

Project Update: July 2013

In January 2013, PO “Ganji Tabiat” was engaged in revision of project proposal, work plan and budget, distribution of tasks among staff, preparation of necessary materials for undertaking project activities, procurement of necessary items for field visits and consideration of other organizational issues.

Objective #1: Study the current state of rare and endangered plant species in target areas and develop scientific recommendations.

According to second phase of RSG project, PO “Ganji Tabiat” intends to enrich the collection of “Alive Red Book” demonstration plot. In this regard, during February – March 2013 the list of additional rare and endangered species was reviewed for introduction in demonstration plot. In total, there are 260 varieties of rare and endangered plant species in Red Book of Tajikistan and out of them about 40 varieties grow in eastern Khatlon. This autumn, an additional six rare and endangered plant species will be introduced in demonstration plot. In order to complete this project activity successfully, research was conducted to learn the features of the selected plant species for introduction and organise the required condition for planting selected plant species.

In May 2013, visits were paid to Baljuvon and Shurobod districts of eastern Khatlon to study current state of selected rare and endangered plant species that included in Red Book of Tajikistan. The main purpose of this activity was to determine the status of selected rare and endangered plant species in accordance with Red Book of Tajikistan as well as to identify plant species that according to criteria of International Union of Nature Protection fall under category of rare and endangered species.

The idea for identification of plants species as per criteria of IUCN was given to PO “Ganji Tabiat” during meeting with representatives of Ecology and Environment Protection Department (EEP) at National level. During the meeting it was found out that EEP is going to publish the new edition of Red Book of Tajikistan and requested PO “Ganji Tabiat” to conduct the research and assist on this matter, which is coincide with objectives of the RSG project. By accepting this request, PO “Ganji Tabiat” was able to strengthen cooperation with EEP at national and regional levels, contribute in conservation of rare and endangered species of eastern Khatlon as well as meet project goals and objectives. As a result of field visits the site of the rare and endangered plant species was determined in target areas and following plant species were suggested to include in the new edition of the Red Book of Tajikistan:

- *Juno rosenbachiana* (Regel) Vved.
- *Allium karataviense* Regel
- *Allium giganteum* Regel
- *Allium trautvetterianum* Regel
- *Fritilla riaregelii* A. Los.
- *Eremurus albertii* Regel

Objective #2: Conduct awareness raising campaigns for rural inhabitants as well as representatives of respected state agencies.

In February 2013, a meeting was conducted with representatives of Ecology and Environment Protection Department and Botanic Institute to maintain close links with Education and Ecology departments of Kulob town and target districts. The meeting held with participation of First Deputy Head of EEP of Tajikistan – Dr. Nazirov Hikmatullo, Director of Botanic Institute – Dr. Hisoriev Hikmat and Head of Botanic Department of Tajik National University – Professor Halimov Abdurasul.

In the course of the meeting was discussed the ways and opportunities of cooperation. Moreover, it was found out that abovementioned departments jointly going to update the information of the Red Book of Tajikistan and publish the new edition of the Book. In this respect, PO “Ganji Tabiat” was involved in conducting research and identifying rare and endangered species status. As a result of conducted research, status of rare and endangered plant species which habitat in eastern Khatlon was determined. Moreover, six additional plant species were suggested to include in the Red Book of Tajikistan. The research was conducted according to criteria of IUCN.

According to project plan the Week of Open Doors should be organised in demonstration plot of “Alive Red Book” in March or April 2013. Due to the fact that cultivated rare and endangered plant species appear in differed periods, the Week of Open Doors was conducted in March as well as in April 2013.

The main aim of organisation of the Week of Open Doors was to demonstrate to participants of week of open doors how the rare and endangered species look like, importance of their existence, their contribution on balancing of ecosystem and the ways of their conservation. Participants mostly expressed interest towards species of genus of Tulip, *Allium*, *Bunium*, *Iris* and *Juno* and asked various questions regarding aforementioned species and about nature of our country as a whole.

