

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Nurbahar Usta Baykal
Project Title	Capacity Building to Connect Severely Fragmented Populations of Kazdagi Fir, an Endemic Subspecies in Turkey
Application ID	26959-1
Grant Amount	5.000 £
Email Address	ustanurbahar@gmail.com
Date of this Report	28.10.2021

1. 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 define "Potential Kazdagi fir forest corridors" providing the ecological needs of the species				The route is well defined, yet we need further analyses on the attitude of stakeholders.
Creating a volunteer network				Our volunteer network is very well structured with using the opportunities of social media.
Creating a scientist & stakeholder network				We were able to include only few scientists to our network.

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

Firstly, COVID-19 pandemic was the most important difficulty we had to tackle with. The project activities were mostly planned as gatherings in the beginning. Gathering restrictions severely affected our activities. Instead of gathering, we tried to connect with people (see Project Update: June 2021) via printed materials to distribute seeds and information about the species.

One of our replacement activities was to apply attitude survey with foresters. Since it was not included in the first plan of the project, we didn't have the ethical commission board permission. We applied for permission in April 2021, but it approximately took 4 months to receive the permissions. We used the time to prepare a review article about Trojan fir.

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

- The attitude analysis of forest managers towards Trojan fir.
- Discovering the reasons of "invasive species" perception towards Trojan fir.
- Discovering the gaps of knowledge in the literature about Trojan fir.

4. What do you consider to be the most significant achievement of this work?

5. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

In the beginning of the project, we planned to conduct survey studies with local communities and seed sharing event afterwards. Yet due to COVID-19 restrictions,

we could not be able to conduct the surveys and organise an event. Instead, we printed detailed booklets with seedlings attached and distributed them. We also attached a contact address for people to connect with us to ask questions about seedlings and species and inform us how their seedlings are growing. Social media usage is one of the other involvement mediums for our project.

6. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the project is designed as a 4-year plan in the beginning. In the second part of the project, we plan to deepen our knowledge by taking a step back: discovering ecological knowledge about Trojan fir to tackle the perception of Trojan fir being an “invasive species”. Discovering local knowledge and usage of the species was part of the first step yet we could not be able to achieve the task, so we plan to achieve it in the second part.

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

We prepared a review article to submit scientific journals. We will also plan to attend future conferences to share the process and results of the project. We actively keep using social media to maintain engagement of public interest.

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

We used the grant between July 2019 and October 2021. Anticipated time scale of the project was July 2019 – July 2020. Yet we had to take a break between February 2020 and March 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemics. With replacement activities we planned to finish the project in July 2021, but ethical commission board permission process took longer than we assumed, and we were able to finalise activities in October 2021.

9. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Monthly salaries of project staff	1500	1200	-300	12 months of salaries included (100 paid instead of 125)
Online Database for Seedling Carriers Network	100		-100	
Publication	100		-100	

Consultancy	200		-200	
Seed & Information Sharing Event	300			
Accommodation & Food	1000	1500	+500	Longer fieldworks than planned
GIS Studies	100	100		
Fieldwork equipment	200	200		
Travel	500	500		
Video & photo	250	100	-150	
Fieldwork stipends	400	400		
Survey studies	350	350		
Printed materials (Seed & Information Sharing Event)		350	+350	Distribution of printed materials are included
Local guides		100	+100	Was not included in the project budget
Conference Attendance		100	+100	Attended two conferences to advertise the project
Germination experiments (extra achievement)		100	+100	Not included in the original budget
TOTAL	5000	5000		

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

In short – term:

- To collect more data to understand the reasons behind the “invasive species” perception of Trojan fir.
- To produce ecological knowledge to tackle “invasive species” perception.
- Engaging with scientists to enlarge our stakeholder network.
- Discovering local knowledge of Trojan fir.

In long – term:

- Engaging all stakeholders to the forest corridor selection process.
- Increase the advertisement of the project and Trojan fir.
- More funding partners to build forest corridor.

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

Yes, we attended two conferences (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Symposium, Turkey & Youth-led Advocacy for Wildlife Conservation Conference, Georgia) with presentations of our project.

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

Nurbahar Usta Baykal – Coordinator

Kahraman İpekdağ – Fieldwork advisor

Öykü Yaman – Survey studies advisor

Özge Doruk – Social media activities

13. Any other comments?

This project was my first experience as a conservation scientist. I gained so many experiences on how to plan a project, what to do when unexpected obstacles occur, how to manage a project, how to engage foresters and governmental officers. I learned how to do a realistic project plan. Even though there were many changes on the project activities during our work due to several reasons, successful applications of activities helped me to gain confidence as a young women conservationist in Turkey.