

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	Thinh Vu
Project title	Improving Avian Conservation in Northern Vietnam
RSG reference	09.11.06
Reporting period	Final report
Amount of grant	£4993.42
Your email address	thinhcsu@lamar.colostate.edu
Date of this report	01/10/2009

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
Addressing how well plantation forests conserve birds as compared to a natural forest			x	This part of the study was conducted in the field and the data has been analyzed, manuscript has been finished.
Addressing how logging disturbance affects mixed-species bird flocks.	x			The study has not been finished as proposed. I spent more than 2 weeks in Tam Dao National Park to survey for mixed-species bird flocks but I did not find as many large flocks as I expected. I finally found out that the mixed species flocks are usually established in the winter and my field work was carried out in the summer. Therefore, I replace this part by another part entitled "Effect of different logging schemes on bird communities in tropical forest: A simulation study". In this study I used empirical data to simulate the effect of logging on bird community. The manuscript was finished.
Testing how road corridors affect bird movements			x	This part of the study was conducted in the field and data has been analyzed, manuscript has been finished.
Investigating the prevalence of avian diseases in wild and domesticated birds in the park and surrounding human-dominated landscapes.			x	Although this part of the project has not been done yet, I think it will be fully achieved and may be more successful than expectation. There were some changes in term of where the samples were processes. Avian influenza samples were and are being processed in Vietnam and Thailand instead of America, and the blood parasite samples are being processed by me at Colorado State University, USA. I will have the full reports of this part later. Preliminary investigation using blood smears showing that the prevalence of avian haemosporidian in collected samples is about 40%. And so far, avian influenza virus A has

				been detected on the samples collected, more works to subtype those virus and address if H5N1 is present is being conducted.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

- Random design of transects for surveying birds in the tropical mountainous areas may not be fully achieved because of the terrain and dense forest vegetation. I had to make the transects in the forests and transect making cost much time. I think in the areas with trails that are not heavily used, the trails should be used instead of the truly random transects.
- Avian disease sample processing in the Lab is much slower than expected, especially at the wildlife disease laboratory at Colorado State University because the laboratory is newly established.
- Transporting biological samples across country border is complicated with many paper works.
- Writing report that qualifies for publication usually takes longer time than expectation.

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

- Finding that the avian influenza virus not only found in wild water birds but also in wild land birds. This will help the avian influenza surveillance programme to choose the target species. (Laboratory work has shown that there is avian influenza virus in samples collected from wild land birds)
- Finding that the pine plantation that is widely planted provides little support to the forest bird communities. This may help forestry agencies in deciding if land should be kept for natural regeneration or plantation should be used instead within the natural reserve.
- The project involved several local people and their awareness of biodiversity conservation has been strengthened. Though the project, I also established the working relationship with many other institutions and scientists.

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

Ten local people from 4 different local communities around the Tam Dao National Park and two local people in Cuc Phuong National Park joined the project. These people helped with establishing transects, capturing birds, assisting bird surveyors, and providing general guidance through the local landscape and customs. They got benefit from being paid while participating in the project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

- I plan to investigate the conservation potential of other main plantations in Vietnam such as eucalyptus, acacia, etc.
- I plan to do some more surveillance of avian influenza on wild birds.

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

The results will be submitted to Department of Forest Protection and Department of Veterinary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The project results will also be submitted to national and international journals and published as a Ph.D. dissertation. A Ph.D. proposal will be further submitted to Vietnam National Library. Finally, the results will be shared with faculty and students at the Forestry University of Vietnam, and other conservationists through the *Babbler News* of Indochina Birdlife International. I planned to have a small seminar at the study sites about the project results, but I have not done it yet because I have not had all the results on time.

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

The RSG was used in the summer 2007. My project lasted from summer 2006 to summer 2008.

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
Binoculars	267.6	183.0	84.6	Price changed
Recorder (Marantz PMD-670)	374.6	0	374.6	Funded by Idea Wild that funds equipment
Microphone (ME-67/K6/MZW67)	321.1	0	321.12	Funded by Idea Wild
GPS (GPS Map76CSX)	321.1	240.0	81.1	Price changed
Individual Field Equipment	214.1	342.9	-128.8	More equipment needed
Bird identification books ³	107.0	114.3	-7.2	Price changed
Satellite images, maps	0.0	57.1	-57.1	Need support for map and satellite images
Equipment related to diseases survey and blood sample analysis	0.0	285.7	-285.7	The equipment was not funded by National Wildlife Research Centre, USDA as expected.
Air flight tickets, visa fee	936.6	936.6	0.0	
Wage for field assistants	802.8	802.3	0.5	
Food and lodging and other miscellaneous things for field assistants	578.0	578.0	0.0	
Food and lodging for principle investigator and students, gasoline for motorbikes, and other miscellaneous things	1070.4	1453.4	-386.0	This item was not fully funded. I could not have this item funded by other agencies as expected for 2007 field season. So, I used some extra money to cover the cost.
TOTAL	4993.4	4993.4	0	

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

My next important step is to publish and disseminate the results

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?

No, I did not use RSGF logo, I will use if I have seminar or publish any informal material. I will acknowledge RSGF in my publications.

11. Any other comments?

In addition to the abstract of the first 3 chapters here, I will submit other results to RSG after the sample processing, data analysis, and manuscript preparation of the chapters relating to avian disease are done. I will submit the whole dissertation after I defend, and I will notify RSG when my works get published in scientific journal.