

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	Igor Trivic
Project title	Protection and Identification of Bird Species Along the Sava River Floodplains
RSG reference	12387-2
Reporting period	01.04.2014 – 30.04.2015
Amount of grant	£5700
Your email address	tri_ig@yahoo.com
Date of this report	10.06.2015

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
Continuance of monitoring of white storks and the number of birds in all of the territory of Municipality of Gradiska			Achieved	
Implemented the first bird census along the Sava River floodplains			Achieved	Despite the heavy floods which hit a large part of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the area where the project was being implemented, all the field activities have been implemented with success.
Designed interactive application with all of the information on stork's within the Municipality of Gradiska		Partly achieved		During the project, a part of the activity has been successfully completed. A website has been developed with information on white storks, and the birds of the Sava region. Due to technical characteristics and increase in the price of software development regarding a responsive application, currently the app was replaced by a mobile responsive web site, and activities regarding mobile app will be continued in the future.

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

In May 2014 catastrophic floods have hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Municipality of Gradiska where the project activities took place. Because of this fact certain project activities, such as the installation of white stork nest carriers and field activities regarding the bird census, have been temporarily postponed. Despite this, in the later stage of the project all of the planned activities were fully implemented with high quality.

Another problem that the project team faced is the increase of the market price in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the development of the mobile app, which was caused by high technical specification, the amount of data and the responsiveness of the app itself. Due to this, the project team has decided to develop a mobile responsive web site, which can be used on mobile devices as well. In addition, the international SpringAlive (www.springalive.net/world) campaign was used during 2014 to promote the results of the project and to assist us during the bird species identification within the local community.

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

Main outcome of the project are:

- 1. Yearly report of monitoring of the white stork** – report was part of Bosnia and Herzegovina national report to BirdLife International.
- 2. Protected white stork nests** - The nests are protected on the electric poles by setting up carriers (instalment of four nest carriers). This will lead to reducing the number of injured young.
- 3. Report on first bird census along Sava River** - Between May 2014 and April 2015 research on a monthly basis was made in order to collect data about birds in that region, as well as to provide recommendations for the conservation. Based on available data, so far it's obvious that Sava floodplains are playing key role during bird's spring and autumn migrations. The aim of the research was to collect data on birds diversity of the area, their distribution, potential threats and to determine next steps in this long-term vision for conservation of bird's and their habitats. During the research, 54 bird species were recorded and are listed. Some of them are common and widely spread, but certain number of species e.g. storks (white and black), golden oriole, Montagu's harrier, night heron, hawfinch, etc.

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

At the very activity of monitoring, local residents addressed to us with the new information on the field and it they directly helped us in locating the nests.

For second time in last 3 years, a special contribution of involvement with the local community is also an involvement of the Electric Distribution Company, which recognised the importance of protecting the white storks. In coordination with Electric Distribution Company we worked on the identification of the nest for protection. Set the nest carriers were carried out by Electric Distribution Company.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We plan to continue with promoting and raising awareness among local population about the importance of preserving biodiversity and natural habitats, and where we will put special attention on the development of eco-tourism and bird watching.

The further work on the development of the web site as a promotion and information sharing tools will be continued as well as the work on the development of the mobile app. We will insist on the popularisation and continue to promote the River Sava as an attractive biological and ornithological destination.

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

All our activities are promoted through local media and, our website and social media. Our monitoring results are regularly sent to the national network for tracking white storks in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, as a part of the project, publications were made and distributed to the local population.

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

The project lasted for the period April 2014 - April 2015.

Certain deviations of the original project activities timeframe appeared in the first part of the project implementation due to the devastating floods which hit Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 2014. This largely influenced the implementation of the field activities, and it was necessary to invest additional financial funds to cover the longer period of field activities implementation. These additional funds were obtained from our own resources and invested in 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
Project leader	1000	1000	0	
Assistant project leader	800	800	0	
Transport cost (fuel and car)	400	600	- 200	Because of the longer duration of the project caused by floods we were forced to spend more fuel for off-road outings. We covered this budget item from our own contribution funds.
Work-field cost	400	600	- 200	Because of the longer duration of the project caused by floods we were forced to spend more fuel for off-road outings. We covered this budget item from our own contribution funds.
Nest carriers	1000	1000	0	
Ecologist/Ornithologists	1000	1000	0	
Photo camera	500	500	0	
Development of Web/Mobile Application	1500	1500	0	
Administrative costs	400	400	0	
TOTAL	7000	7400	400	

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

It will be necessary to maintain a continuous monitoring of white stork population, as regular activities in our community.

As part of our future plans, we find it important to present and promote birdwatching tourism in the region, as a potential solution for the protection of biodiversity and preservation of natural habitats.

It is also necessary to additionally promote River Sava, and its floodplains as tourist attractions within the region.

It will be necessary to directly involve the local population in the bird watching and monitoring activities in the upcoming period in order to raise awareness of the local population in a more interactive way. One of the ways to do this is to provide basic infrastructure for birdwatching and ecotourism, such as observation points, small boats and basic technical equipment.

One of the main target groups regarding promotion in the upcoming period will be elementary school students. The birdwatching activities will serve as an extra curriculum activities or as a form of outdoor class.

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 logo with guidelines that RSGF forwarded to us. Also in all the media coverage we have mentioned RSGF as a donor of the project.