

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Gennadij Goncharov
Project title	Proposition and promotion of wildlife-conservation techniques of census and observation for the research on water inhabitants of National Park
RSG reference	10068-1
Reporting period	15.04.2011 – 14.04.2012
Amount of grant	£5996
Your email address	ggl@inet.ua , ggoncharov@gmail.com
Date of this report	15.07.2012

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
To prevent accidental damaging and death among water organisms during regular censuses in “Gomilshansky lisy” National Park water bodies, particularly rare fish species			+	Unfortunately, we are unable to abandon the traditional method of fish sampling completely right away. Though underwater visual census have reduced necessity of fish capture considerably by now. Raising our skill level and increasing our experience will be conducive to further decreasing of the capture.
To create a network of routes and grounds for further scientific monitoring of water inhabitants of the National Park			+	Censuses will be replicated by our team in the autumn of current year.
To adapt the existent methods of underwater observations to specific conditions of the river on the National Park territory for further research of fish fauna			+	Optimal time frames, modes and ways were detected for carrying out the future research.
To enhance the credibility of the National Park in nature conservation among local community			+	Underwater visual census attracted essential attention and provoked curiosity among local peoples and visitors, particularly among anglers.
To use the outcomes of the project as a background for implementation of the method in other natural reserves in Ukraine		+		Achievement of this objective requires additional time, dissemination of information and further activity.

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

We purchased a waterproof case (from vinyl) for our digital camera. Unfortunately, it was inconvenient to use it as a set for underwater photography. We intend to buy more expensive equipment in order to take photos of high quality.

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

National Park “Gomilshansky lisy” has gotten the opportunity to reject an application of gill and seine nets for fish censuses. It has allowed us to prevent the damage and death of both rare and

common fish species when conducting scientific research. And also a network of census routes and sites for monitoring of fish and other water inhabitants has been created at the National Park territory.

The activity of our team has raised the interest in the problem of nature conservation and the significance of National Park “Gomilshansky lisy” as nature reserve for local community and visitors. The results of the project allow recommending more wide application of wildlife-conservation techniques of census and observation for the research on water inhabitants of Nature Reserve territories.

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

We hope that information, which local people have received, will be conducive to decreasing of a poaching. Conservation of biodiversity and growth of the National Park role in the life of local community will assist in sustainable development of the region.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Acquired equipment will be used for subsequent study of fish fauna during several years. It is necessary to discover the causes of the decline in numbers in many fish species. It is important to know aspects of the behaviour, allocation in space, adaptation to local conditions for such species. We will seize the opportunities to obtain such data from natural habitat after the project completion.

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

The results and recommendation were placed on the official National Park “Gomilshansky lisy” WEB-site, “Gomilshanskiy visnyk” bulletin and this information will be updated. Article for local newspaper has been prepared about the project specifically and fish conservation problem generally. The results of our work will be presented at international, All-Ukrainian and regional scientific and conservation meetings and conferences.

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

The main part of the RSG was spent in the July – November, 2011 in order to buy the high-priced equipment and to ensure the fulfilment of team activities at Siverskiy Donets River.

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
Equipment	3 160	3 473	+ 313	We purchased more expensive diving equipment than it was planned. Extra money was taken from items “Daily allowance” and “Contingency” without detriment to the project completion.

Transportation expenses	836	836	0	
Daily allowance	1 575	1 362	- 213	
Field supplies	185	185	0	
Other	210	210	- 100	
Total	5 996	5 996	0	

Note: exchange rate from Ukraine's national currency (grivnja) to Pounds Sterling in 2011 - 2012 is 12,2 - 12,6 UAgrn = 1 GBP.

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

We shall try to achieve the more large-scale application of non-destructive research methods and technics which do not require fish capture and, therefore, prevent accidental damaging and death among water organisms. We intend to use underwater visual census and hydroacoustic survey in further nature conservation projects in order to prove their efficiency, accuracy, urgency and topicality.

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?

The RSGF logo was used in information materials which were placed on the official National Park "Gomilshansky lisy" WEB-site and in the "Gomilshanskiy visnyk" bulletin.

11. Any other comments?

Thank you very much for your support!