

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	Gymnosperm Conservation at Cuc Phuong National Park
RSG reference	24.12.07
Reporting period	Start from 1 March 2008 to 31. March 2009
Amount of grant	£5000 (9406 US\$)
Your email address	cuongcucphuong@gmail.com
Date of this report	07.2.2008

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 study plant regeneration through a 50 x 20 m plot method, and to compile a database on ecological parameters of each species.			Yes	See detailed report.
To provide distribution maps of species: determine species identity, habitat, location, population size.			Yes	
To observe and record phenology (recording dates of flowering and fruiting) of each species as much as possible in different populations.			Yes	
To initiate <i>ex situ</i> conservation program of threatened and endangered gymnosperms in cooperation with protected area managers and local communities.			Yes	
To build a living gene bank of gymnosperm species in Cuc Phuong National Park through seed and cutting propagation experiments in Cuc Phuong nursery			Yes	
To establish Threatened and Endangered gymnosperms conservation zones, and to involve local people, students and volunteers as active 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.

This study indicates the presence of 6 gymnosperm species at CPNP, 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 Cuc Phuong National for discussions on effective conservation strategies of threatened and endangered gymnosperms.

As a first step in the implementation of the project, 6 category E and V gymnosperm species have been planted in a one-hectare conservation zone at Cuc Phuong National Park. This activity is part of Cuc Phuong's effort to conserve rare, vulnerable, and endangered Gymnosperm species found in the park.

It is the first *ex situ* conservation effort of rare genetic pools of Gymnosperm species found in the park: The study involved local people, students and volunteers as active participants in the Gymnosperm Conservation program at Cuc Phuong National park.

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

Gymnosperm Ex-situte consevation has found encouraging support and enthusiasm from Youth members of Cuc Phuong's Youth Union and the local people. Gymnosperm Conservation project has helped encourage biodiversity conservation activities among minority communities who live in areas surrounding Cuc Phuong National Park. The study has also helped in increasing conservation awareness on Threatened and Endangered species and in conservation managerment at Cuc Phuong National Park.

The study involved local people, students and volunteers as active participants in the Gymnosperm Conservation program at Cuc Phuong National park. The involvement of the Muong minority communities and students in the study area should be ensure the long-term conservation impacts of the project. Local people are also involved in Fieldwork surveys. Several workshops conducted to disseminate the information gathered during the field surveys. Information gathered and recommendations made by the project team such as gymnosperms regeneration, storage of seeds, ratio germination of seeds or cutting, and propagation process benefited follow-up research and conservation projects at Cuc Phuong National Park.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Investments in *in-situ* and *ex-situ* gymnosperm conservation should be strengthened not only at Cuc Phuong National Park, but throughout Vietnam as well. Staff of CPNP should continually be trained to develop better expertise in biodiversity conservation work, which will help supervise special projects, such as mapping the distribution of endangered gymnosperm in Cuc Phuong National Park Investments to upgrade facilities of the gymnosperm collection conservation areas will ensure the survival of these species in North of Vietnam.

Cooperation and coordination in research on gene conservation with local and international organizations, as well as with private stakeholders should be initiated to define future gymnosperm conservation targets at Cuc Phuong National Park.

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

During the past year, research on gymnosperm conservation was undertaken at Cuc Phuong National Park Valuable information has been gained from research. I published a book namely "*Gymnosperm Conservation at Cuc Phuong National Park*" in English and Vietnamese. This book communicates the results of this research effort to share the result of the project to local people, managers, scientists 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 initiate gymnosperm conservation at Cuc Phuong National Park, it is short period. For Gymnosperm Conservation should take many years to compile the data on conservation status of gymnosperm threatened species. The project needs second year for long-term study to do Gymnosperm Ex-situ conservation in Cuc Phuong National Park.

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.

Gymnosperm Conservation at Cuc Phuong National Park received from RSG 9406 US\$;

Item	Budgeted Amount (US\$)	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Wire transfer fee	10	0		
Pre-project expenses	3132	0		
Field expenses	4385	0		
Post-project	1879	0		
TOTAL	9406	0		

Gymnosperm Conservation at Cuc Phuong budget (ID: R24.12.07) from March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009.

No	Objects	Expenses		Surplus	
		Total in Vietnam (Dong)	Total in (\$)	Total in (Vietnam Dong)	Total in (\$)
1	Wire transfer fee		10		9406
2	Total budget received from RSG - ID24.12.07			140850000	9396
3	Digital Map, GPS, Laptop, Digital camera, Binoculars, Field supplies	44900000	2995	95950000	6401
4	Communication	2057000	137	93893000	6264
5	Transportation, Food, Hire of porters and guides (first time)	27380000	1827	665113000	44370
6	Transportation, Food, Hire of porters and guides (Second time)	38340000	2558	28173000	1879
8	<i>Ex situ</i> conservation: nursery activities (Propagation)	4000000	267	24173000	1412
7	<i>Ex situ</i> conservation: nursery activities (Plant)	3000000	200	21173000	1679
9	Guidebooks	16000000	1067	5173000	345
10	Meetings, Report production & photography	5173000	345	0	0

Bills of all expenses deposited in Cuc Phuong's Accounting Department (I also sent a PDF scan the bills of all expenses on an attach file). All equipment gave Cuc Phuong National Park to support conservation effort.

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

To continue a living gene bank of gymnosperm species in in North of Vietnam, 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 Gymnosperm Conservation Area at Cuc Phuong National Park. I used RSGF logo for the first page of Gymnosperm Conservation at Cuc Phuong National Park report. I used RSGF logo for a publication on Gymnosperm Conservation study at Cuc Phuong National Park.