected outcomes have been reached but further work is essential to expand the results. I would like to apply for the 2nd Rufford Small Grant to continue the work.

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?

RSGF logo was used in banners of the training and final workshops. It is also printed and published on the booklet. The booklet with RSGF logo was disseminated widely not only in the project area but also at national scale through the website thienhien.net. Management Board of the Hang Kia – Pa Co and Xuan Nha nature reserve, as well as forest services of Hoa Binh and Son La provinces acknowledge the support of RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

Even the funding of the project is small, a few of valuable results and impacts are achieved that provides a very good base for further work on conifer conservation of the area. I would like to express acknowledgement to RSGF for supporting the project.