



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	Miloš Popović
Project title	Endangered Serbian Butterflies – Urgent Need for Research and Conservation
RSG reference	9495-1
Reporting period	March 26 2011 – March 24 2012
Amount of grant	£5583
Your email address	gpopac@gmail.com
Date of this report	March 24 2012

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
Protecting the habitats of endangered species of butterflies by involving government institutions and proposing action plans			+	<p>We got positive response from JP „Srbijašume“ and „Institute for Nature Protection“ on protecting the remaining habitats of <i>Boloria eunomia</i> and <i>Lycaena helle</i>.</p> <p>The scientific report and the action plan for this species can be viewed here (in Serbian): https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B21-Rg2PfHZMWGtaLTd0REtUWnUwbkh5bDhXcWhKdw/edit</p>
Field work (scientific studies)			+	<p>Although the new populations on <i>Boloria eunomia</i> were not found, the current ones were mapped with GIS which was then used to point out the action plan on their protection.</p> <p>The butterflies <i>Anthocharis gruneri</i> and <i>Lycaena helle</i> were recorded in Serbia for the first time. The second one was recorded for the first time on Balkan peninsula and is endangered in whole Europe. It is one of the target species for Natura 2000.</p> <p>Aside from butterflies, a few more species of insect are recorded in Serbia for the first time during the project! You can find out more about scientific studies during the project on our web site: http://www.habiprot.org.rs/rsg2011 All data is, or will be published in scientific journals!</p>
Campaign in media aimed on butterfly popularisation			+	<p>The promotion will not be finished with this project, as we made agreements with local TV stations and newspapers to continue this work.</p>
Filling the butterfly species database			+	<p>More than 6,500 records were entered into butterfly database in 2011. That is more than long-term average and more data that were gathered from all literature sources. It helped a lot in getting more accurate picture both on distribution and period of the year when adults are flying.</p>

				Much was done to start similar scheme for insects other than butterflies and moths, so that the database now covers more than 3,300 insect species. The database was used by the NGO on recent bio-geographic seminar for designating Natura 2000 network.
Serbian Butterfly Field Guide			+	The printing of the book was not a part of this project but joint action of many people made it possible to come out in print this year!
People involvement			+	We are glad to have many new people involved in our field trips (e.g. Stol Mountain, Miratovac, Stara Planina), and many more has joined our forum and mailing list. This list is very alive and people started to contribute their findings and photos for the insect database.
Design of brochures, T-Shirts, information boards,			+	/
Putting the information boards on the field	+			The info boards did not come in planned time, but are already printed and will be put out in the middle of May!!!

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

The biggest obstacle to the first stages of the project was slow communication with Serbian Institution on Nature Protection. As a result of this, the permission for the info panels planned to be put on Stara Planina Mt. came out a bit late and this project activity was delayed for May 2012 (when the snow melts).

Although the scientific and promotional activities should be held at the different time scale, in practice it was not always possible and it was hard to do these two tasks at the same time. Another difficulty arose by the fact that Sandra Cvetković, in charge on promotional activities was busy, and could not participate in the project. At the same time it was hard to find the replacement as all the job on the project was volunteer, so that other team members were forced to take this part of the project.

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

Scientific report and the action plan on *Boloria eunomia* and *Lycaena helle*

The biggest contribution from our project is action plan on conserving butterfly populations of *Boloria eunomia* and *Lycaena helle* on Stara Planina Mt. Serbian Institute for Nature Protection has promised joint actions in solving this problem and inclusion of this species in strictly protected in Serbia. Now we should have all the needed legal and scientific support to promote protection of this areas and species. The next move will be on Serbian government.



Scientific data gathered

This project made valuable contribution to Serbian entomology, as four new species were discovered in our country for the first time. Some of the species can be considered as „rediscovered“, as they were not seen for many years.

All of these data have a valuable contribution in nature protection. Some of the places we visited are of great importance for Emerald and Natura 2000 networks. Important species for these networks were pulled out of our database and presented on the Biogeographic seminar by two of our members.

Serbian Butterfly Field Guide and promotion of butterfly conservation

This book is the first ever published field guide in Serbian that covers one complete group of animals. It is crucial step in building up the network of people involved in butterfly studying and conservation. Already some new enthusiasts joined national butterfly recording scheme and, with field guide available, we expect that trend to improve. With more people we could get more accurate picture on distribution of some endangered species of insects.

The field guide was not planned as one of the project activities, and was planned to be released in a couple of years. We are proud that to get this work done now and to get co-financing for printing of the field guide.

The more important fact is that this book opens a door for promotion and popularisation of butterflies in Serbia.

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

Although the project was not mainly aimed on involvement with local communities, we tried to include them as much as possible. For example, the accommodation and the informational board construction were arranged by the local people. The local people were very interested in our work, and we hope they will appreciate it, and help in promoting butterfly conservation in their communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We already have some plans for this year's activities. Aside butterfly studies, our main aim would be to look for Natura 2000/Emerald target species of moths and beetles. Some of this species are common, but with almost no records in Serbia.

There are plans to make more intensive research in the important areas discovered this year. The final aim is to make this area protected with sustainable agriculture and good management.

Also we plan to continue the work on butterfly popularisation and to involve more and more people in both insect studies and conservation. There is an idea to made similar field guides for other groups of insects, and with many people gathered this year from different fields of entomology it should be easily achievable.

There is also an idea to make a short video on butterfly habitats, live cycle and conservation, to offer them to local TV stations and to put them on the internet.

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

We did much on sharing the result with others. There were 3 scientific papers already printed and more on the way. The project results were sent to many governmental institutions, where our work was considered very important.

The promotion of the project and the field guide for general public was done in many Serbian cities, as well as on some local TV stations and newspapers. The project news was shared on our webpage, forum and mailing list. More casual butterfly talk was done on our Facebook page. Also, the printed material (T-Shirts, brochures, information boards) will be seen by many people.

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

There was no major differences between the planned and real timescale, except for the putting the informational boards (explained in the first Table).

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
Fuel cost of field work (6000 km)	600	~ 1000	~ 400	The project team made much more field surveys than planned. This was possible as we spend less money on the food.
Travelling cost for promotion/education (3000 km)	300	~ 600	~ 300	Co-financed by the Embassy of Netherlands and the city of Belgrade
Travelling cost for spring field trip (30 people)	363	363	0	/
Food costs for fieldwork (10 people, 60 days)	2903	~ 1000	~ 1903	The project team cook the food themselves most of the time. By this way it was a lot cheaper. The expected co-financing for food was partially covered by many people and organisations, and may differ from the value stated in final budget!
Food costs for springfield trip (30 people)	145	145	0	/
Accommodation for spring field trip (10 people)	81	81	0	/
3 GPS devices	300	440	140	We got one more expensive GPS device which was co-financed by the project manager.
Camera	463	463	0	/

5 Butterfly Field Guides	120	120	0	As Serbian Butterfly Field Guide was printed, five of our members split planned amount money to buy entomological books in their own choice! Many Field Guides (more than 200) were given to our members for free.
Printing of 100 T-Shirts	403	562	159	Colour printing came out more expensive than we planned.
Printing of 1000 brochures	806	720	- 86	As we needed brochures quickly, some small brochures were made first, so that we got 200 small ones and then 1000 normal brochures. The total budget was lower than planned.
Construction of three information boards	241	241	0	/
Postal costs	258	~ 258	~ 258	Total postal costs may differ a bit, as there were too many small expenses.
Printing and promotion of Serbian Butterfly Field Guide	0	~ 7000	~ 7000	Butterfly Field Guide was financed by the Embassy of Netherlands and the city of Belgrade. Rufford Small Grants Foundation co-financed the field surveys, during which many photos were made and new data was gathered.
Total	6983	12993	6010	

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

Next steps must be made toward mapping of Natura 2000 and Emerald networks. This job was only partially complete in Serbia, so that people and NGOs could have huge influence in designating the protected areas and networks.

During the project we saw a great potential in promoting biodiversity conservation. This is very new topic for most people, and the action on promoting biodiversity in general must be done in parallel to research activities.

This activities should not be lead by the same person, as it is very hard to accomplish both tasks. Thus the long term goal would be recruitment of people good in media campaign.

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, the RSG logo was used in printed material (T-Shirts, brochures, informational panels) and on the websites. The RSG foundation was also mentioned on TV stations and in public presentations. Many of our friends herd about RSG for the first time during this project.



11. Any other comments?

I must admit it was a great pleasure to successfully conduct this project (it is my first project after all). I would like to thank all the people and RSG foundation for laying down their trust and signatures on my team members and me. It is rare to find this kind of trust between project leaders and foundations. I think it is great practice, as it lets young people to put full focus on their problems in nature conservation, and to do less administrative stuff.