

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Uros Pantovic
Project title	Conservation of biodiversity through designation and promotion of new IBAs in Serbia
RSG reference	15549-2
Reporting period	May 2014 - May 2015
Amount of grant	£4683
Your email address	pantovic_uros@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	June 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
Methodological field research of breeding bird fauna in three selected mountainous regions in SW Serbia.			Yes.	Our project team has successfully conducted methodological research of bird fauna during two breeding seasons, in 2014 and 2015.
Conservation of biodiversity of mountainous regions of Jadovnik, Ozren and Giljeva through processing, analysing and publishing collected relevant scientific data and ensuring their availability for all interested parties			Yes.	The objectives and results of this project have been published in local newspapers and are pending for publishing in ecological magazines "Ekolist" and "Detlic". All collected data has been made available to the Nature Conservation Institute of Serbia.
Conservation of biodiversity of mountainous regions of Jadovnik, Ozren and Giljeva through cooperation with local environmental CSOs, local governments, various stakeholders and through conduction of educational lectures in local communities.			Yes.	Through this project were have organised series of educational lectures in local communities, stressing out the potentials and significance of nature conservation through the important bird and biodiversity areas and how local communities can benefit from numerous ecological services that these areas can provide.
Promotion of nature conservation through media campaign.				During the course of the project we have informed the public of our efforts through local newspapers, television and radio stations.
Methodological field research of breeding bird fauna in three selected mountainous regions in SW Serbia.			Yes.	Our project team has successfully conducted methodological research of bird fauna during two breeding seasons, in 2014 and 2015.

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

During the course of the project in 2014 we had experienced great difficulties during the conduct of field research due to heavy rainfall and flooding throughout May and June. 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 environmental CSOs.

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

One of the most important outcomes of our project is the acquirement of relevant and current data regarding the distribution and population size of species that represent conservation priorities, both on national and European level. Also, one of the most important results of field research during this project is that our project team managed to register breeding range expansion of several species, such as the fieldfare, as well as new territories and breeding sites of several species, such as the Ural owl and corncrake, which represent conservation priorities. During the course of the project we have established very good cooperation with local communities, especially with nature conservation CSOs, who accompanied us during research activities and also during promotional and educational activities in their communities, which was vital for the successful completion of our project.

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

During the implementation of the project we have established very good cooperation with the people from local communities, especially with local nature conservation CSOs and mountaineering associations. They took part in field research and aided us greatly with certain logistic issues, such as transportation and accommodation. They benefitted significantly from our educational activities and participation in field research from which they obtained significant knowledge and better understanding of the importance of the IBA program and nature conservation, particularly in terms of ecosystem services that these areas provide and potentials of ecotourism development and organic agriculture. Also, we encouraged local CSOs and aided them in developing their project proposals for the local governments, as well as international nature conservation foundations.

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

Our plan for the future is to continue with the monitoring scheme that we developed during this project, during the next breeding season, and to develop a formal proposal for the designation of several new IBAs in Serbia. Priority during this research will be given to key species, which represent conservation priorities according to the IBA program.

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

During the course of the project we have shared our results with several environmental CSOs, both local and national, and with the Nature Conservation Institute of Serbia, which is the relevant government authority in nature conservation in Serbia. The results of our project will be presented to the ornithological public at the annual assembly of Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia (BPSSS). Project report will be published on BPSSS web site and research papers will be published in their ornithological journals as well as in the scientific journal of Nature Conservation Institute of Serbia. A paper relating to the significance of our project is also pending for publishing in ecological magazine "Ekolist", which relates to a wider variety of readers and interested parties.

**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 June 2014 until June 2015. 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
Mist-nets for birds (5 units)	293	295	+ 2	Price has changed a bit.
Scope (1 unit)	775	784	+ 9	Price has changed a bit.
Bird ringing (banding) pliers (2 units)	128	128	0	
Food costs	600	600	0	
Designer for brochure (22 GBP per working day)	44	44	0	
Reader (22 GBP per working day)	22	22	0	
Costs of promotional material (0.8 GBP per one copy)	800	920	+ 120	Additional funding from Municipality of Prijepolje.
Design and printing of project t-shirts	520	480	- 40	Price has changed a bit.
Traveling costs for all members of project team during surveys	1144	1144	0	
Traveling cost during the media campaign	147	147	0	
Costs of media campaign and final press conference	210	210	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4683</b>	<b>4774</b>	<b>91</b>	

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

Through the course of the project we were able to develop a successful monitoring scheme for our research areas that can be applied and continued in future research work in these areas and others. Our goal is to continue our research of these sites for at least one additional breeding season and to develop formal proposals for their future designation as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas. Also, guided by experience that we achieved through implementation of this project, we plan to expand this work in other parts of the country together with other environmental CSOs. We feel that we were able to transmit the importance of the IBA programme for biodiversity conservation and the role that they will have in the application of the Natura 2000 network in Serbia in the future.

**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 CSOs. This will definitely lead to an increase of project proposals to RSGF from Serbia and countries around, especially from smaller, more locally oriented CSOs.

**11. Any other comments?**

On behalf of our project team and all participants of the project I would like to thank you for your continued support of our conservation efforts and this project. The Rufford Foundation is in Serbia recognised as one of the most important organisations that offers support to young researchers and their conservation efforts. I look forward to continuing working with you in the near future to our mutual satisfaction.