

## 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. 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. 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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#### Grant Recipient Details

<b>Your name</b>	Alaa El-Deen Ismail
<b>Project title</b>	Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly Conservation Project
<b>RSG reference</b>	RSG 16.08.08
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2009 to January 2010
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:alaaeldeen80@gmail.com">alaaeldeen80@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	June 6, 2010

**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
Annual Butterfly survey			done	The population size is estimated.
Paved path			done	The paved path is now used.
<i>Hilf</i> agreement			done	The <i>hilf</i> statement is attached with the final report.
Fenced enclosure			done	The fence is still in place to secure the butterfly habitat.
Public awareness			done	Most of the local community and other interested parties are now aware about the butterfly and the activities carried out to conserve it.

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

The unforeseen difficulty that I encountered was the attitude of the Bedouin. Since 99% of them are illiterate, I faced the problem of how to persuade them to the idea of the project. Most said you should conserve people not insects. We felt that we could not continue the project activities, but after long negotiations and seeking other opinions we arrived at the position that we should involve the local community in all the project activities, to persuade them that the conservation of this butterfly rewards them in indirect ways. As mentioned in the final technical report and the progress reports, the project activities depended on the Bedouin as workers and for transporting materials. During the project period the project team conducted many sessions with Bedouin, establishing a relationship of trust, and this was the reason why the *hilf* agreement was only accomplished late in the period, because the team spent such a long time to build trust.

Now there is an intimate relationship between the butterfly team and the local community, and this relation will help the project team to tackle any obstacles they may encounter in the future.

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

- ✓ The most important outcome is that the population numbers of the butterfly were estimated after surveying using the mark-release-recapture technique. Using this estimate we can now plan the conservation of the butterfly and assess conservation activities for the coming years.
- ✓ The second important outcome, the project successfully engaged with most of the local community, stakeholders, children, students and also Bedouin women in the conservation of the butterfly. This was the product of a lot of hard work with students and children to teach them about the butterfly, and also long negotiations with tribal leaders and stakeholders to convince them to sign the *hilf* agreement.
- ✓ The third outcome, the project activities (paved path, fenced enclosure and field equipment) produced lasting benefits that will be useful over a long period of time to guarantee the sustainability of the conservation plan.

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

All the project activities involved the Bedouin, in many different contexts, as outlined above. The local community has pledged itself to the *hilf* agreement, and at the same time they refused to accept any kind of payment, considering this as one of their participatory activities towards the conservation of this endemic species.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

- ✓ The next plan is to continue the *hilf* agreement on the same site; the survey was run this season using the same technique and methodology as last year.
- ✓ There are researchers (MRes and possibly PhD) from Nottingham University currently studying the ecology of the butterfly. After the project activities, their input will sustain the work.
- ✓ The proposed next step is now to investigate the other patches of habitat of the butterfly, to be able to draw the borders of its distribution.

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

The butterfly survey result is published now in a scientific journal; a copy is attached to the final report.

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

The project period over which the RSG was used ran from January 2009 to January 2010. It was used exactly as was planned.

**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 equipment	£946.48	£1,681.69	£735.21	Exchange rate decreased greatly (10.56 to 8.02). The price of the weather station and camera increased
Worker wages	£1,100	£1,200	£100	Exchange rate decreased greatly (10.56 to 8.02).
Enclosure materials and transport	£1,500	£1,630	£130	Exchange rate decreased greatly (10.56 to 8.02).
Paved track materials and transport	£500	£600	£100	The exchange rate decreased greatly (10.56 to 8.02).
Livestock feed	£1,200	£0	-£1,200	After negotiation with stakeholders, and with full agreement of the local community, this item was deemed not necessary

Environmental Awareness	£750	£1,250	£500	Exchange rate decreased greatly (10.56 to 8.02). Many events and activities were carried out to improve awareness
TOTAL	£6,000	£7,611.69	£365.21	Average Exchange rate : 1£ sterling = 8 LE

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

The next important step is to continue the survey in same technique and the public awareness should continue and we should be broader in the next step than before (establishing websites).

Also the most important step we should work on the other hand; i.e. we should start conservation the larval host plant (Sinai thyme) in the butterfly habitats and surrounding sites, in order to grantee the life for the butterfly's larvae.

**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?**

Yes, the RSGF logo was used in all activities and communications to highlight the RSG as sponsor and funding organisation for the project. The project was reported on the radio, and again the role of the RSGF in conserving the butterfly was mentioned. Our publicity is now widespread in Egypt, not just in the project site and St Katherine; since its start, the project has made presentations within many events to different people in many locations. Our presentation has stimulated at least one further application to the RSGF, to monitor the sooty Falcon in the Red Sea.

**11. Any other comments?**

The Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly Conservation Project team are proud of the achievements of this project, which kick-started the conservation of the world's smallest butterfly in its own habitat. We are proud to have worked with such a prestigious organisation as the Rufford Small Grant Foundation, that believes in the role of biodiversity in human life.