The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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	Michael Pimenov
Project title	Clarifying Conservation Status of Rare and Endangered Umbelliferae species of Tajikistan
RSG reference	13193-1
Reporting period	25th July to 20th August 2013
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	mgpimenov@mail.ru
Date of this report	10th October 2013

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
Mapping of distribution of 10 rare and endangered species			Yes	Our distribution maps contain exhaustive information on distribution data according all herbaria from the former USSR
Search of plant populations of rare and endangered species		Yes		We visited all localities according to expedition plan, and found eight of 10 species under project programme. Two species were not found. This can be explained by extremely unfavourable meteorological conditions of the year 2013.
Estimation of population size and numbering of specimens			Yes	Despite of not complete applicability of the IUCN Red List categories and criteria for studies of endangered species in Tajikistan, we estimated needed parameters. All populations' reveals were mapped.
Ecological characterisation of 10 species of rare and endangered plants			Yes	Geobotanic descriptions of vegetation with these species have been compiled, as well as geographical coordinates and geomorphological characterisation of the localities.
Qualification of each studied species according to IUCN categories			Yes	We can qualify each of 10 species in IUCN categories - three species are of CR category, two EN category, four VU category, and one NT category

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

Our difficulties were connected with extreme weather conditions of 2013. The many arid species of the Umbelliferae, including some our objects, have peculiar reproductive strategies, and their blooming and fruiting can be observed not every year. Especially this concerns to monocarpic, plant with the only reproductive year after several years when they are in stage of vegetative rosette (species of *Ferula* and some others). The year of 2013 was unfavourable as the majority of Umbelliferae species everywhere in Middle Asia do not bloom. So, the right application of the recommendations of the IUCN Commission was not possible, especially the recommendation to count only generative specimens. We used some methods of quantitative calculation, known in geobotany and plant resources studied.

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

a. The species included in any Red Data book in Middle Asia were at the first time classified according internationally recognised criteria on the basis of field studies. New data allow to propose some additional recommendations for nature conservation in Tajikistan.

b. The distribution of 10 species was elucidated; some of them, for instance, *Cephalopodum badachschanicum*, *Ferula kosopoljanskyi* and *Parasilaus asiaticus*, appeared to be wider distributed, then it was known previously. Their status seems to be not so vulnerable, as it was believed earlier.

c. Practical application of the IUCN criteria and categories in the condition of high mountainous conditions of the Middle Asia, and in studies of herbaceous plants with different reproductive biology allows to add some essential modification in their recommendation, which could be useful for other specialists in conservation science and practice.

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

In all visited localities we were in contact with local people, especially shepherds and foresters. The participants of the project of local nationality were irreplaceable for these contacts, as the Russian language unfortunately is not known for all local people, especially young. These contact helped to elucidate the distribution of the species out of our tracks. During conversation with local people our colleagues Navruzshoev and Boboev explained them the significance of protection of rare and endangered species. In future, they supposed to include new data in their lectures for local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The project 13193-1 covers only the Umbelliferae rare and endangered plants only from Badakhshan and adjacent part of south-east Tajikistan proper. The similar investigation with other species are needed to prolong in north Tajikistan (Sogdian province)

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

Firstly, the data will be included in the coming Red Data Book of Tadjikistan.

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

Field period was almost completely corresponding to time of Rufford Foundation grant using. Further treatment of data and plant determination were out of the grant time.

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
Aviatickets Moscow-Dushanbe-Moscow	£1680	£1444	+£226	Use of the cheaper airline Co (Somoni Airlines)
Local travel Dushunbe-Khorog-Dushanbe	£465	£587	-£122	In absence of avia tickets we were forced to use local taxis
Hotels, registration and permits	£500	£570	-£70	Additional permits for work in Badakhshan
Local travels – rent of car, 30 days	£2800	£2580	+220£	Slightly shorter field season and unpaid help of local people in some trips
Field subsistence	£555	£589	-£34	Necessity to prolong field investigation in Badakhshan
Total	£6000	£5710	+£230	

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

Next steps are to propose some recommendations to enlarge conservation areas (reserves and others) in Tajikistan, where these and other rare plants grow. This is complicated task in the developing country. It is needed to popularisation the nature conservation idea among local communities. Our hope is on our local colleagues from Kulob ad Khorog.

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

Up to now we did not used the Rufford Foundation logo as we were not published anything on the item. In future we will use it as it is very impressive in all our correspondence and publications about endangered plants of Tajikistan. Some our colleagues, when were informed on the Rufford Foundation grants, intended to follow us in plant conservation studies with the RFSG. It seems the Rufford Foundation can find in Russia many new proponents.