

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Andriy-Taras Bashta
<b>Project title</b>	Bats and forestry in the Carpathians (Ukraine): capacity building for bat conservation
<b>RSG reference</b>	13644-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	October 2013-March 2015
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£11850
<b>Your email address</b>	atbashta@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	25.04.2015

**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
<p>Developing and obtaining new bat-friendly and improved skills by foresters and forestry students as future foresters</p>			yes	<p>Lectures, seminars and field courses were conducted for students of forestry depts. of different forestry educational organisations (universities, institutes and colleges). Totally 12 lectures, six field courses for 217 students (see Attachments with some letters of acknowledgement).</p> <p>Ten workshops and five field courses for administrative bodies and staff of different forestry units (167 persons) in the Ukrainian Carpathians have been carried out.</p> <p>Range of advisory and educational materials have been published and distributed: posters and calendars about forest bats and the necessity of their conservation in the Ukrainian Carpathians.</p>
<p>Designing an improved bat-friendly forestry educational programme and introduction of this programme into the educational courses for foresters</p>			yes	<p>Bat-friendly forestry educational programme for students of forestry high schools of Ukraine was designed. During the lectures, seminars and field training we tested and improved this programme for education of future foresters.</p> <p>Agreements with staff of some educational institutions have been made concerning the introduction of this programme into the forestry courses and using it during the educational process (both in lectures and field practices).</p>
<p>Further elaboration and practical implementation of bat-friendly measures in forestry practice in the Eastern Carpathians</p>			yes	<p>Technical manual, providing information about bat species, bat conservation and bat friendly forest habitats management was published and distributed to the stakeholders.</p> <p>Workshops and field training of staff and seminars for administrative bodies and staff (totally 167 persons) of the different forester units as well as range of workshops and field training for the staff (including foresters; totally about 140 persons) of nature-protected areas of the Ukrainian Carpathians area.</p>

Establishment of a “Bat Call Centre” for the solution of critical situation and problems with bats in forestry as well as elimination of “bat-human” conflicts			yes	“Bat Call Centre” was established and worked successfully. During the project realisation period (18 months) the Centre received about 50 calls asking how to resolve critical situations and problems with bats, especially in autumn and winter periods. Majority of causes were solved successfully.
Long-term monitoring of bat population in selected localities and roosts to assess the quantitative and qualitative dynamics and population state of bats			yes	Database concerning the bat distribution and bat roosts localisation have been improved and updated in the Ukrainian Carpathians area. Considerable amounts of data have been received about forest bats, their distribution and ecology. Monitoring of bat population in selected localities and roosts has been continued to assess the quantitative and qualitative dynamics and population state of bats in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

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

Start of project realisation was slightly shifted because of critical situation in Ukraine in winter 2013-2014. However, despite this, all the activities and tasks were fulfilled according to the plan and within the project timeframe.

Heads of some forest administrations were sceptical about the proposals of training courses, but after fruitful discussions and clarifications the trainings were successful.

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

1. Start of constructive dialogue with foresters concerning the necessity of forest bat conservation was one of the most important results of the project.
2. Developing and obtaining new bat-friendly and improved skills by foresters and forestry students during the range of lectures and trainings will lead to an increased level of forest bat protection in the Ukrainian Carpathians area.
3. We have carried out bat research and monitoring with the key outcome being the creation of a base and network for a long-term monitoring programme in which there was high level of participation by foresters.

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

The majority of foresters and nature-protected areas staff members who were attending our seminars and training belonged to local communities. They actively participated in discussions during workshops. Hence, it is likely that information about forest bats and their importance spread

both in forest areas and human settlements. So, the members of local communities will have direct benefit from increasing bat diversity and populations and decreases in number of mosquitoes. Educational material helped to improve attitude towards bats and enhance the level of awareness of the importance of bats and their conservation.

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

We agreed with a range of administrations of nature-protected areas, forestry and educational organisations about continuation of our workshops and field training concerning forest bats and their conservation. Due to established cooperation some of forestry organisations proposed the financial support for production and hanging of bat boxes on their territories.

We plan to introduce the elaborated bat-friendly forestry programme into educational courses for foresters as widely as possible in Ukraine.

Also, we plan to continue all of our research, monitoring and conservation programmes on bats in the Ukrainian Carpathians and the rest of Ukraine, as it is proven to be efficient. We will seek grants from the Rufford Foundation and other international conservation agencies to support this work.

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

The information generated during the project and published materials will be distributed amongst stakeholders (forestry agencies, local communities, nature-protected areas) in the area of the Ukrainian Carpathians and the rest of Ukraine. It helps to increase the level of knowledge among appropriate persons and organisations.

Workshops and training courses will be conducted in forestry and educational organisations, nature-protected areas not yet involved in this programme etc.

The results of the project will be shared with others by presenting the results at scientific conferences and workshops and by publication of project results in scientific and popular literature.

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

The project was implemented from October 2013 until March 2015. The grant was fully used during the 18 months of project implementation period.

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in J sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

From previous experiences of holding Rufford small grants we closely monitored cost expenditure. To avoid the fluctuation of local currency we kept the grant costs mainly in £ sterling, as it helped us to monitor the planned budget.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Office space	485	485		

Travel & subsistence	5825	5885	+60	Additional costs obtained from publisher discount.
Equipment & consumables	4370	4370		
Publications	1170	1110	-60	Because of number of published material, the publisher decided to give some discount for our project. The costs have been used for the field works.
<b>Total</b>	<b>11850</b>	<b>11850</b>		

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

We believe that the results of this project would be very important for conservation of forest bats and implementation of bat-friendly practices in all the forested areas of Ukraine. Therefore, we will aim to extend our experience as widely as possible, by cooperating with forestry organisations, local governments and NGOs. Our goal is to continue conserving bats in Ukraine by monitoring their populations, implement bat-friendly forest practices, educational activities, media campaigns and ecotourism development. We will work closely with all appropriate stakeholders, focusing on foresters, local governments and communities.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes. The logo was used on all published materials – posters, calendars etc (see photo in Attachment). All the published materials will be sent to the Rufford Foundation office. We used the Rufford Foundation logo in all presentations given during the lectures and workshops.

**11. Any other comments?**

Our team wants to thank the Foundation for understanding and supporting of our project. We are looking forward to continue working with you in the near future.