

Final Project Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Meri Shalamberidze
Project Title	Reintroduction, <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of <i>Triticum timopheevii</i> and consciousness upliftment in local people (Racha-Lechkhumi, Georgia)
Application ID	22476-1
Grant Amount	£4800
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Date of this Report	18.01.2019

1. 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
Visiting the places where <i>Triticum timopheevii</i> was spread and collecting the information				Basing of the literature the places where <i>Triticum timopheevii</i> was seeded we have inspected authoritatively and taken the coordinates to put on the map. Information collected by us has been given to the representative of IUCN in Georgia.
IUCN informing/collaboration				After the consulting with the representative of IUCN in Georgia it was established that IUCN has not got a relevant category for the species of cultural flora on its website. But there is idea, that the plants which are from the category of cultural flora and represents the solid species must be granted the IUCN's category, and the information about them be achieved on the official website. According to that we have decided to send letter to IUCN according to above mentioned.
Meeting with local people/informing				We have met people in the chosen villages, talked about the problems around the species, and given them the booklets about <i>Triticum timopheevii</i> and the seeds for multiplying.
Seminars at schools				We gave a talk about the origin of the species about its importance and value. We have paid attention on the historical development and usefulness of the plant and about research of the plant in the past and present and also about its world importance. We paid attention to the problematic issues and their optimal solving, according to the species.
<i>Triticum timopheevii</i> reintroduction and				We have created the experimental plots with pupils on the territory of the

creating the experimental plots				schools, where the species was successfully reintroduced. Both pupils and local people were actively involved in this process where they have made the plots. Also we have renewed the plot of the Botanical Garden of Tbilisi.
<i>Ex situ</i> and <i>In situ</i> conservation of <i>Triticum timopheevii</i>				Both with pupils and local people the reintroduced species where originated, successfully was made it's <i>in situ</i> and then <i>ex situ</i> conservation. We had enough reserves of seeds and according to that we have renewed the collection of the institute and also distributed them to local people.
Excursion on the field				During the excursion pupils successfully mastered the cultivation of the soil, procedure of seeding, methods of conservation, describing the habitat, using GPS, taking coordinates and making the herbarium technics.

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

We had no any unforeseen difficulties during the project.

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

- a) Visiting the place where the species was spread (after 50 years) taking the points, mapping and informing the local IUCN representative and raising the issue that the species of the cultural flora must be granted the status of conservation.
- b) We have raised the consciousness around the species amongst the local people and pupils. High activation for multiplying goals. Pupils are interested to continue learning at the University in botanical part.
- c) We created farmhouse plots and plots on the territory of the schools for multiplying goals. The seed was multiplying and it was conserved *in situ* and *ex situ*. According to the decision of the institute the experimental plot on the territory of the Botanical Garden was enlarged.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

Activation of local people and pupils was as more than we expected, the auditoriums were full and there you could see all ages. Their wish of multiplying the species was very high. They were actively involved in the fieldwork. 11 local families continue with us to multiply the species. 10 pupils are continuing to plant the seeds of wheat on their farmhouse and school plots. Many local people and not only local people have enthusiasm, but for this moment we are waiting for the harvest in summer and we can divide the seeds all of them who are interested to multiplying the species.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

According to the high interest of the pupils and local people we are planning to write the new project which will be more interesting and scaled for them in future.

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

To the end of the project we have done the presentation of final report in the Botanical Institute, which was attended by our colleges and also foreign researchers. We have got a lot of compliments, recommendations and suggestions of future collaboration with foreign colleagues. Georgian population were informed by the most famous newspaper about the project. The article was achievable for NGOs who have suggested collaboration with us and with local people. We are planning to have the presentation of the scientific café of Ilia State University for the students

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

The grant was used from 2017 July till October 2018. Everything was done according to the schedule of the project

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion. 1 GBP = 3.42GEL (At the time of funding)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Net for 2 plots	49	196	+147	Eight plot had to be surrounded by the net

Placard 2	20	20		
Net for herbarium	64	64		
Laptop	300	165	-135	We have hired 11 day, 1 day hiving -15£ (3 days for mapping ,7 days for presentation at school and 1 day last presentation at Institute
Projector	320	160	-160	We have hired 8 days, 1 day hiving -20£ (7 days for presentation at school and 1 day last presentation at Institute
Digital camera	300	224	-76	We have hired 32 days, 1 day hiving- 7£ (4 day for to visit places, 7 days for presentation at school, 4 days for excursions, 16 days during the 4 months for wheat growing and developing phases photo making and 1 day last presentation at Institute
Soil sample auger	30	30		
First aid	50	50		
Posters 3 piece	132	132		
Booklets	87	87		
Lab works	78	234	+156	We have made the soil analysis from 9 plot (8 from schools and 1 from Botanical Garden of Tbilisi)
Stationeries	234	234		
T-shirt for pupils(with Rufford logo)	240	240		
First going out (fuel, car rent, lodging)	441	441		
Second going out (fuel)	49	49		
Second going out (car rent, lodging)	936	936		
Excursion on choose territory in region	300	340	+40	During last one year the fuel price increased
Final excursion and presentation in Botanical Institute	300	328	+28	During last one year the fuel price increased
Per diems	870	870		
TOTAL	4800	4800		

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

According to that the place is mountainous it is getting empty from population because of no conditions there, but with our project they got the enthusiasms and interest to multiply the species of the wheat. Our main goal is to increase the interest and consciousness with this kind of project. We research institutes and with us NGOs must support the interested population more and stand by their side both financially and with activities too, because step by step we would have the result. A few months ago National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia admitted the Georgian endemic wheat species as an intangible Cultural Heritage Monument which increased the interest in people to multiply the endemic wheat species on wide space.

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

Yes the Rufford Foundation logo was used on the booklets, posters, information desk, in all presentations, also on t-shirt which we gave as a present to the pupils

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Meri Shalamberidze (Team leader): Head laboratory assistant of ethnobotanical department of Tbilisi Botanical Institute

Duties: Meeting with the representative of IUCN, reading seminars, working on field, practical work, internship with local people, writing the updates and the final report

Levan Ozbetelashvili: Head laboratory assistant of ethnobotanical department of Tbilisi Botanical Institute

Duties: Meeting with the representative of IUCN, reading seminars, working on field, practical work, internship with local people, mapping

Ineza Maisaia: Botanist, researcher of Tbilisi Botanical Institute and Tbilisi Botanical Garden

Duties: Meeting with the representative of IUCN, Reading seminars

12. Any other comments?

Respect and many thanks to the Rufford Foundation, your support was very important for us and for those pupils and local people which were interacted in this project and for this moment we continue collaboration with them, proudly we can say that it was little but very successful project which made big step for future important job, for which we are sending a lot of thanks and respect.