

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	Uros Pantovic
Project title	Survey and conservation of ecologically valuable limestone gorges in Serbia
RSG reference	11485-1
Reporting period	April 2012 – April 2013
Amount of grant	£5788
Your email address	pantovic_uros@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	March, 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
Field research of 10 selected gorges regarding flora and bird, bat and butterfly fauna			Yes	Our team has conducted thorough biodiversity research of flora, bird, and butterfly and bat fauna in all selected sites.
Conservation of limestone gorges through processing, analysing and publishing collected data and ensuring their availability for all interested parties			Yes	Project results have been published in Serbian nature magazines and local newspapers. Project report has been posted on Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia web site. All collected data was made available for Nature Conservation Institute of Serbia.
Conservation of limestone gorges through negotiation with local authorities, stakeholders and landowners, and through educational activities of local communities			Yes	We have organised meetings with local authorities and educational lectures in communities surrounding our work sites, explaining the relevance of our work. Also we have organised a study tour for schoolchildren where we directly explained the ecological impacts and changes that follow hydropower dam construction.
Media campaign			Yes	During the project we have informed the public of our work through local newspapers, television and radio stations.

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

We have had some difficulties with transportation, due to lack of proper field vehicles, to some sites which are not easily accessible. This was solved by assistance of people from local communities.

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

During our project we have gained significant insight into distribution and population size of various species, especially rare and endangered species. We were able to single out the most important threats to biodiversity of limestone gorges in general, as well as threats that are characteristic for individual species. This will greatly influence and guide our future conservation work. One of the most rewarding outcomes of this project for us was establishing very good cooperation with people from local communities, especially with those that live in remote villages near our work areas. Their understanding of our conservation work and their aid in accommodation, transportation and field guidance was a great motivation for us.

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

People from local communities took participation in field work, by providing guidance and logistical support, and educational activities. They benefitted, through our educational work, by realising the advantages of protected nature and the ecosystem services it can provide, and by realising the potentials of ecotourism and sustainable management of these areas in general.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Our plan for the near future is to focus our work on several species that are most threatened by human activity. Also, we plan to continue monitoring these and other limestones gorges in general, and continue lobbying for conservation of valuable limestone gorges in Serbia.

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

We have shared our ongoing progress with members of several NGOs, local and national, faculty staff and staff from the Nature Conservation Institute of Serbia. We will present our project results at the annual meeting on Bird Protection and study Society of Serbia (BPSSS), and publish project information in their journals. Project report will be posted on BPSSS web site. We plan to find additional funding for publishing a study of ten researched gorges and distribute them to various stakeholders.

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

The project was implemented from April 2012 until March 2013. This is in a line with the project proposal.

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
Backpacks	320	320	0	
Camping tents for two persons	360	360	0	
Sleeping bags	256	256	0	
Climbing ropes	164	164	0	
Security belt - harness	272	272	0	
Security helmets	72	72	0	
Head lamp	256	256	0	
Mist-nets for bats	160	164	+ 4	Price has changed a bit.
Plastic bags for sampling	300	297	- 3	Price has changed a bit.
Plastic cups for sampling	360	360	0	
Butterfly catcher	18	17,6	- 0.4	
Binocular microcope	350	350	0	
Food costs	400	400	0	

Costs of printing of brochure	960	1140	+ 180	Additional funding from municipality of Cacak.
Design and printing of project t-shirts	400	600	+ 200	Additional finding from municipality of Pozega.
Travelling costs for project team during surveys	830	830	0	
Travelling cost media campaign	160	160	0	
Costs of media campaign and final press conference	150	150	0	
Total:	5788	6168.6	380.6	

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

Through the course of the project we were able to define future guidelines for our conservation work. Our plan is to continue biodiversity research of limestone gorges, monitor population dynamics, especially of endangered species, and to continue promoting and lobbying for their legal protection. We will continue to work together with local NGOs and local governments in conducting educational activities and fieldwork. These future steps will some more funding, and we will try to acquire more funds in Serbia as well as abroad.

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?

Yes. We used the RSGF logo on project T-shirts and leaflets. Also, we have used the logo in all presentations, during the educational and promotional activities of the project. We have promoted conservation efforts of RSGF in all newspaper articles about our project and meetings of conservation NGOs. This might lead to increase of project proposals to RSGF from Serbia and countries around.

11. Any other comments?

On behalf of our project team and all participants of the project I would like to thank you for your support of our conservation project. I look forward to continuing working with you in the near future to our mutual satisfaction.