

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. 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. 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	Jovica Sjenicic
Project title	The research of the bird fauna in potential IBA areas in the northern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina
RSG reference	11351-1
Reporting period	December 2012. – December 2013.
Amount of grant	£ 5268
Your email address	jovica.sjenicic@gmail.com
Date of this report	18 December 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
Procurement of the equipment for the research			+	
Field research			+	The first systematic research on the lower course of the Bosna river and swamp Tišina indicate the high levels of ornithofauna and habitat diversity. In the lower course of the Bosna river there have been 183 species registered and 108 in swamp Tišina. Many species of rare and endangered nesters unique for these ecosystems have been recorded. On the Bosna river, nesting of the little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) has been recorded, the species which has been registered only on the Bosna river in the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina, besides the Drina river which borders with Serbia. The Bosna river proved as the most important habitat of the sand martin (<i>Riparia riparia</i>). On Kozara mountain, 108 bird species have been registered and its ornithofauna has been enlarged by 18 new species.
Data analysis			+	Databases on species, locations, dates and bird endangering factors have been formed. Monitoring scheme has been determined as well as key species, which have been selected according to international categories of endangerment and protection (IUCN, Annex of the EU Birds Directive and SPEC category BirdLife International). Accessible locations have been determined and the project contributed to the better realisation of international monitoring programmes such as IWC, EBW and pan-European great cormorant census.
Preparation of reports and papers		+		A report has been made and delivered to the <i>Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of Republic of Srpska</i> , Republic of Srpska's museum and the national park Kozara.

				<p>Scientific papers have been written and sent to a review in the journal <i>Skup PMF-a</i> in Banja Luka and to Bulletin of birdwatchers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other papers on the ecology of individual species on Kozara mountain and findings of rare species on the Bosna river are in the process of preparation to be published in the journal of ornithology <i>Ciconia</i>.</p>
Constructions of eco-tourism infrastructure			+	<p>Three information boards have been placed at all three researched locations. Information board on M17 motorway has been set on a pit stop and a busy place near the Bosna river. On Kozara mountain and swamp Tišina, boards have also been located at places which are easily spotted by tourists and passers-by. The boards contain photographs from the field research, popular science texts about birds from the researched locations and maps with locations interesting for bird watching and eco-tourism.</p>
Printing of informational and educational materials			+	<p>2000 information leaflets and 300 posters on ornithofauna of researched locations, endangered species and possibilities of protection have been made. Special attention has been paid to the promotion of eco-tourism in the researched locations. The materials have been distributed to state institutions which are in charge of the protection of nature, faculties, institute, both primary and secondary schools, organisations and associations, as well as wider public.</p>
Project promotion			+	<p>Information on the project has been presented to the wider public via articles in three daily and weekly newspapers (<i>Blic</i>, <i>Press</i>, <i>Novi pečat</i>). In the informative show of the local television channel <i>HIT</i>, some of the results of the project have already been presented. Longer videos for the shows on the same television channel are in the process of preparation. This television showed interest for the project and its eco-tourism aspect. Features for the show on environment protection on state radio</p>

				<p>(RTRS) are in the process of preparation. Pieces of information have been posted on websites of tourist organizations of Modriča and Šamac and <i>Tourist organization of Republic of Srpska</i>. They have also been sent to municipality of Modriča, national park Kozara, tourist organization of Prijedor and they will be posted on their official websites as well.</p>
Education and meetings			+	<p>Visits to schools have been undertaken. We have presented the project and its results on biology classes and together with students we placed bird houses in school yards in seven primary schools and one secondary school in the valley of the Bosna river, municipality of Modriča. Meetings with fisherman and huntsman associations have been held where we have discussed the unfavourable status of certain species such as great cormorant and migratory species such as crane and grey goose. Meetings have also been held with the representatives of Modriča municipality and civil protection where we have discussed the possibilities of bird habitat protection which would enable civil protection with embankment and reforestation. We have also had meetings with tourist organisations in Dobo, Modriča and Šamac as well as tourist organisation of Republic of Srpska where further projects of the tourist organisations have been discussed and they were given guidelines for the development of eco-tourism projects which would rely on the results of this project.</p>
Protection of habitats and species		+		<p>15 bird houses for titmice, wren, redstart and robin were made and later placed in school yards. One of the aims was to protect the species as well as to enable direct tracking of the birds in school yards as part of biology classes. 10 feeders were also made and distributed to children at schools as well as individuals interested in winter bird feeding. On Kozara mountain, 20 nest boxes were placed for tawny owl, Ural owl, Tengmalm's owl, black</p>

				woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, three-toed woodpecker, grey wagtail and dipper. Endangered and deforested bank areas of the Bosna river were partially reforested with willows and poplars and further reforestation with pedunculate oak and narrow-leafed ash was planned in the collaboration with the fisherman association for the early spring.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

During the first part of the year weather conditions were quite unfavourable, prolonged winter with heavy precipitation and floods, which affected the field research. Certain locations have been visited significantly later, in spring, due to inaccessibility of the terrain and floods in the valley of the Bosna River. Due to the delay of the spring season we had to intensify field research which was undertaken during summer and in the second half of the year. One of the biggest problems was unwillingness of students and potential ornithologists to participate in the field work. We have managed to interest three students of biology and ecology from the Faculty of Science in Banja Luka as well as local people to join us in certain researches and in that way contribute to the further monitoring and international counting of water birds – IWC. We intend to extend our collaboration and if possible motivate and educate these potential ornithologists additionally. A small surface of the public land near the Bosna River as well as complicated processes for obtaining a licence for reforestation from the public company *Vode Srpske* made the choice of locations for reforestation more difficult. We were forced to deploy reforestation and habitat restoration on a few smaller sites. Mine fields near swamp Tišina and Odmut made research and works on the protection of habitats and bird species on swamp Tišina much more difficult.

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

Preliminary results of the first systematic researches of the bird fauna of the Bosna River and swamp Tišina, 18 new species for the bird fauna of the Kozara Mountain as well as revision of the previous researches, older than 30 years. These results represent foundation for argumentation of protection of these areas in the future.

This is the first project concerning conservation of wild bird species and making of nest boxes for owls which will contribute to the protection and easier studying of certain species' biology.

Initiative for legal protection of swamp Tišina which will get the status of the area for resource management, construction of eco-tourism infrastructure and inducement of eco-tourism.

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

By informing the local people on abundance of species, rare, endangered and attractive bird species, we have raised consciousness about local communities' values as well as the values of the nature

surrounding them. We have interested the local people into our work and the importance of bird protection in general. We have encouraged children in village schools to be more creative and motivated them to make their own bird houses for smaller birds (titmice, wren, and sparrow) in Technical Education classes. We have interested tourists and photographers (from Serbia and Switzerland) into researched locations and gave them reason to visit them in future which opens up possibility for the development of both eco-tourism and rural tourism which together bring benefits to the community. Local tourist organizations is Doboj, Modriča and Šamac enriched their tourist offer with our leaflets, info-boards and news on their websites and got a lot of pieces of information on nature attractions and rare species interesting for watching.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We have determined the points for census of water birds on the Bosna River and swamp Tišina which will allow monitoring of key species and the entire community during IWC and monitoring of the Great Cormorant. With data analysis and selection of key species we will make a monitoring scheme for certain species and communities. We intend to single out the most endangered species of birds of prey and owls as *umbrella species* and focus on their conservation in the future in order to get under protection other species which inhabit vast territories of birds of prey.

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

We will inform expert and scientific public via scientific papers in ornithological and other biological journals. We have also printed information leaflets in order to inform wider public. The project has been promoted in daily newspapers and we are waiting for a weekly newspaper to publish news about the project. Tourist organizations wrote about the project on their web sites. We sent news to official web site of Modriča municipality. Besides this, a number of users of the researched areas have been informed through meetings and discussions with their representatives (fisherman associations, Republic of Srpska's museum, non-governmental organisations etc.).

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

The research of the available literature and procurement of the equipment started in December 2012, and practical work on the project started in January 2013 and lasted until December 2013. Our intention is that the protection of species and habitats and making of promotional material take place in the second half of the year based on the obtained results.

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
Phone Call Costs	80	80	0	
Material of the Office	80	80	0	
Translation costs	80	80	0	
Honorarium for the coordinator of the project	381	381	0	

Honorarium for the collaborators on the project	163	163	0	
Binoculars	120	146.50	+26.50	We received a better offer of binoculars which were of better quality but more expensive.
GPS	180	189	+9	The other provider has different price.
Telescope	180	174	-6	The price has changed.
Camera	409	379.50	-29.50	We have managed to find a cheaper offer. The money which had been saved was used to buy more expensive binoculars and GPS.
Food costs on the terrain	184	281	+97	Extra expenses for food due to the necessity for more intense field research in the second half of the year.
The production of info boards	722	722	0	
Info leaflets	286	286	0	
Posters	361	361	0	
Seedlings	390	390	0	
Material for the bird houses	361	361	0	
Media promotion of the project	200	200	0	
The elaboration of the study and report	30	30	0	
Costs for overnight and accommodation on the terrain	72	72	0	
Fuel costs for terrain research and for promotion of the project	710	892	+182	Extra expenses for petrol due to the necessity for more intense field research in the second half of the year.
TOTAL	4989	5268	+279*	

**The difference in the amount of money (from the old budget plan) was used for extra petrol and food costs due to the necessity for more intense and more frequent field research in the second half of the year.*

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

It is important to continue the monitoring of key species in collaboration with students or through projects of non-governmental organisations and institutes, and to carry out projects that will be based on habitat restoration through a variety of programmes. Since in the valley of the Bosna River, projects of construction of embankments, small hydroelectric power plants and highway have been planned, it is necessary to develop the possibility of the exclusion of important areas for birds and

leaving a certain area of wilderness that could be used for the restoration of natural ecosystems. We will take part in developing projects of local communities with which we have established cooperation with the aim of developing eco-tourism at the researched locations and their surroundings.

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?

Rufford Foundation logo has been used on info-leaflets, posters and all three information boards. The logo has also been shown in the news related to the project on websites of tourist organisations. Financial assistance of Rufford Foundation has been mentioned in the coverage of the project realization in daily newspapers.

11. Any other comments?

We owe gratitude to the Rufford Foundation for financial support and understanding. With this project we have started a lot and what is most important we have strengthened our capacities. From these results, many other ideas have arisen and we also gained a lot of experience and made contacts with experts. We are looking forward to further collaboration.

