

## Project Update: June 2009

Summary of activities as continuation of the project to include:

- 1) The biodiversity garden and the natural museum were adopted by Bani Naim Municipality, the local authority, as one major project of the strategic plan being prepared in the last three months. The plan aims to boost the future development of Bani Naim town. The project is supported by the German GTZ to assist the local Palestinian authority for better planning and to meet the needs of local society. Dr Khaled Sawalha works as local consultant for the strategic plan, who emphasized the importance of investment in nature through the Rufford Small Grants project.
- 2) The biodiversity garden is under construction with more practical steps achieved, following engineering consultation; a) the natural stones from Bani Naim valleys were used to build lines and walls to establish small beds for plantation of the wild plants; b) local workers were employed to spread sandy soil brought from the Palestinian coast; c) the garden is fully enriched with sandy soil ready for introduction of new wild flora .
- 3) More specimens were introduced or checked for the natural museum: a) a natural beautiful stone from Bani Naim wild b) conifer cones were collected; c) wild seeds belonging to wild plants of umbelliferae were collected.

