

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Mohamed Abdelaal Lotfy Sadek
Project title	Distribution Patterns and Conservation Status Assessment of Exclusive Endemic Vascular Plant Taxa in Matrouh Governorate, Egypt
RSG reference	24053-1
Reporting period	April 2018- October 2019
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	Mohamed_eco2006@yahoo.com
Date of this report	7/11/2019

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
Georeferencing the current localities of the endemic taxa at fine scale (1×1 km) in a free & open source Geographic Information System				The fieldwork corresponding to three target species was completed. The field surveys will continue next spring to search for new or historic localities of the other three species.
Modeling the current presence records under current and future climatic conditions using suitable species distribution models				MaxEnt predictive maps of habitat suitability for the target species under current and future conditions were constructed
Field survey for searching for new localities				A set of field surveys for searching new or historic localities occurred. We found four unknown localities/populations and we will complete next spring.
Assessment the conservation status according to IUCN Red List				IUCN assessments for three species were finished. When finishing field surveys for the other three species, we will apply the IUCN categories and criteria directly.
Disseminate printed leaflets and holding training sessions for the local community				Two workshops with local communities were carried out. We plan to organise two workshops after completing all project objectives.

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

- 1- The first problem is that some regions in the study area are located in the newly designed borders of the military institution (nearest to the sea coast) and need permits and this took time and considerable effort.
- 2- The study area is large, so we spent a long time to search for the target species and this is in turn reflected in the cost together with a doubling effort.
- 3- We couldn't find three species (*Bellevalia salah-eidii*, *Muscari albiflorum* and *Sonchus macrocarpus*), out of the six target species in our project. So, we will continue our survey next spring to rediscover localities of these species or confirm the extinction of these species as some local people and researchers propose extinction hypothesis.

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

- 1- Georeferenced the geographic distribution, population attributes and threats of the target species.
- 2- Discovery of four unknown localities for two target species (two for each).
- 3- Identified key factors that contributed for the distribution of the target species in the study area.
- 4- Conservation status assessment of the target species.

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

The involvement of the local people in the whole activities of the project was very positive. In addition to their cooperation, they helped me as a guide and with support with more invaluable information about the target species. They permitted me to enter their lands and gardens without any difficulties. Local communities (including students) were also involved in all workshops and I think they learned more about these rare endemic species and their conservation.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes, I plan to continue this work in the next spring through a set of field trips to complete the survey for all target species in the project. Also, I will organise workshops for local people and researchers about the results of the project. Moreover, I plan to apply *ex-situ* conservation for the target species.

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

We are preparing an article to be published in peer review open access journal to be free and accessible. In addition, the results of the work will be shared by the distribution of the project outputs through social networks and media. Finally, we will send our data to IUCN Red List members to publish our conservation assessments for our target species.

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

The anticipated starting time for the project was February 2018; however, the first field trip for the study area was only in last April 2018, taken into consideration the growth season of plants. Also, it was expected that the work shall be finished by February 2019. Though given the fieldwork, large study area and remote accessibility for some sections in the study area, it took 1 year and 8 months).

**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
Field surveys (transport, food and subsistence allowance)	2000	2200	+200	The increase in the cost of gasoline, field assistant and numbers/periods of field surveys cause more money is dedicated
Nikon B500 Coolpix Compact System Camera - Black	400	350	-50	
HP Z3 A00ES Laptop	700	700		
Garmin Wander & Outdoor GPS-Geräte Gpsmap® 64s (3 pieces)	300	291	-9	
Dissemination (on-line open access article & printed leaflets)	1600	1400	-200	This money is used for field surveys
<b>*Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>4941</b>	<b>-59</b>	<b>This difference is used, due to low exchange rate and bank taxes.</b>

One £ sterling= 20.67 L.E.

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

At first, finishing all field surveys and data analysis, writing all scientific articles. Then, organising academic meetings and workshops with local people to speak about the main results of projects and conservation of the target species.

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

Yes, we printed leaflets and T-shirt with logo for me, some students and local people.

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

Prof. Gianluigi Bacchetta  
 Prof. Giuseppe Fenu  
 Dr. Mauro Fois

**12. Any other comments?**

Thanks to the Rufford Foundation.