

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Dr Igor Prokofev
<b>Project title</b>	Creation of sustainable partnership for conservation of bats in western Russia
<b>RSG reference</b>	11984-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	April – September 2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5957
<b>Your email address</b>	igor.prokofyev@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	17/09/2013

**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
<p>Attracting local communities and other stakeholders in bat conservation activity and monitoring through expanding Bat Conservation Alliance</p>			V	<p>We created a partnership between local communities and stakeholders through workshops and involving them in bat monitoring (as volunteers). We involved new groups of volunteers in new regions of western Russia. We attracted people in bat conservation activity through distribution knowledge about importance of bats, bat-friendly gardens, and others. We stimulated participants to protect bats and to be “Bat Keepers” in local area. In partnership with leaders of local communities, scientists and stakeholders recommendation for bat conservation was developed.</p> <p>We conducted seven training workshops for volunteers, group’s leaders from local communities on bat monitoring and conservation. About 200 people participated in our workshops. Expert group (scientists, representatives of local communities, volunteers) worked out recommendations for local communities and bat friendly groups for bat conservation.</p> <p>We distributed the idea “Bat Keepers” for involving individuals and groups in bat conservation in their local area. Now there are 35 Bat Keepers in different communities.</p>
<p>To eliminate a lack of knowledge of the distribution, habitat preferences and population trends of bats in western Russia.</p>			V	<p>We recorded ultrasonic echolocation calls of bats using bat detectors. During project, we made about 120 hours of sound files. It was analysed using BatSound and Sonobat software. We used a recently developed ensemble artificial neural network tool for species identification from the echolocation calls (developed by ZSL). This project helped us create big database on distribution 14 species of bats. About 75% of base is new information on distribution of species. We found new habitats of five</p>

				<p>species from National and Regional Red Data Books. Except recordings of ultrasonic calls, we used mist-netting and roost surveys.</p> <p>Our analysis of the data collected during the last 5 years has demonstrated that the number of bats is reduced. But it is a preliminary result. In the coming months we will make strict statistical analysis of the data that will allow us to make reliable conclusions. Ecological modelling helped us to find three areas that are important for the conservation of local populations of bats. We identified factors that influence the spatial distribution of bats: the average annual temperature, type of vegetation, loss of natural habitats. In some areas, bats are more common near the settlements than in the wild. Analysis of collected data continues. The result of the analysis will be several scientific articles and research reports for the public and professionals.</p>
<p>To increase awareness among the general public on the ecological importance of bats and the need to protect them.</p>			V	<p>We raised the profile of bats by organising 15 events to raise awareness about bats and through two radio interview and four magazine articles. In addition, we developed and publish education materials for use in schools. Our working group worked out and discussed with stakeholders recommendation for local communities on bat conservation.</p> <p>We prepared and published leaflets, posters and banners for information campaign.</p> <p>In August 2012 and 2013 we organised 10 public events for Celebration of the European Bat Night.</p>

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

Unfortunately, the idea to study and protect the bats are not popular among the richest men in Russia. They did not willingly decide to take part in a discussion about the need to protect the bats. A good result gives the involvement of children in the study and protection of bats. Children are interested in bats; they involve in the protection of bats well as their parents.

Another problem - it is the poor state of volunteer cars. Many cars cannot drive on bad roads. But we plan routes transect across the road with asphalt. Very few volunteers have cars, which are passable.

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

1. We conducted seven training workshops for volunteers, group's leaders from local communities on bat monitoring and conservation. About 200 people participated in our workshops. Expert group (scientists, representatives of local communities, volunteers) worked out recommendations for local communities and bat friendly groups for bat conservation. 35 Bat Keepers in different communities are active in bat conservation. **This activity created a partnership between local communities and stakeholders through workshops and involving them in bat monitoring and conservation.** This partnership formed as the Bat Conservation Alliance. This is sustainable base for conservation of bats.
2. **This project helped us to create big database on distribution of 14 species of bats.** About 75% of base is new information on distribution of species. We found new habitats of five species from National and Regional Red Data Books. Our analysis of the data collected during the last 5 years has demonstrated that the number of bats reduced. But it is a preliminary result. In the coming months we will make strict statistical analysis of the data that will allow us to make reliable conclusions. Ecological modelling helped us to find 3 areas that are important for the conservation of local populations of bats. We identified factors that influence the spatial distribution of bats: the average annual temperature, type of vegetation, loss of natural habitats. In some areas, bats are more common near the settlements than in the wild. Analysis of collected data continues. The result of the analysis will be several scientific articles and research reports for the public and professionals.
3. **About 900 people raised awareness about bats.** Two radio interviews and four magazine articles, education materials for schools, recommendation for local communities on bat conservation, leaflets, posters and banners for information campaign were tools in our activity for public awareness. Many people changed their opinion about bats. Before project, some people were enemy for bats. After project, they became friends of bats.

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

Local communities have been our major contributors. All the activities of the project focused onto the local community. Volunteers from the local community participated in the monitoring and gathering data about bats. Volunteers provide their cars for free. Children from the local schools and their parents took an active part in our events.

We have drawn the attention of local farmers, of the local rural communities that they benefit from the conservation of bats. Bats consume many pests. These unique animals help farmers and gardeners to reduce the amount of pesticides. Local communities know that bats protect them from mosquitoes at night. Many local residents decided to install the boxes for bats on their homes or gardens. Bats conservation is beneficial to the local communities!

### 5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The next step in our work - analysis and publication of the results of bats monitoring for the last 5 years. We accumulated a large database on the distribution of bats. Now we must make a serious scientific analysis. The group of experts will help do that.

We're going to continue to look for important areas for the conservation of bats. These areas are in need of the protection of local communities. We must help them to work out management plan for bats conservation.

We've noticed that a lot of bats inhabit in the big cities. Unfortunately, there are very few studies of bats in urban areas. We want to study the diversity of bats in the cities and trend changes in their numbers.

Unfortunately, the movement of "citizen scientists" is not distributed in Russia. There are many people who want to study the nature. But they are not scientists. The experience of other countries in the development of the movement of citizen scientists is very successful. We want to initiate a movement in Russia for the involvement of many people in the study not only bats, but other objects of nature.

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

We have two types of results: the data on the distribution of bats (database) and the experience of involving local communities in the conservation of bats. Database will be analysed, research conclusions will be made too. These results will be distributed among the scientific community through articles in scientific magazines, through scientific conferences. The database is open to other researchers through the Bat Conservation Alliance. Report on the analysis of the data will be prepared and distributed among stakeholders. We already published three articles about preliminary results. We made two presentations at conferences. One of the reports was made during the 3rd International Berlin Bat Meeting, 1st-3rd March 2013.

Our experience in the field of involvement of local community in bats conservation will distributed through Bat Conservation Alliance, workshops for NGOs, articles in magazines and newsletters for NGOs.

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

The project began in August 2012 and ended in August 2013. Anticipated duration of the project - 12 months. The actual length of the project - 12 months. Thus, the actual length correspond to the anticipated.

**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
Monitoring routes (40)	1880	1880	0	
Transport expenses	360	360	0	
Brochures	1500	1500	0	
Posters	900	900	0	
Workshops for volunteers (Travel expenses)	610	610	0	
Workshops for volunteers (Photocopy)	150	150	0	
Workshops for volunteers (Lunch)	405	405	0	

Workshops for volunteers (Supplies)	152	152	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	5959	<b>5957</b>	0	

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

We are sure that initiation and development of the citizen scientists movement need for sustainable conservation and study of bats in Russia. This movement should unite lovers of nature in different regions, to create suitable environment for the participation of people in the collection of data on animals and plants. The UK experience is very useful. Citizen scientists are important not for monitoring, but for biodiversity conservation too.

**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, of course. We used the RSGF logo on printed materials (brochures, posters, flyers). We used the RSGF logo during our events as well. We informed the participants of the project that the fund supported our activities.

**11. Any other comments?**

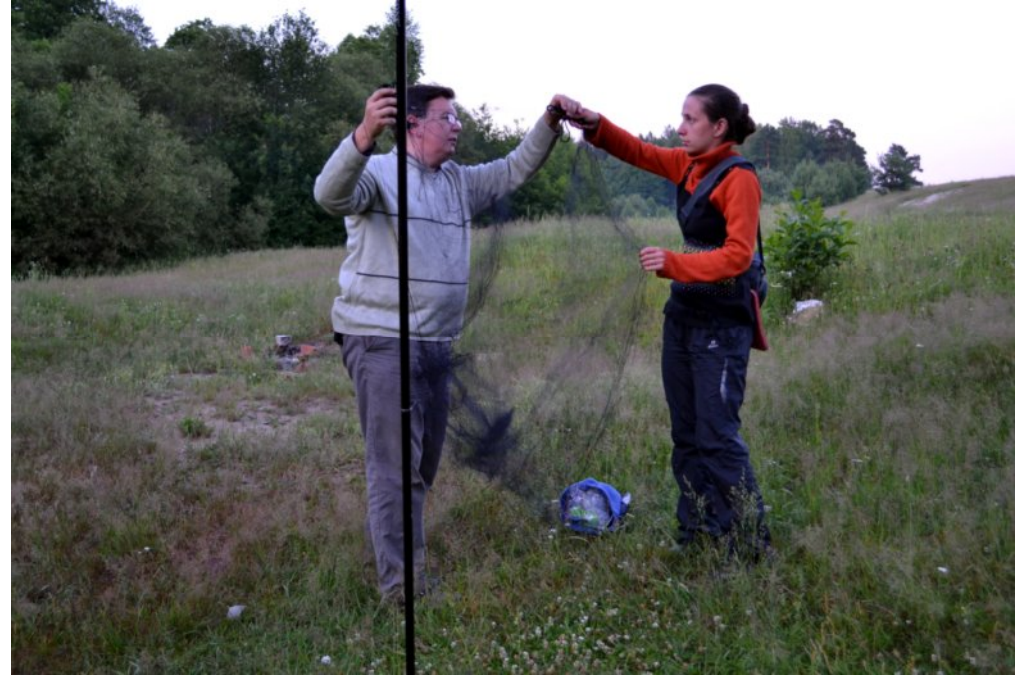
We would like to say thank you very much for all people, who participate in this project. In particular, acknowledgements are due to the following:

- Dr Kate Jones, International coordinator of the International Indicator Bats Program, The Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, UK
- Dr Jon Russ, iBats Program Manager, the Bat Conservation Trust, UK
- Aleksandr Gorbachev, Data Analyst in Project
- Dr Natalia Vyshegorodskih, the Orel University
- Oleg Zavarzin, Natalia Koryagina, Tatiana Prokofyeva, Viktoria Grib, Evgenia Isaeva, Rizvan Efendiev, Zarema Efendieva, volunteers















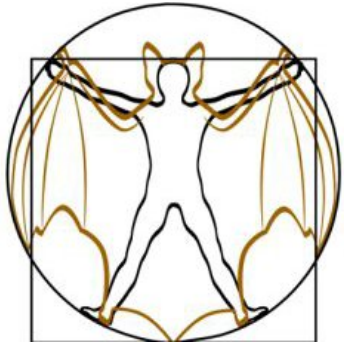
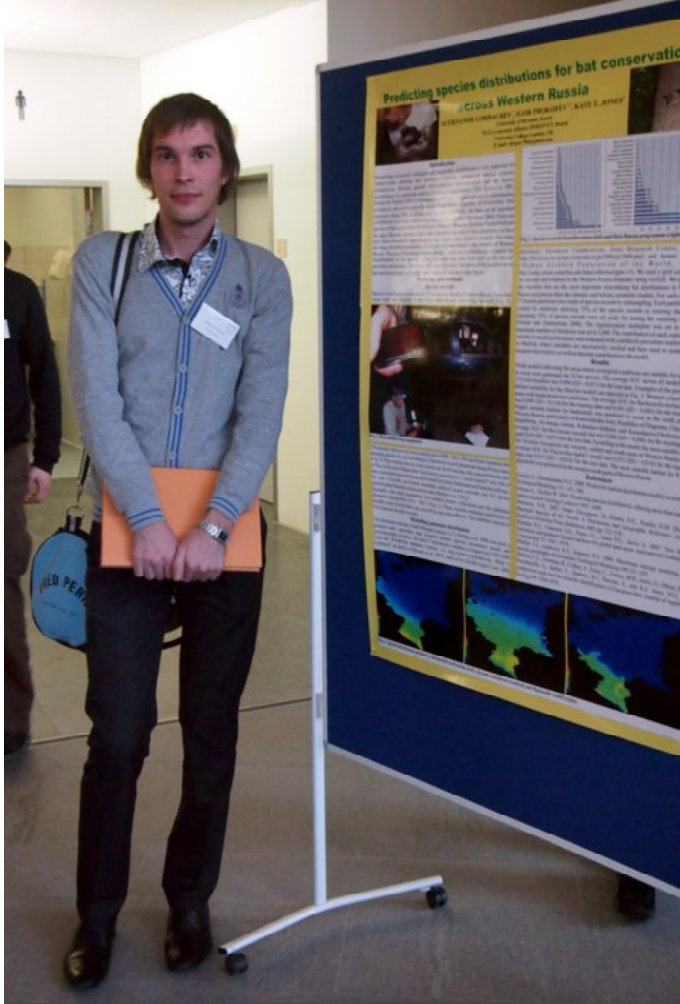












3rd International Berlin Bat Meeting: Bats in the Anthropocene