

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	Mitko Karadelev
Project title	Establishing Red List of Fungi and Important Fungal Areas in FYR of Macedonia
RSG reference	10132-2
Reporting period	1 May 2011- 31 June 2012
Amount of grant	£5,460
Your email address	mitkok@pmf.ukim.mk
Date of this report	30 July 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
Compiling a Red List of Fungi of Macedonia for the first time, abiding by IUCN categories and criteria.			√	A total of 213 species have been included in the List as follows: 21 CR, 30 EN, 71 VU, 40 NT, 9 LC, and 42 DD.
Official release of the Red List of Fungi of Macedonia pursuant to the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Macedonia.			√	The Red List will be presented at the 4th Congress of Ecologists of the Republic of Macedonia with International Participation in Oct 2012; Book of Abstracts available as of Sept 2012 and Proceedings as of Jan 2013 on www.mes.org.mk . Abstract now available on http://www.esnips.com/display_image.php?album=4890092&pid=34143584#top_display_media
Publication of the Red List in the European Council for Conservation of Fungi Newsletter.			√	The compiled Red List of Fungi has been sent to the European Council for Conservation of Fungi Newsletter for publication.
Preparation of a Rulebook on strictly protected and protected wild fungal species by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning based on the official Fungi Red List.			√	The Red List has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, which is currently preparing the said Rulebook - to be officialised in the forthcoming autumn.
Developing criteria for selection of Important Fungal Areas in MK for the first time			√	IFA criteria have been developed based on presence of rare and threatened species, richness, and mycological significance of the habitat. It has been established that 20 areas meet the criteria for nomination of Important Fungal Areas.
Publication of the documents National Catalog (Checklist) of Macedonian Fungi, and Mapping of Macromycetes of Macedonia				The documents referred to have been printed. Their preparation has been for the subsequent production of the Red List of Fungi and the IFA Map.
Publication of a brochure on protected and strictly			√	The brochure Threatened Fungi in Macedonia, with particular

protected fungi from the Red List and a country map of IFAs.				emphasis on economically relevant species, and the Country Map of IFA have been printed.
Raising public awareness via presentations and dissemination of outreach material			✓	Done via the presentations Important Fungal Areas and Economically Important Fungal Species in Macedonia, and Rare and Threatened Mushroom Species delivered before the local population in some of the regions considered for nomination as IFAs (Strumica, Stip, Stenje and Demir Hisar). Also a presentation entitled Basic List of Protected and Strictly Protected Species in Macedonia has been delivered during a workshop before the Ministry representatives, academia, and local government in Skopje. Presentations available on http://www.esnips.com/thumbnails.php?album=4890092 . Media campaign done. The promotional material – brochure and map – has been widely distributed among local population and stakeholders.
Upgrading the National Collection of Fungi (MCF) with new or rare species and enrichment of the national fungi database (MACFUNGI) with the newly assembled data.			✓	In excess of 1,000 specimens have been collected during the current project.
Support existing biodiversity conservation mechanisms in view of the following major threats: excessive exploitation by local population and fragmentation and destruction of fungi habitats.			✓	The project has contributed to this objective via the production of the Red List and the IFA Map.

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

The officialising i.e. adoption of the Rulebook on strictly protected and protected wild fungal species by the corresponding parliamentary committee is a time-consuming process. The Rulebook has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, on the basis of the Macedonian Red List of Fungi compiled as a result of our RSG project.

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

A Red List of Fungi of Macedonia has been produced for the first time, in harmony with the criteria set by the National Strategy for Biodiversity Protection, and IUCN categories and criteria. A total of 213 species have been included in the List as follows: 21 are Critically Endangered (CR), 30 are Endangered (EN), 71 are Vulnerable (VU), 40 are Near Threatened (NT), 9 are Least Concern (LC), and 42 are Data Deficient (DD). The Red List, submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, has been a base for preparation of the Rulebook on strictly protected and protected wild fungal species, whose officialising is pending this autumn.

Important Fungal Areas in MK have been established for the first time. IFA criteria have been developed based on presence of rare and threatened species, richness, and mycological significance of the habitat. Twenty areas have been found to meet the criteria for nomination of Important Fungal Areas.

The project will raise public awareness among the local population and the stakeholders via presentations, media campaign and extensive dissemination of the published outreach materials – a brochure and a country map of IFA. The brochure entitled Threatened Fungi in Macedonia, with particular emphasis on economically relevant species, will comprise photographs and info on selected fungi species from the Red List (species description, distribution, IUCN categorisation, protection measures etc.). The map provides the IFA localities in the country. In addition, the auxiliary documents National Catalog (Checklist) of Macedonian Fungi and Mapping of Macromycetes of Macedonia have been published. The former contains data on the presence and phylogeny of all fungi species known in Macedonia, while in the latter the distribution of the same species has been rendered in maps. All of the aforementioned documents are available for view on <http://www.esnips.com/thumbnails.php?album=4890092>

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

The local community has actively participated in the discussions following the project presentations delivered during the visits. They have learned about the rare and threatened species in Macedonia, the Important Fungal Areas, the commercial species and their sustainable use. Brochures and maps have also disseminated among the local communities although their distribution will continue even after the project implementation.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The Red List and IFAs are open working documents, prone to amendments given the expectations that new species will be found during future research and the possibilities of change in the extent of exploitation of particular species by local population.

The dissemination of the outreach material – brochure and map – among the local population and stakeholders will also continue as a follow-up project activity.

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

The Macedonian Red List of Fungi and the IFAs as major project results will be made available to the authorities responsible for conservation and relevant programmes as follows: Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, National Strategy for Biodiversity Protection, the local government, conservation NGOs etc.

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

The RSG was used within the anticipated project period of one year.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. Local exchange rate used: 1 GBP = 78.5 MKD (July 2012)

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Equipment				
Printer HP LaserJet MLJ M1522nf	280 GBP	280 GBP (21,995 MKD)	/	
ACER AO722-C6kk Black 11.6" + Notebook Case	220 GBP	219 GBP (17,200 MKD)	- 1 GBP	
Reference literature (five identification and conservation books)	210 GBP	208 GBP (16,340 MKD)	- 2 GBP	
Consumables				
Paper, HP Laser Jet print cartridge	100 GBP	102 GBP (8,000 MKD)	+2 GBP	
Laboratory and field-trip material (paper bags, aluminium foil, plastic vacuum bags, reagents, microscope slides and cover glasses for microscopy, needles, forceps, laboratory sterile blades, etc.).	100 GBP	102 GBP (8,000 MKD)	+2 GBP	
Fuel costs				
80 l per month / 12 months + pay tolls	1,100 GBP	1,146 GBP (90,000)	+ 46 GBP	Additional funds have been provided

		MKD)		by a MMS field research project.
Telephone and internet costs				
Communications with team members, NGOs and local authorities.	100 GBP	121 GBP (9,500 MKD)	+ 21 GBP	Additional funds have been provided by a scientific project implemented by the project leader.
Printing and publishing expenses				
Printing and publishing of map	50 GBP	51 GBP (4,000 MKD)	+ 1 GBP	
Printing and publishing of brochure	1,200 GBP	1,209 GBP (95,000 MKD)	+ 9 GBP	
Subsistence costs (Project team - 96 days in the field)				
Public transport	300 GBP	293 GBP (23,000 MKD)	- 7 GBP	The remaining funds have been reallocated to the subsistence budget items.
Food (rest of the days)	300 GBP	318 GBP (25,000 MKD)	+ 18 GBP	Additional funds have been obtained by a MMS field research project.
Accommodation (30 days x 5 person x 10 GBP)	1,500 GBP	1,527 GBP (120,000 MKD)	+ 27 GBP	Additional funds have been provided by a MMS field research project.
TOTAL	5,460 GBP	5,576 GBP	+ 116 GBP	Additional funds have been obtained via a MMS* field research project and a scientific project of the project leader.

MMS* - Macedonian Mycological Society

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

Our activities can become part of NATURA 2000 Biodiversity Programme once it becomes operational in Macedonia.

We intend to apply for RSG Booster Grant in order to work on a project on establishing a red list of fungi and important fungal areas in Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. Kosovo and Albania do not have either a fungal checklist or a red list. They neither have legislation on fungi protection, notwithstanding the fact that enormous quantities of mushrooms are exported. In Montenegro

efforts on compiling a fungi checklist are underway but there is neither specific legislation nor a red list thereof.

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 logo has been used on all published material (brochure, map, National Catalog of Macedonian Fungi and Mapping of Macromycetes of Macedonia) as well as in the Power Point presentations delivered among the local population and the stakeholders. All of the aforesaid documents are available for view on <http://www.esnips.com/thumbnails.php?album=4890092>.

The RSGF has also received publicity via coverage of our project activities and results in media.

a) National TV stations

Alfa TV: <http://www.vesti.alfa.mk/default.aspx?mId=36&eventId=52923>

TV Sitel: <http://www.sitel.com.mk/dnevnik/makedonija/crvena-lista-na-gabite-vo-makedonija-objavena-za-prvpat>

b) Local TV station:

Tera TV: <http://tera.mk/aktuel/pechurkite-od-demirhisarsko>

c) National dailies:

Utrinski vesnik: <http://www.utrinski.com.mk/?ItemID=2EC9DDEE783EDA4591F8BB3FD2347915>

Nova Makedonija: <http://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/DetalNewsInstant.asp?vestInstant=7672>

d) News agencies:

Macedonian Information Agency:

<http://www.mia.com.mk/default.aspx?mId=5&vId=95928016&lId=1&title=%D0%9C%D0%90%D0%9A%D0%95%D0%94%D0%9E%D0%9D%D0%98%D0%88%D0%90+-+%D0%95%D0%9A%D0%9E%D0%9B%D0%9E%D0%93%D0%98%D0%88%D0%90>

Daily.mk: <http://daily.mk/forward/1432142/crvena-lista-na-gabite-vo-makedonija-objavena-za-prvpat>

Evesti.mk: <http://evesti.mk/2012/07/29/doznajte-koi-gabi-se-najotrovni/>



Map of Important Fungal Areas

