

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	Anna Asatryan
Project title	Identification of Priority Habitats of Armenia (Important Plant Areas, Criterion C) and Promotion of Their Conservation.
RSG reference	1016-C
Reporting period	April 2011 – March 2013
Amount of grant	£22,500
Your email address	crocus@post.com
Date of this report	23.03.2013

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
Identification of the rare and threatened habitat types of Armenia			V	The rare and threatened habitat types of Armenia have been identified – they represent wide range of the habitat types, such as forests, steppes, wetlands, deserts, semi-deserts, open woodlands, heaths. They are 16 and their distribution in Armenia is measured as less or equal to 5 km ² . Their descriptions are made, the botanical significance and motivation for conservation is outlined, the present condition, protection level and the threats are identified.
Identification of the Important Plant Areas (IPAs) matching the Criterion C (the sites, representing an outstanding example of a habitat type)			V	16 IPAs of national, regional and global conservation concern, representing the rare and threatened habitat types of Armenia are selected. An illustrated publication in Armenian and English, ' <i>Important Plant Areas, Representing the Rare and Threatened Habitat Types of Armenia</i> ', is produced. For each of the IPAs an up-to-date information on the location, area, description, botanical significance, endemic and the Red List plant species, current conservation status and present condition are given. Recommendations on management and conservation of the selected sites are given too.
Creation of the classification scheme of the habitats of Armenia			V	The two-level classification of the habitats of Armenia is prepared for the first time; it is clear, understandable and is considered to be a useful resource for researchers, conservationists and other. The objective at the level it was designed at the beginning was fully achieved by the end of the project. The booklet in Armenian, English and Russian including the scheme and illustrations is published.
Awareness raising among local conservationists and decision makers			V	Two 3-day long training sessions were organised in "Shikahogh" state reserve and "Dilijan" national park involving 20 participants from the protected area staff (including administration) and from local branches of some environmental NGOs. The participants attended presentations on

				<p>general and more specific topics related to plant and habitat diversity of Armenia and its conservation, they also took herbarium techniques course and have been involved in the fieldwork to gain practical skills on place. The project provided also technical support to the hosting protected areas staff in a form of herbarium presses, herbarium paper, labels, etc. The project outputs are spread widely among conservationists and decision makers, particularly they are submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection and to the governmental agency of implementation of the conservation projects.</p>
Promotion of monitoring, conservation and management of the selected IPAs		V		<p>All the possible activities aimed to promote the monitoring, management and conservation of the target sites have been implemented during the project: those are work with local communities and protected areas' staff, joint monitoring activities in the field, meetings with protected areas administration, preparation of the project results in a form, that can be easily accepted and used by local communities, researchers and decision makers. The project outputs are spread via meetings, mass media etc. The recommendations on conservation and management of the selected IPAs are given to the decision makers. This goal is not considered as fully achieved as in general it requires time and long lasting efforts so the activities in this direction will continue.</p>
Promotion of integration of Armenia into global/European conservation programs and initiatives		V		<p>The published project outputs are presented in English and have been spread internationally via post, they represented on the international conference held on 12th-13th March 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The project materials were represented through oral presentation on the mentioned meeting, new contacts were made with intention of further collaboration. The project results are also presented in scientific papers published, are being published or designed to be submitted for publication. Except a series of international conservation organisations the project outputs are sent to Plantlife</p>

				International – the lead partner for implementation of the IPAs program and the Target 5 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The integration of Armenia into global conservation processes is a long process and it requires time and continuing efforts, that’s why this objective is marked as not fully achieved yet and can be considered as being under implementation ensuring the long lasting effect of the project.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There were some difficulties in catching the right time to see and to photograph some rare plants in bloom, but this was solved by obtaining the photos of the target species taken earlier.

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

1) The classification of the habitats of Armenia is prepared for the first time. It is based on the classification of vegetation. This scheme shows the whole diversity of habitats of Armenia and will be an important baseline for research and conservation as well as for development ambitious projects on identification of important biodiversity areas of Armenia.

2) The list of the rare and threatened habitats of Armenia is prepared together with the IPAs’ list shown for each habitat type. The descriptions and motivations for conservation, as well as the present condition, threats and recommendations for their protection are given.

3) New contacts are made and local partners identified. The technical support and advice are provided to local conservationists and protected areas’ staff through the trainings for creating and managing the herbarium collections on place.

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

The training has been hosted one by “Dilijan” national park and involved participants from the park’s staff, Aarchus centre in Dilijan and “Sunchild” eco-club and another – in “Shikahogh” State Reserve, involving the staff. The training programme included lectures supported with Powerpoint presentations introducing the plant and habitat diversity of Armenia, the botanical overview of “Dilijan” national park with the focus on the main threats to the species and habitats and the conservation issues. The participants had a chance to learn about some Red Data Book species and typical representatives of the national park’s flora through study of the herbarium specimens and in the field – visiting the areas of botanical importance. The basics of herbarium techniques have been studied by the participants and practised in the field, they collected and pressed a certain amount of plants for the national park’s newly created herbarium.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the further activities will be focused on preparation of the complete list of the IPAs of Armenia. The new Red Data Book of plants will be used as a basic document for selection of the IPAs. The full database on the IPAs of Armenia will be submitted to the Plantlife International for its online database and all the relevant materials will be given to the appropriate governmental bodies, NGOs, local partners to draw their attention on the topic and to promote the conservation of the plant diversity of Armenia.

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

The results of the work will be shared by distribution of the project outputs, by sharing the materials through the social networks and mass media, by mailing the publications resulting from the project. This will be done with the help of our colleagues and partner organisations.

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 2 years.

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
Local travel /fieldwork	14800	16050	1250	A few more trips have been made towards new, non projected sites in order to clarify the distribution of some habitat types.
Publications	4080	4000	80	—
Meetings	2970	1850	1120	There was a support from our local partners, which decreased the meeting's expenses.
Miscellaneous	650	600	50	Some extra expenditure on postage of the project publications.
Total	22500	22500		

The local exchange rate: 1£=625AMD

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

The next steps are to spread the publications, to publish the results in a form of abstracts and papers, to spread the results electronically. The main aim is to put all the efforts for completion of the IPAs selection. Looking more ahead, the data on fungi and lower plants, as well as on fauna can



be added and put together in order to determine the important biodiversity areas. The GIS mapping of the selected areas would be an important step forward too.

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 RSGF logo is placed on two publications resulting from the project – ‘Habitats of Armenia. The Classification Scheme.’ And ‘Important Plant Areas Representing the Rare and Threatened Habitat Types of Armenia’. The RSG logo was also used on my four Powerpoint presentations: two in the Institute of Botany – the interim and final reports on the project, one – on the RSG recipients conference in Armenia in September 2012 and one – on the Powerpoint presentation made to support my oral presentation on the International conference on conservation of steppe and semi-desert ecosystems of Eurasia held on 12th-13th March 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

11. Any other comments?

I just want to express my gratitude to The Rufford Small Grants Foundation for support and given possibility to implement such an important project. I am happy for our long lasting collaboration.