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	Qenan Maxhuni
Project title	Preliminary bird inventory in Kosovo
RSG reference	12894-1
Reporting period	February 2013 – March 2014
Amount of grant	£5900
Your email address	qmaxhuni@yahoo.com
Date of this report	4th May 2014

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
Preliminary birds' inventory in Kosovo			✓	Since it was the first project in this field in country level, our multidisciplinary team conducted investigations in the majority of Kosovo territory, with focus on protected areas because they are richer with species than other sites. During this preliminary inventory we recorded about 40 new bird species (related to our knowledge) and together with before recognised species (about 180 bird species) now we have about 220 species. Our observations go on and after breeding season of spring 2014, we wait for new records. We estimate total species number in Kosova, around 300 species. We will need additional support and new observation.
Creating a database for birds' species in Kosovo			✓	We created for the first time the webpage with Kosovo birds (www.birdsofkosova.com) and another one in Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Zogjte-e-Kosoves-Birds-of-Kosova/). This webpage has a public access for everybody in order to publish their data on this database.
Developing a list with local bird species			✓	We prepared the list of Kosovo birds. They are also compared with IUCN Red List, BERN and CITES Conventions. We are in the way to prepare also for the first time the book with entitles "Birds of Kosova" which will be published during this year (according to KEPA working plan). We will include in the book also a section that specifies potential threats and potential conservation actions for those species.
The teamwork, and local people, gained experience from this project for raising the skills in bird identification		✓		Since we didn`t have before any project related to bird's research and monitoring there wasn`t such information about birds and for this reason the level of interesting was not in satisfy level like in the end of this project.

and other issue in this field.				
Education of primary school students.			✓	After field studies and photography, posters on Kosovo birds has been prepared and sent to representative schools. Presentation has been made together with students and it was very good experience for them to get more information about common birds who lives in their region.

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

Overall, the project went on well and there were no major difficulties in achieving the proposed objectives. However, identification of some bird species sometimes was issue for the team since this was the first project in this field, except for the expert ornithologist.

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

- The final list with Kosovo bird species, comparative with IUCN Red List, BERN and CITES Convention.
- Education of primary school students. After field studies, posters on Kosovo birds has been sent to representative schools and presentation was made together with students
- Publication of book entitles "Birds of Kosovo" with data of bird species, their distribution, reproductive status (resident birds, winter migratory, breeding migratory, visitors or transit birds and accidentally bird species) which will be published in this year.

These results represent foundation for argumentation that there is need for future research in this field. Since this was the first project concerning inventory of wild bird species this will contribute to the protection and easier studying of certain species' biology. Very soon we plan to open a birdwatcher club/community and gain and educate new birdwatchers under this club.

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

During implementation of this project it was a very good experience of working with the local communities. They were very interested to cooperate with as, mostly young peoples.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In Kosovo are a lot of needs to be done for the conservation of Kosovo birds. We have a plan to continue this work by systematic monitoring, but any kind of support will be welcome to engage as much as we can young peoples to work in the field by monitoring, identification and protection of bird species.

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

This final report of RSG project will be submitted to The Rufford Small Grants Foundation. Copies of this report will be sent to the KEPA, local NGOs, state university departments, faculties and scientists sharing common research interests. This report will be published also in created website whereas other data will be processed for drafting research papers that will be published in reputed journals and also in the books with Kosovo bird species.

They will create online database also for public participation in the filling of this data base (e.g. a white stork everybody knows and everybody could provide online data on this). There will be a public access for everybody to the data base in order that everybody can have immediate information from that database.

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

February 2013 – March 2014 as originally proposed.

The anticipated period of using RSG was appropriate for as even those prolonging of this period could be more productive in order to gather more information from the field work.

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.

The Euro is the official currency of Kosovo. The exchange rate is: £1 = € 1.23 EUR Euro

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
The engagement of one ornithologist	1000	1000	0	
Field and overnight stays costs	1000	1000	0	
Car and fuel	2500 (KEPA)	3000 (KEPA)	-500	*(responsibility of our Agency)*
Professional camera: Canon EOS 7D Digital SLR Camera	1200	1150	-50	I managed to buy camera little cheaper and that difference was spent on lens buying.
Zoom Lens Canon EF 100-400mm f4.5-5.6L IS USM Telephoto for Canon SLR Cameras	1200	1250	+50	Since there wasn`t the proposed lens, we bought Canon EF 400mm f/5.6L USM Super Telephoto Zoom Lens, which was better one. The price was little higher, but we used the rest of money from camera.
Binocular: 10x42, 2 pieces	500	500	0	

Ocular for scopes: Swarovski ATM STM 85 High Definition (Magnesium) Spotting Scopes	200 (MESP)	400 (MESP)	+200	The proposed price was far from real price but we managed to compensate it from our budget. *(responsibility of our Agency)*
Mist nets	100 (MESP)	100 (MESP)	0	*(responsibility of our Agency)*
Clothes	500	500	0	
Preparation, design, pressing and translation of publication	2500 (MESP)	2500 (MESP)	0	In procedure of preparation for publication depends of working plan of our Agency *(responsibility of our Agency)*
Database creation and administration	500	500	0	
Total	**11200**	**5300**	**300***	

*The difference in the amount of money (from the old budget plan) was used for extra petrol due to the necessity for more intense and more frequent field research in the end of project and also for some equipment.

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

Looking ahead, I feel that following areas needs immediate attention:

1. Awareness raising campaign for bird research and protection with students and local community.
2. Continue the monitoring of key bird species.
3. State level mapping of endangered birds' species is an urgent need.

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 did it in our website, poster with birds and later also we will do it in the publication of the booklet Kosovo birds.

11. Any other comments?

I thought this project has opened the way to other projects in this field. Also, the cooperation with nongovernmental organisations, especially with NGO Eko Viciana, has pushed as working together. Overall, it had been a wonderful experience to cooperate with your organization.

We owe gratitude to the Rufford Foundation especially Jane Raymond for financial support. With this project we have started to work seriously in this way and strengthening our capacities. From these results, many other ideas have arisen, and we also gained a lot of experience and made contacts with experts and local communities. We are looking forward to further collaboration.