

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	Vinh Quang Luu
Project title	The diversity of the reptile fauna of Hin Nam No National Biodiversity Conservation Area (Laos)
RSG reference	13138-1
Reporting period	Final
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	gluu@smail.uni-koeln.de
Date of this report	2 nd December 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 provide an updated checklist of reptiles in Hin Nam No			X	40 reptile species were recorded for Hin Nam No in this project.
To discover new species and new country records for Laos			X	One new species and four new country records of reptiles for Laos.
To gather information about the ecology of the reptiles			X	Ecological notes for each species
To predict species occurrences in Hin Nam No in comparison of species composition with Phong Nha – Ke Bang on the opposite side of the Truong Son Range			X	We expect to have more discoveries in herpetofauna of Hin Nam No in future
To identify threats and conservation status of reptiles in Hin Nam No			X	
To raise the awareness for conservation among local stakeholders			X	

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

The topography of Hin Nam No is characterised by steep limestone karst, therefore, it was very difficult for moving and camping in the forest. For instance, no water sources was available during dry season.

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

- Providing a list of 40 species of reptiles belonging to nine families and two orders with ecological notes for each species. Most of them are new records for Hin Nam No.
- Description of a new species of bent-toed gecko and report four other species of reptiles for the first time from Laos.
- Capacity strengthening for lectures of the National University of Laos and staff of the Hin Nam No on field work skills and reptile identification.

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

Local people were invited to do the field survey with our team. They help us to identify the survey sites, distribution location of reptile species within protected areas.

We also explained about the importance of biodiversity and natural conservation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I would like to conduct further field survey on the diversity and ecology of reptiles and amphibians in Laos, especially in limestone forests of Hin Nam No. Application for 2nd RSG will be submitted to investigate the “hidden biodiversity potential” of the Hin Nam No.

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

In order to provide essential data for biodiversity assessment and conservation planning, results of my research (e.g., report, published papers) will be sent to the management board of the Hin Nam No and researchers of the National University of Laos.

Two manuscripts were submitted to peer-reviewed journals.

Luu, V.Q., Calame, T., Bonkowski, M., Nguyen, T.Q. and Ziegler, T. A new species of *Cyrtodactylus* (Squamata: Gekkonidae) from Khammouane Province, Laos. *Zootaxa*.

Luu, V.Q., Nguyen, T.Q., Calame, T., Hoang, T.T., Southichak, S., Bonkowski, M. and Ziegler, T. New country records of reptiles from Laos. *Journal of Biodiversity Data*.

Reptile collections, which are deposited in the zoological museums of the Vietnam Forestry University, the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, and the National University of Laos, will be used for scientific research and education purpose.

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

Compared with the proposed plan, the field survey was 20 days earlier. However, the actual length of the field work is in accordance with the proposed plan. Moreover, I concentrate in a high intensity for data analyses and writing manuscripts from August to November 2013. Therefore, I completed the project earlier than anticipated.

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
Headlamp (Petz Myo RXP) for reptile detection in night (3) x ca. £70 each 210	210	0	+ 270	Headlamps are supported by the University of Cologne
Batteries for digital camera and other field equipment	200	200	0	
Digital Caliper for specimen measurement (1) x £30 each	30	0	+ 30	Digital calliper is supported by the University of Cologne

Chemical and plastic boxes for specimen preservation	50	150	-100	Plastic boxes and tissue sample tubes are supported by the University of Cologne
Individual Field Equipment	250	250	0	
Camp Equipment	350	350	0	
Topographic Maps for Range Use Marking	60	0	+ 60	Supported by Hin Nam No
Personal medication and first aid kit for the project team in the field	70	70	0	
Domestic travel	450	890	-440	Domestic travel is longer and more difficult than we expected. Therefore, the cost increased
Wage for a field assistant	600	600	0	
Food for a field assistant	600	600	0	
Wage for a local person and a forest ranger for guide in the field survey	1000	1000	0	
Wage for porters	280	200	+80	
Training course and discussions for HNN staff and local people	80	80	0	
Total	6000	6000	0	

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

Inventory of the amphibian fauna is urgently needed for the Hin Nam No. It is expected that a considerable number of new records and new species will be discovered in the Hin Nam No. Study on zoogeographical relationships of amphibian communities along the Truong Son Range is also required in future.

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?

I used the RSGF logo for my presentation at the University of Cologne and the Vietnam Forestry University.

Staff and local people in Hin Nam No were also informed about the support of RSGF for biodiversity research and conservation through this project.

Furthermore, any publication and documentation of this project will have logo or name of RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

Data analyses (specimen examination, molecular analyses) usually take the time. Therefore, publications resulted from the project will be sent to RSGF few months after completion of my research.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank to RSGF for your kindness and support. Because this project is really useful not only for our project team but also for biodiversity conservation in Laos as well as in the world.