Final Evaluation Report

We ask all grant recipients to complete a project evaluation that helps us to gauge the success of your project. This must be sent in **MS Word and not PDF 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 – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please DO NOT fill in and submit this form until the project has been completed.

Complete the form in English. Note that the information may be edited before posting on our website.

Please email this report to jane@rufford.org.

Your Details	
Full Name	Bojana Mijovic
Project Title	Mapping The Invasive Alien Plant Species and Establishing Biologer Platform for Biodiversity Data in Monetengro
Application ID	39853 - 1
Date of this Report	23/03/2024

1. 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
Setting Up Biologer Software for Montenegro			+	Biologer platform was successfully installed in April 2023.
Biologer promotion and workshop in Montenegro			+	Biologer promotion / workshop was successfully held in Podgorica at the beginning of May 2023.
Field researches and georeferencing literature data of IAPS within Biologer platform			+	Field research was conducted from July to November 2023 across the whole country. Literature data were georeferenced with the help of the relevant expert (a professor from University of Montenegro)
Summarizing all collected data about IAPS from the Biologer database			+	All available literature and field data were summarised during the creation of distribution maps.
Creation of distribution maps for target species and modeling their current and future distribution			+	Distribution maps for target species were completed. Modelling is still in progress for several species, since we waited for the expert revision of some field research (taxonomy issues mostly). Once completed, it's going to be published in form of the scientific paper. Within the project activities, we presented a few examples how it's going to look. Distribution maps and project results in general were presented to the relevant institutions and organisations at the end.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). First free and open online biodiversity database established in Montenegro.

b). First systematic mapping of the most common invasive alien plants done all over the country.

c). Distribution maps for most common invasive alien plants as first step/base for all future state IAS strategies.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

It looks like the people are still not ready to use the app for biodiversity data collection during their activities in nature or national / nature parks. During this project, we had a lot of promotional activities for all citizens and national park visitors. Still, the most common users of Biologer platform were biologists and some nature enthusiasts. We are going to continue to raise awareness among all people and encourage them to use the application.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

All citizens of Montenegro now have free and open platform for biodiversity data collection and review. In this way, citizen science can contribute and be helpful to the scientific, government and other relevant institutions to be more aware of species distribution, so they can easily have more information about indexes of biodiversity, trends in species abundance, etc.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, for sure, there are plans to continue with these activities, because these are first steps and base for something new in Montenegro, with a high potential for future growing and development.

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

Results are already available online within the Biologer platform. We already presented results at the end of the project to all relevant institutions in the country. Also, when the scientific paper is published once, we're going to send all data again

to the instituions so they can have an official reference for further actions and strategies.

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

The most important is to continue with this. These results were big steps for Montenegro, both for institutions and local community, so the most important thing is to continue with this and keep the institutions in line with all future results and activities, since they're in lack of data for IAS strategies and planning.

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

Yes, The Rufford Foundation logo was clearly visible on all promotional materials and during the public activities: Biologer user manual, 10,000 leaflets for national parks visitors, poster presentation for scientific conference, all Power Point presentations during the meetings, as well as online promotions (social networks) and television presentation.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Bojana Mijovic - project coordinator (Biologer administrator)
Milica Kandic - project promotion (Parks Dinarides)
Dragana Jovanovic - project financial manager (Parks Dinarides)
Aleksandra Trajkovic (Biologer editor)
Belma Sestovic (Biologer editor)
Bojan Zekovic (Biologer editor)
Denis Coso (Biologer editor)
Filip Franeta (Biologer editor)
Marina Radonjic (Biologer editor)
Matea Martinovic (Biologer editor)
Nikola Balevic (Biologer editor)
Sladjana Gvozdenovic Nikolic (Biologer editor)
Srdjan Stanojevic (Biologer editor)
Nikola Vasic (Biologer programmer and administrator)

10. Any other comments?

We would like to thank to The Rufford Foundation because it has recognised the importance of this project. Invasive alien plants are one of the biggest threats to the native biodiversity. Thanks to this project, we finally have some systematised results

for invasive alien plants in Montenegro, with "hotspots" and the next steps could be carefully planned for the future researches, strategies and actions with this database. Also, during this project, we achieved to connect citizens, protected areas management, NGOs and relevant public institutions and bond them all together in fight against IAS and biodiversity protection.