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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Recipient Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Your name</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiva Faizi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project title</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towards the conservation of a rare and threatened salamander, <em>Salamandra infraimmaculata semenovi</em> in Kurdistan province, western Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RSG reference</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24775-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reporting period</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2018 to April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amount of grant</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£ 5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Your email address</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Hiwa.faizi@gmail.com">Hiwa.faizi@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of this report</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.04.2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Not achieved</th>
<th>Partially achieved</th>
<th>Fully achieved</th>
<th>comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investigation of species habitats and finding new localities for this threatened species.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In this regard, all known habitats were visited for this species. Also, several new points of access were added to the previous points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification of potential threats to the species (pollution, habitat destruction.).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Threats have been identified in some habitats, details of which are reported in the third stage report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Considering habitats for introduction and/or re-introduction of species wherever possible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>During 1 year of the study of habitats in the province, we found that some habitats were able to accept samples of this species. The habitat that was previously occupied by the specimen and now no species presence was found.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual census and providing an approximate population size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A sample census took place during a 1-year project and in appropriate months. Commenting on demographic trends requires at least a 10-year period of census and population surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educating local societies and peoples about this species and its biological importance as a rare and endangered species which only can be found in limited geographical region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In this regard, with the full satisfaction of this practice, the necessary education at the level of schools, mosques, public places and species habitats was provided to the target communities of each section. The training of each group was given about the value and importance of conservation, scientific, biodiversity, etc. Such training was provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encouraging local people, especially farmers, gardeners, and stockbreeders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In this regard, training was also provided to local communities, gardeners, farmers, and some people who were in direct contact with the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(as they are in more contact with this species in the nature) to protect this newt and its natural habitat.

Conducting field surveys for environmental activists and NGO members and explaining ways for conserving this species in its natural habitat.

Local NGO volunteers were used to assist in the study and field studies to find samples and to study the habitats of this species.

To publish scientific materials with data collected through this study.

Valuable information was obtained about the presence and distribution of this species in the project. But the presentation of results in international academic journals needs to continue to work and provide at least several years of annual census results. However, information was provided and a description of school-based activities for students.

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

As stated in the proposal, the three major objectives of the project were demographic surveys, environmental surveys and environmental education on the studied species. In the meantime, habitat surveys and environmental education have come to a close. But in demographic surveys due to the sensitivity of the subject and the lack of specialised staff of the colleagues (although they were also very interested), population measurement errors were largely high, as well as demographic surveys and knowledge of the demographics and demographic trends. At least a 10-year need to be counted, but the project has been scheduled for only a period of these censuses according to the timetable. Regarding environmental education and the presence of students in the natural habitat of the species, school officials and students' fathers did not allow the presence of children (students) outside the school setting to become more familiar with salamanders natural habitat.

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

3-1- Field studies and identifying all available localities (Habitat Consideration): In this relate, about 15-20 streams have visited and surveyed during this time and added 4-5 localities herein as new, and removed four formerly known localities from
species localities list provided by Afroosheh et al., (2016) as localities of other salamanders, *Neurergus microspilotus*. The presence of this species in some formerly recorded localities and many new records confirmed, mapped and documented in this study.

3-2- Census based on direct observations (Population Consideration): Visual encounters surveys (VES) and capture recapture were used to do this job. The number of observed species as a parameter of population has done. But it is needs to repeat the action for at least a ten years period to evaluate the overall status of population trends at the area.

3-3- Environmental Education and Communication: Conducting educational activities in the region with special reference to public awareness and conserving of fire salamanders, are among main activities of this project through “Environmental Education of and Communication with local people”.

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

Some of the data on the distribution and occurrence areas for the species were got from local people through direct conversation with them.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Continuous surveys of population estimates and continuous training for more target groups will help improve the conservation status of the future. Due to the fact that the protection does not have an endpoint, careful consideration should be given to the issue of conservation. All activities in this project were sponsored by Rufford and it need to attract financial support from other funder agencies to carry out similar activities and to continue the process of protecting the fire salamander species.

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

The result of the project will be shared in the local community via published monograph, mass media, and social networks.

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

Field studies and identifying all available localities (Habitat Consideration) as one basic part of the project carried out during April to September 2018. Similarly, census based on direct observations (population consideration) as the next important part of the project activities carried out when considering habitats and finding localities during April to September 2018. Remaining parts (environmental education of school students and communication with local people) has done during second half of the project during October to next upcoming March 2019.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budgeted Amount £</th>
<th>Actual amount £</th>
<th>Difference £</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation, Facilities and Food (during six month of field studies)</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>-200</td>
<td>Part of expenses was paid by participants, locals and interested peoples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car rent and driver (including fuel) and local guides</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>+200</td>
<td>More money was spent because rate of car rental was drastically increased this year and many drivers receive more money in the mountains off roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field equipment and supplies (Camera (Professional Canon) and GPS navigator)</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>+200</td>
<td>This was due to increased prices caused by international sanctions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing, production and printing of posters/booklets/signboards for environmental education program.</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>The printed documents was cheaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation expenses, workshops, trainings and meetings in schools, live in nature and popular places</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>-150</td>
<td>The expenses was cheaper and some participants could not attend for the workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data analyses, habitat restoration (habitat assessments, finding potentially suitable habitats and relevant actions)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£5000</strong></td>
<td><strong>£5000</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

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

As this initial project mature over the next few years, we plan to focus on completing the census information to make exact estimate of salamander’s population and finally publishing results, map the distribution of fire salamanders and assess the
threats and develop conserving strategies for the conservation of fire salamanders in the western Iran, at Kurdistan Province. Estimate the population status and assess habitat threats in Iran is another important step to be continued. Also we are trying to make strong links with leaders and authorities, and increase collaboration with other NGOs.

Detecting the gene flows for different populations in the area and considering inbreeding/outbreeding process among populations using tools of landscape genomics.

Revealing the most relevant migration corridors interconnecting isolated populations and improving their management is another important step towards conservation of the species.

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?

The Rufford Foundation logo was used in the prepared PowerPoints presented for schools, DOE staffs and local peoples also in the prepared booklet and brochures related to the fire salamanders. We also used this logo on the front view of the provincial football matches clothes as presented in the periodic reports.

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

Dr. Saeed Hoseinian: He contributed to the objectives of the project in various stages of preparation of reports and assessment of the data obtained from the habitat characteristics and habitat modeling of the studied species.

Dr. Khosro Rajabizadeh: He has helped with technical guidance and technical advice at various stages of field studies together with the team.

Mansour Amini: He helped us in field studies and the study of habitat and searching for fire salamander species.

Hemen Faizi: As an NGO member, driver and also as a person interested in protecting the fire salamander species, was accompanied with the team.

Saman Shadkam: As an NGO member and also as an interested person, helped us looking for specimens and habitat surveys.

Nazer Ghaderi: As an NGO member and also as an interested person, helped us looking for specimens and habitat surveys.

12. Any other comments?

I wish to thanks the Rufford Foundation for funding this project. The provided financial support provided great assistance to the knowledge and public
information of people, authorities and specialists in the field of importance and protection of this species. It was also provided the local community's sensitivity to the values and importance of this species and increased their responsibility for the fate and protection of this species.

Special design for press on T-shirts