

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	Levan Mumladze
Project title	Evaluating of forest snail endemicity in Georgian Transcaucasia – a preliminary study
RSG reference	10442-1
Reporting period	01.09.2011 – 01.09.2012
Amount of grant	£5500
Your email address	Levan.mumladze@iliauni.edu.ge
Date of this report	17 September 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
Treating existing data			+	All published data on Georgian endemic snails were collected and analysed
Working with existing collections			+	From the collections deposited in Georgian Natural History Museum and Institute of Zoology very useful information was extracted. However it was not possible to treat all materials because of technical difficulties (see below).
Field work			+	With the help of RSG successful field work was conducted. Many new unknown localities were sampled. As a result of the field work, extensive collections of not only endemic molluscs of Georgia were created.
Reporting		+		The results of the project were already provided to the stakeholders mentioned in the proposal, however, main task is to provide peer reviewed papers which should be guarantee to attract more attentions. This objective is not fully achieved but one paper on project results is under the review and second one is in preparation.
Preparing short course in malacology			+	Course in malacology were prepared and will be held during autumn semester for Msc students in Ecology at Ilia State University

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

Unexpectedly the molluscs collection preserved in the National Museum of Georgia was accessible for only a very short period of time (because the reorganisation works in there). However, these difficulties have not strong negative influence on the project results.

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

First and most important outcome of the project can be considered the distributional data of Georgian mollusc fauna. Until now, the data were scattered in the published (but most of them not available online) literature and museum collections. Furthermore, the distributional data about endemic molluscs of Georgia was very incomplete. As a result of the project, these data were

collected and organized and available for everybody. As a by product, large collections (specimens, tissue bank, images) of Georgian malacofauna was created (including not only endemic molluscs). Second important achievement is the steps toward the snail conservation in Georgia. Until now, there were no possibilities for conservation managers to incorporate molluscs in conservation activities because there was no any empirical data, based on which non-malacologist could be operate. Now the first steps in this direction are made. One peer reviewed paper (which is about the distribution and conservation of Georgian endemic molluscs) is already ready to be published and the second is in preparation which (with the empirical data) must be a starting point for the conservation of molluscs in Georgia.

Third most important outcome is a student involvement in the molluscs study. For last 30 years, no one (except me) was interested to investigate and conserve malacofauna of Georgia. Now one MSc student of Ilia State University (Nino Tskhvedadze) is doing her MSc thesis in the framework of this project. Also, there will be a course in the autumn semester in malacology, which hopefully promotes more students to get involved in the malacological research.

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

This project was aimed of preliminary investigation and preparation of the basics for the future conservation of molluscs. Hence no local communities were involved in any activities of the project and they have not benefited from the project yet.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are lots of plans to continue this work. Acknowledging to RSG, I have started very wide research/conservation project whose general aims are:

1. Collect and continually upgrade the distributional data of Georgian malacofauna (this includes of developing interactive web resources of the distribution of species which will be the easily accessible source for any interested person).
2. Conduct biogeographical and taxonomic research to fill the gaps in our understanding in diversity and historical development of malacaofauna in Georgia and the Caucasus.
3. Intensification of scientific/conservational activities in order to promote the conservation of snails and slugs in Georgia.

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

During the following period of the project at least two papers will be published which will be the main source to introduce the project results to wide variety of the targets. Project results also will be placed on the web page (with the help of google sites) and will be available online in next few months. Project results will be intensively used during the malcological course for the MSc students at Ilia State University.

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

RSG was used in exactly accordance of planned schedule (from September of 2011 to September (including) 2012).

In contrast to my expectation, project provided much more results and possibilities which could not be reflected during the period under review. Actually, most of them does not need additional financial support (e.g. publish of papers, create web page for the data etc.) and hence can be realised easily in the next year

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
Sampling bags	100	100	0	
Containers	180	180	0	
Alcohol	110	110	0	
Formalin	30	30	0	
Field stereo microscope	800	800	0	
Digital cameras	1149	1100	49	The differences were used to buy additional amount of petrol
Petrol 1700 0 1700	1699.2	2048.2	-349	
Per-diem 750 0 750	752.16	752.16	0	
Office supplies 150 0 150	150	80	70	The differences were used to buy books.
Books 230 0 230	230	300	-70	
Workshop	300	0	300	Instead of planned workshop I have several personal discussions to all potential stakeholders. The amount was used for the field work (to buy additional amount of petrol)
TOTAL	5500	5500	0	

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

The main goal of this project was to promote research and create bases for the conservation of malacofauna of Georgia. Hence main steps following to this project includes:

1. Publish a research paper on the project result – this must guarantee the attraction of conservation managers and decision makers to consider molluscs in their work.
2. Continue intensive collaboration with IUCN Caucasian office and Georgian red list commission to prepare background for the species status allocation.

- To determine modern population parameters for several species with very restricted ranges as first candidates of defined conservation status.

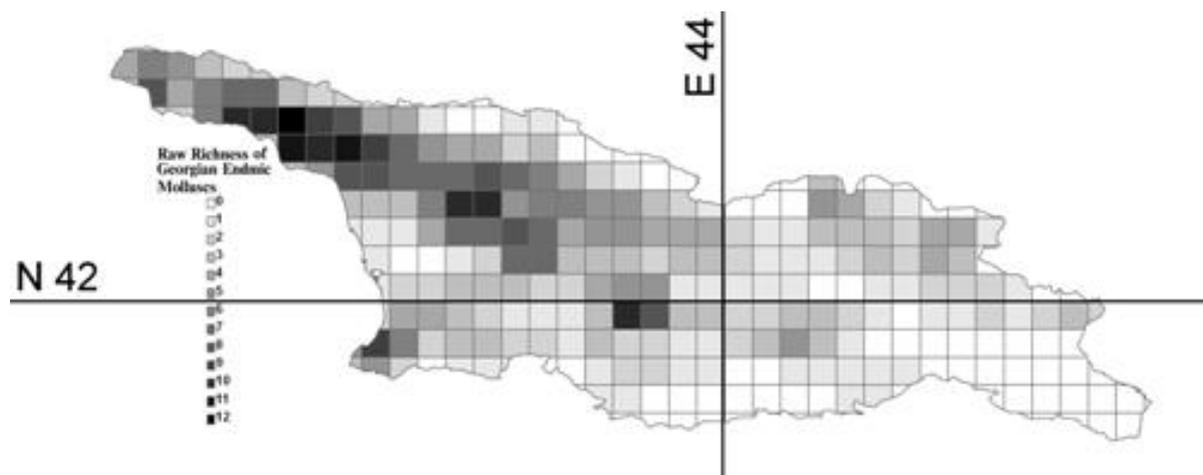
10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

I did not use RSGF logo anywhere because no production of specific material (like booklets, t-shirts) was planned. However, the RSGF logo will permanently placed on the project web page during the next several months.

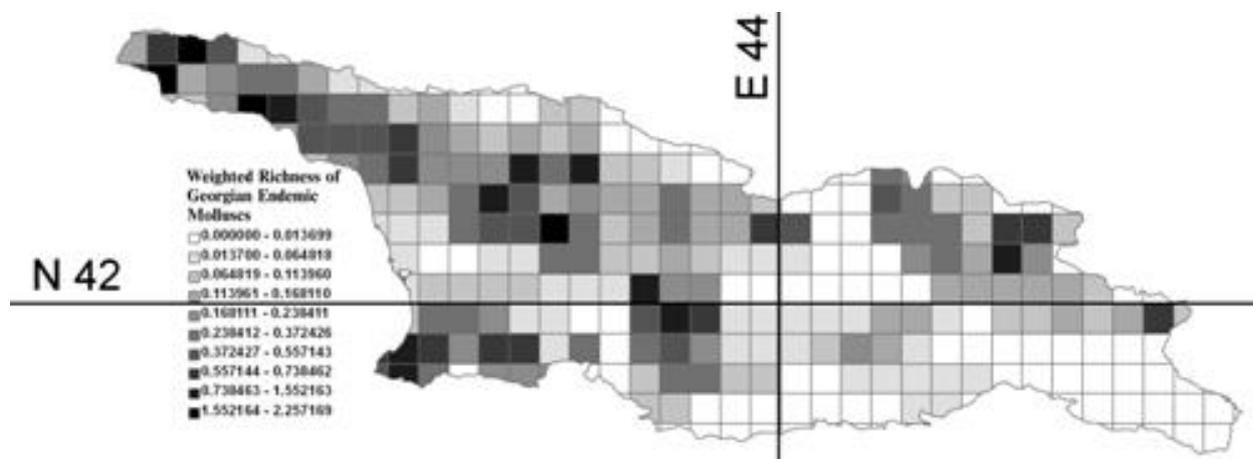
One peer review paper is ready and under review process. Another one is in preparation (in both of them will acknowledge RSGF support)

11. Any other comments?

I want to deeply acknowledge to the RSGF because of it provided very flexible and necessary support in study of molluscs of Georgia. This is not only very important to my carrier but also for the promote conservation of molluscs (one of the most sensitive group of animals) in Georgia.



Raw richness



Weighted richness