

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. 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	Paul Weinberg
Project title	Ecology and morphology of wild goat (<i>Capra aegagrus</i>) populations and their implications for conservation of Armenia's mountain ecosystems
RSG reference	01.03.09
Reporting period	20th November 2009 – 25th December 2010
Amount of grant	£5,150
Your email address	tur@osetia.ru tu_r@rambler.ru
Date of this report	14.01.2011.

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
Data on sex and age structure, reproduction rates and kid survival rates vs. habitat quality and man-caused pressure in different study areas (sites).		+		Achieved as fully as possible over period of 2 years.
Study of morphological aberrations, such as hornless, and their impact on behavioural and social processes in animals.	+			It turned out during the studies that hornless is almost singular. We noted just one male during the project (that also lacked scrotum). Thus, this aberration could not been effectively studied.
This project will be implemented by us in close cooperation with local people and conservation authorities which will ensure the efficiency of follow-up conservation activities after the project is finished.		+		Cooperation it was but we cannot guarantee efficiency of follow-up conservation activities as the latter are fully up to local authorities and depend upon various factors.
Local participants will be trained to field techniques used in this project and consulted for recommended conservation actions.			+	Done, but (as above) training and consultations do not guarantee conservation success.
Scientific articles, popular papers and reports with descriptions of current status and recommendations for wild goat conservation in Armenia.	+			Will be done later this year if data will prove sufficient.

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

New protected nature areas have been founded and sometimes difficulties arose getting let us in. However, these were solved in process of personal negotiations.

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

- a) We obtained data on parameters of four local populations, inhabiting three very different types of habitat.
- b) These data enable us to characterise birth rates, kid survival rates and hence rates of natural increase of the given populations, which in turn allow to work out ways of sustainable use of wild goat populations.
- c) We think that our research showed local people that their wildlife is not just occasional source of meat but causes wider interest and has more basic value for their communities.

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

We employed local people as guides, hired their cars and paid for housing when used it.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We plan to continue our research comparing wild goat populations from state nature protected areas, unprotected territories, and areas in private lease for safari parks and/or trophy hunting. Another possible direction would be study of mechanisms and process of natural re-colonisation of places where wild goats have been exterminated in the past.

We also plan to work out minimal programme for monitoring local wild goat populations (not just numbers, but age/sex structure, birth rate etc.) in Armenia by local manpower. No such monitoring has been done at least since 1960s.

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

When we shall consider our data enough for publishing, we'll submit a paper, but meanwhile will publish shorter information in Caprinae Newsletter.

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

We conducted 3 expeditions approximately 1 month long each in November-December 2009, June-July and November-December 2010, which accurately corresponded to anticipated lengths and intensity of the project.

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
Salaries	£ 1,800	£ 2,050	+ £ 250	Compensated lower exchange rate.
Flights	£ 1,050	£ 860	- £ 190	Only 2 flights paid from the project money instead of 3.
Freight	£ 800	£ 730	- £ 70	Used horses in several cases which is cheaper.

Food	£ 500	£ 550	+ £ 50	Inflation.
Fuel	£ 500	£ 480	- £ 20	Economy.
Field assistants	£ 500	£ 480	- £ 20	Economy.
Total	£ 5,150	£ 5,150	0	

Since my bank does not operate in £ sterling, the money was transferred to me in euro, and due to £ sterling drop and euro rise in 2009, 5185 euro was what we finally received, so £ sterling in fact equalled to euro for us in this case though later £ sterling restored its value. Exchange rate for 1 euro fluctuated constantly changing from 580 Armenian drams in December 2009 (equal to £ sterling), to 450 Armenian drams in July 2010, to 475 Armenian drams in December 2010.

It also should be clarified that due to partial overlap of two projects, the flight to the first trip in November-December 2009 and relevant salaries were paid from remnants of another grant. Otherwise we could not have managed three expeditions, each covering 4 sites. The last trip in November-December 2010 cost 2600 euro which is a half of the whole RSGF grant. Flight costs and most other costs in Armenia keep rising constantly.

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

There are two newly organised state protected areas in Armenia incorporating wild goat populations and private lease of areas for safari parks, ecotourism and trophy hunting is expanding. Comparison of trends in these populations would be useful and working out monitoring programme is also necessary. The last objective (accompanied by training) was planned in continuation of CEPF programme for the Caucasus but has not been carried out.

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?

We produced no materials yet, but we did emphasise that we work on RSGF when talking to local officials and communities.