

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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	Ahmed Mahmoud Abbas
Project title	The Functioning of Soil Seed Banks in Wadi El Gemal Protected Area, Egypt
RSG reference	13620-1
Reporting period	7 th June 2013 to 7 th June 2014
Amount of grant	£4050
Your email address	amedkev@yahoo.com
Date of this report	27/07/2014

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
Field surveys			√	Problems in road communication, climbing up and down the hills.
To raise awareness of the rangers/students and local communities about importance of seed bank and dry land conservation			√	Two training courses have conducted.
Green house experiment			√	Measuring seed viability and discover vegetation dry land seed bank.
To Encourage Bedouin Wadi El Gemal to grow these indigenous species varieties organically		√		Problems in lack water make this step a little difficult.
Identification of the rare and threatened species in the protected area			√	The rare and threatened species types have been identified – they represent wide range of the species types. Their descriptions are made, the botanical significance and motivation for conservation is outlined, and the present condition, protection level and the threats are identified.

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

- 1- The problem is that the study area is located in the south of country and this region needs permits to enter the military, and this takes time and considerable effort.
- 2- The second problem that is the protected National park Wadi El Gemal is rugged from the inside and take a long time to study and this in turn is reflected on the cost.

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

- 1- We trained 40 rangers/students of Wadi El Gemal and the university on seed banking and ex-situ conservation techniques. This training will contribute to the raising of general awareness of the need for the long-term protection of Egyptian dry land plant diversity and to demonstrate the key role that ex situ seed conservation can play in meeting this need.
- 2- The awareness programmes which made the local people and rangers to realise seed bank for plants so they themselves started to nurture the rare species.
- 3- Make new friendship with the rangers and local people near with the park.

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

- Local people have many benefits from this project: their knowledge about natural values of the area where they live (Wadi el Gemal National Park) is improved; local people learned why their community are protected by national law and international conventions; local people better understand how nature can be protected and sustainable used for development; local people are encouraged for cooperation and participation in decision making processes.
- The participants had a chance to learn about some Data Book species and typical representatives of the national park's flora through the field – visiting the areas

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. The national park need many project to discover and get new and important data to raise awareness of the rangers, stockholder and local people and create good management of resources inside the Wadi El Gemal national park.

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

The results of the work will be shared by distribution of the project outputs, by sharing the materials through the social networks and mass media, by mailing the publications resulting from the project. This will be done with the help of our colleagues and partner organisations.

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

The RSG was used over 12 months than the proposed project duration.

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
Field transportation rent 4 x 4 car (25 days x 40 £)	1000	1100	+100	Increment in fuel prices
Stipend for team (foods and accommodation)	600	500	-100	Sometimes we had free overnights as stakeholders offered us to sleep at their houses
Equipment's	1200	1425	+225	
Digital camera	400	400	-	
Training	300	250	-50	
Communication	250	250	-	
Bedouin guides	150	150	-	
Driver	150	150	-	
Total	4050	4225	+175	

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

Important next steps are connected with work with local community. With this project we have got the bases for cooperation, we have strategy for sustainable conservation of seed bank in national park.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project?
Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, we printed brochure and T-shirt with logo for project team members

11. Any other comments?

Thanks to the Rufford Small Grants progress is made in national park Wadi El Gemal. Without Rufford's support we wouldn't be able to do it in this year.