

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Nguyen Manh Cuong
Project title	Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperms in northwest Vietnam
RSG reference	51.01.10
Reporting period	1 June 2010 to 30 June 2011
Amount of grant	£6000 (\$9406)
Your email address	cuongcucphuong@gmail.com
Date of this report	12.7.2011

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 prepare conservation profiles that will include mapping the distribution and abundance of threatened gymnosperm species through field surveys in Cuc Phuong National Park, Pu Luong, and Pa Co–Hang Kia Nature Reserves. Parameters will include habitat location, habitat size, population numbers, and size class distributions.			Yes	See technical report.
To provide distribution maps, that will include information on species identity, habitat, location, and population size. Data obtained are expected to justify site- and national-level action plans for plant conservation.			Yes	
To build a long-lasting <i>in situ</i> conservation platform at the site level (at the parks and reserves listed above) through participatory conservation activities, involving the local people and the park staff. The project will also undertake follow-up <i>ex-situ</i> conservation studies of threatened gymnosperms, in cooperation with protected area managers and local communities at Cuc Phuong National Park (in particular, the project will upgrade the <i>ex-situ</i> Gymnosperm Conservation Area previously established through an RSG project grant).			Yes	
To update the living gene bank of gymnosperm species at Cuc Phuong through the germination of seeds and propagation experiments in Cuc Phuong nursery, and to transfer them to the <i>ex-situ</i> Gymnosperm Conservation Area, and will also involve local people, students and volunteers as participants in the project.			Yes	

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

The study has not met any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project.

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

Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperm in Northwest Project indicates the presence of four gymnosperm species in northwest Vietnam, whose populations are currently decreasing in number. Low regeneration rate has clearly impacted in the maintenance of the

population size of these species in their natural conditions. The information gained from the study will be submitted to the management boards of Pu Luong, Hang Kia – Pa Co Nature Reserves and Cuc Phuong National Park for discussions on effective conservation strategies of threatened and endangered gymnosperm species that found in northwest Vietnam.

To continue upgrade the Gymnosperm Conservation Area, 400 individuals of 4 category E, V and NT gymnosperm species have been planted in two-hectare Gymnosperm Conservation Area at Cuc Phuong National Park. This activity is part of Gymnosperm Conservation effort to conserve rare, vulnerable, and endangered Gymnosperm species found in northwest Vietnam.

It is the continuing *Ex-situ* conservation effort of rare genetic pools of Gymnosperm species found in the park: The study involved Muong, Thai, H'Mong people, students, volunteers, rangers, British Embassy staff as active participants in the Gymnosperm Conservation programme at Cuc Phuong National Park, Pu Luong and Hang Kia - Pa Co Nature Reserves.

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

Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperm in northwest Vietnam Project has found encouraging support and enthusiasm from Muong, Thai, H'Mong people, students, volunteers, rangers, British Embassy staff. The project has helped encourage biodiversity conservation activities among minority communities who live in areas surrounding Pu Luong, Hang Kia Pa Co Nature Reserve and Cuc Phuong National Park. The study has also helped in increasing conservation awareness on Threatened and Endangered gymnosperm species and in conservation management in northwest Vietnam.

The project involved Muong, Thai, H'Mong people, volunteers, rangers, British Embassy staff as active participants in the Gymnosperm Conservation programme at Cuc Phuong National Park. The involvement of the Muong, Thai, H'Mong minority communities and students in the study area should be ensure the long-term conservation impacts of the project. Muong, Thai, H'Mong people are also involved in Fieldwork surveys. Two workshops conducted to disseminate the information gathered during the field surveys. Information gathered and recommendations made by the project team such as gymnosperm distribution, community structure, gymnosperms regeneration, storage of seeds, ratio germination of seeds or cuttings, and propagation process benefited follow-up research and conservation projects at Pu Luong, Hang Kia – Pa Co Nature Reserves and Cuc Phuong National Park.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Strengthening investments in *in situ* and *ex situ* Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperm is necessary, not only at Pu Luong, Hang Kia – Pa Co Nature Reserve, and in Cuc Phuong National Park, but also in the northwestern region of Vietnam as a whole. Although the priority to implement *in situ* conservation measures to enhance gymnosperm species rehabilitation in their home range is high, *ex situ* conservation measures are also important and should not be overlooked.

It is necessary to continue to upgrade gymnosperm conservation area and effort at Cuc Phuong National Park. The park has more than adequate space to nurse gymnosperm individuals of species

that are currently on the brink of local extinction, so that they are safely rescued and their survival in northwest Vietnam toward the future is assured.

To strengthen cooperation and research coordination on genetic conservation study with organisations, students, stakeholders and conservationists to determine gymnosperm species as conservation targets toward the future within the management plan of the Cuc Phuong National Park, Pu Luong Nature Reserve, and Hang Kia - Pa.

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

Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperm was undertaken in northwest Vietnam (Pu Luong and Hang Kia Pa Co Nature Reserve and Cuc Phuong National Park). Valuable information has been gained from research. I posted valuable information of the project in Cuc Phuong National Park website and I agree to post final report and technical report of Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperm in northwest Vietnam in Rufford Small Grant Foundation website. The information communicates the results of this research effort to share the result of the project to local people, managers, scientists, Nature Reserves and other national parks .

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

The project is undertaken in Cuc Phuong National Park, Pu Luong and Hang Kia – Pa Co Nature Reserves, in an effort to conserve threatened and endangered species of gymnosperms in northwest Vietnam, it is short period. For Gymnosperm Conservation should take many years to compile the data on conservation status of threatened and endangered species of gymnosperms. The project needs third year for long-term study to do gymnosperm ex-situ conservation in northwest Vietnam.

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.

Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperm in northwest Vietnam received from RSG 6000£;

Item	Budgeted Amount (£)	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments	
Pre-project expenses	4210	4210	0		
Field expenses	1600	1600	0		
Post-project	190	190	0		
TOTAL		6000	0		
Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperms in Northwest Vietnam budget (ID: 51.01.10) from June 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.					
No	Objects	Expenses		Surplus	
		Total in (VND)	Total in (£)	Total in (VND)	Total in (£)
Total budget received from RSG - ID 51.01.10				160.821.000	6000
Field expenses		112840630	4210		

1	Logistics (telephone, post, internet, literature and other 'small' items for forest inventory (topographic maps, nylon string, marker, batteries, etc.)	6700875	250	154120125	5750
2	Stipend for scientist	26803500	1000	127316625	4750
3	Transportation and Accommodation (travel allowances and vehicle rentals)	33504375	1250	93812250	3500
4	Food,	36184725	1350	57627525	2150
5	Hire of porters and guides	9649260	360	47978265	1790
Ex-situ Conservation		42885600	1600		
6	Nursery (propagation)	24123150	900	23855115	890
7	Cultivation	16082100	600	7773015	290
8	Fertilizers and soil enrichment	2680350	100	5092665	190
Post-project		5092665	190		
9	Report	5092665	190	0	0

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

To continue to upgrade the living gene bank of gymnosperm species at Cuc Phuong National Park, it is very important next steps for long-terms conservation efforts in Vietnam

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 RSGF logo to make a sign in Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperms in northwest Vietnam. I used RSGF logo for the first page of Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperms in Northwest Vietnam report.

11. Any other comments?

I am extremely grateful to the Rufford Small Grant Foundation (RSGF) for supporting the project "Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species of Gymnosperms in Northwest Vietnam". I hope that the RSGF would continue to support gymnosperm conservation efforts in the future. Thank you very much for all your help and support