

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Marina Radonjic
Project title	Conservation of the Balkan chamois: a case study from Durmitor and Prokletije national parks, Montenegro
RSG reference	20196-1
Reporting period	February 2017- February 2018
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	marina.djurovic84@gmail.com
Date of this report	23.02.2018.

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
To establish monitoring protocol for Balkan chamois in NP Prokletije and NP Durmitor				<p>Meeting with the students and with management of public enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro were held in order to inform and agree with them about main goals and expected results of this project.</p> <p>After agreements with management a workshop „Balkan chamois Conservation in NP Durmitor and NP Prokletije“ was done. 16 rangers, student representatives, directors from NP Durmitor and NP Prokletije were present and we discussing and analysed the best way to developed field protocol.</p> <p>The workshop also aimed to inform employees from the younger NP Prokletije on the activities that have been conducted by NP Durmitor in the past, in order to facilitate the organisation of activities in NP Prokletije in the next month.</p>
To inform and educate students and rangers monitoring activities				<p>Spring and autumn aspects of fieldwork were conducted as it was planned. Students and rangers had opportunity to apply field protocols. Due to fact that some rangers were overloaded they couldn't cover some smaller areas and Tara gorge, but that represents minority in comparison with covered areas.</p> <p>GIS training for young biologists, who worked with an expert on methodology of geographical presentation of data and meeting basic knowledge about habitat modelling, was done. During this training we also, check potential of habitats for Balkan chamois in Montenegro and we have measured population density.</p>
To promote Project and main results				Even part of this objective concerning organising "watching chamois and its

			<p>habitats for target groups (school population, biologist, local tourist agencies, reporters, ambassadors, representatives of EU delegation) Mart-October 2017" could not be done due to political changes which influenced on changing on management structure in protected areas, project was promoted trough other ways. Project was promoted on website and Facebook page of public enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro (http://www.nparkovi.me/sajt/aktuelno/709-radionice-u-cilju-uspjenijeg-monitoringa-divokoze-u-np-durmitor-i-prokletije & https://www.facebook.com/Nparkovi/posts/1419404974787830)</p> <p>This issue was very interesting for media and many local newspapers (http://portalanalitika.me/clanak/264971/arhiv) reported it and we also participate 20 minutes on national TV station „RTCG“ (Radio televizija Crne Gore) explaining importance of this ACTION:</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/Nparkovi/posts/1422371554491172</p> <p>Also, in small country as Montenegro the Facebook promotion turned out to be the most efficient tool to promote something. Since this are first results of scientifically based data they are very interested for general and scientific public. Data were presented on Facebook page od Montenegrin ecologists society too (https://www.facebook.com/drustvoekologa/photos/pcb.937133726454508/937133586454522/?type=3)Main information about project is prepared for presentation on web site of Montenegrin ecologist society but they will be shown as soon as sites gets new visualisation (it is under reconstruction) and will be connected with the Rufford site. In order to present main threats and conservation measures for chamois population to the relevant institutions</p>
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			<p>and organisations, a round table about importance of chamois and its habitats for protected areas (especially transboundary PAs) was held in Prokletije National Park with IUCN representatives, presidents of municipalities, general director of all Montenegrin NPs, director of touristic organisation, rangers, forest inspectors and 10 students.</p> <p>Promotional material with logo of Rufford Foundation has been prepared and disseminated (t-shirts for people who are involved in monitoring of chamois, educational material for wider public).</p> <p>Newsletter with more concrete information about status of chamois in Montenegro, which will be sent to all relevant governmental institutions after my master defence.</p>
To present main results to scientific public			<p>My study is accepted and available for public at University of Sarajevo from 15th February 2018 and part of main results from this project will be presented through my master thesis which will be defended on 27th March 2018, and results of this year fieldwork will be presented during final work of studies by one student (Dragana Tomovic) as contribution to monitoring of Balkan chamois in protected areas during 2018.</p>

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

During project implementation, changing of the management in the national parks due political changes was a real challenge and that put the shadow on some project activities (new management changing priorities). When it comes on monitoring these changes can be described as difficulties for the future research. Also, it was noticed that some rangers have difficulties to take even this simple protocol since their level of education is very low which could jeopardise implementation of conservation measures in protected areas. Namely, they are not capable to use GPS, to understand why monitoring of some endangered species is important and why surveys should be done systematically and every year, but with help of students on the field they improved their skills. It was noticed that awareness is not on the expected level also in the highest hierarchy and that could lead tomorrow to problems in implementation of conservation measures.

As NP Prokletije stood without manager due to political changes, that influenced on rising illegal activities which leads to zero data on chamois. By GIS analyses of habitat suitability for NP Prokletije, this NP can support at least 200 animals, but in 2017 there were no animals at all due to no established management, frequent poaching and fire caused by local people. It means that NP Prokletije even it is established before 9 years, we can still consider it as "paper park".

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

1. Four students and four rangers passed through all monitoring processes and they are ready to implement it.
2. By help of this project first data about status of Balkan chamois, information about habitats types and distribution were provided.
3. Very good communication with chamois researchers from the region was established.

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

All rangers are local people, they were involved during all project and they had opportunity to hear what monitoring of chamois in their national park means for conservation of nature and also how chamois is useful for mountain ecosystem. Also, they gave very good feedback during workshops and gave precious effort to jointly define transects used during fieldwork. This knowledge can improve their communication with visitors who want to see some wildlife in the national park.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This work represents foundation for future work on monitoring of Balkan chamois in protected area in Montenegro and starting better registration of threats on this species (since it is noticed that local people burning mountain pastures on purpose thinking that they will have better grass for cattle). Results of this research will be shared with national authorities in order to persuade them to support scientifically based national monitoring of Balkan chamois. Since very valuable data are collected, it is time to continue with rising awareness campaign.

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

Main results are already promoted through social networks and media. Presentation of main results will be presented on University of Podgorica and they are already publicly exposed on University of Sarajevo. Also, results will be presented to the relevant national institutions (ministries and public enterprise for the National Parks of Montenegro). At least one scientific paper will be prepared during 2018.

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

Project last from February 2017 to February 2018 and all grant was used it this period in accordance with planned activities. Only that activity which was refed to GIS training was implemented earlier (August) then it was planned (November/December) due to fact that GIS expert was available in that period.

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
Accommodation and food costs for field work	1,000	996	+4	Almost fully spent and rest is reallocated to budget lines where it was needed (binocular + GPS)
Travel expenses for field work	1,200	1,190	+10	Almost fully spent and rest is reallocated to budget lines where it was needed (binocular + GPS)
Fee for two engaged experts	1,200	1,200		Fully spent
Preparing and printing promotional material (leaflets, t-shirts)	300	300		Fully spent
GPS device	300	307	- 7	7.29 £ over the planed amount – reallocated from first two budget lines
Binocular	600	606	- 6	5.8£ over the planed amount – reallocated from first two budget lines
Fieldwork equipment for the work in the mountains	200	200		Fully spent
Round table organization costs	200	200		Fully spent
TOTAL	5,000	5,000		

NOTE: 5.000, 00£= 5.695,00€ => **1.00£=1.1390€**

Payment received on 13.02.2017. in the amount of 5.695,00€

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

Based on the analyses and results of this project, in order to preserve and better define the management measures for this species, it is recommended that further

and more detailed research be carried out at each site where the presence of the Balkan chamois is registered (23 places in whole of Montenegro), using the same method of monitoring (using case study from NP Durmitor), all in the function of obtaining clearer data on the number, gender and age structure, annual growth and possible negative impacts on these subpopulations which will lead to better implementation of conservation measures.

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?

Rufford logo was promoted through promotional material, presentations, social networks and media.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Marina Radonjic, project manager. **Stefan Ralevic**, assistant in Project, bachelor degree student of faculty of biology, member of Montenegrin Ecologists Society, had role in student selection for the field work and he will assist in field work activities, he implemented field work in NP Durmitor, Vasko Avukatov GIS expert from Macedonian Ecologists Society.

Arina Maraš, degree in ecology, associate for education and promotion from the Public enterprise of National Parks, she was helping in workshop preparation, round table, communication with employees in national parks and she was involve in preparation of promotional material and **Enes Dreskovic**, degree in agriculture, associate for fauna protection in NP Prokletije, he was in charged for organization field work in NP Prokletije+students which were involve during Project (**Milica Jovanovic, Dragana Tomic, Jovana Tomanic, Ilija Cetkovic**).

12. Any other comments?

I would like to thank Rufford Foundation for the support and for giving me opportunity to finalised the first picture about status of Balkan chamois in Montenegro and special thanks to Jane Raymond for fantastic communication.