

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	Paul Weinberg
Project title	Status and ecology of wild goat (<i>Capra aegagrus</i>) populations and their implications for conservation of Armenia's mountain ecosystems
RSG reference	11317-2
Reporting period	2012-2013
Amount of grant	£5950
Your email address	tu_r@rambler.ru
Date of this report	14 January 2014

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
Obtain data on the status and ecology of several different wild goat populations in non-governmentally protected areas of Armenia (birth rate, kid survival, age and sex structure, and habitat use).			+	Done successfully. We also continued monitoring previously surveyed populations from NR and NP.
Comparative data on different wild goat populations of not only various habitat types but also of areas differing in status and land use, such as state-protected and those in private lease used as safari parks. These data (incorporating our data from the previous projects) will show population trends over a period of 8 years altogether.			+	Done successfully. The only shortcoming is that we could not obtain data on legal hunting carried out in territories in private lease.
Work out strategies on sustainable use of the species.		+		Done, but because lack of data on hunting, incomplete.
Carry out several meetings with students of the Biological Faculty of Erevan State University in order to get them interested in studying large mammals of Armenia.	+			Will be done during the next project when and if granted. Right now there are no students in universities of Armenia interested in field research.
Work out specific monitoring programmes for each protected nature territory in central and eastern Armenia and major areas in private lease.			+	Done.
Submit a paper on wild goat in Armenia	+			Didn't want to publish intermediate results. Will be done by summer 2014.

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

There were none (significant). Just domestic, which caused extension of the project duration.

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

1. Data obtained on status and parameters of several populations of territories either unprotected or being in private lease, which enable us to compare them with populations of NR and NP (also been monitored during this project).
2. A model of habitat and territory use worked out for different types of habitats in Armenia.
3. Monitoring programmes worked out for wild goat populations in Armenia.

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

We hired guides and vehicles from local communities. So they at least saw that their wildlife is of interest to somebody other than poachers. Talking with people we always indicated at economic potential of their wildlife, other than purely local, like meat. People were invariably interested in our work and in prospects of their participation in different aspects dealing with wildlife.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we would like to apply for the Rufford Booster Grant.

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

By means of scientific and popular publications (photos), reports to governmental agencies and land-users, and meetings with students.

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 from July 2012 to December 2013. The project was planned to terminate by August 2013.

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
Salaries – £ 350/person, 2 persons x 3 months	2100	2450	+350	Spare money spent on salaries.
Field assistants – 40 days	500	660	+160	Field assistant charges grew.
Travel - £ 350 / Russia – Armenia – Russia, 1-person x 3 flights	1050	645	-405	Air tickets grew cheaper, due to possibility of on-land travel from Russia to Armenia through Georgia by car.
Freight 4WD off-road vehicle - £ 40/day x 25	1000	920	-80	

days				
Fuel	650	470	-180	Managed to minimize fuel costs combining drives.
Food	500	625	+125	Spare money spent on better food, which also got more expensive.
Housing - £ 15/day x 10 days	150	180	+30	
Total	5950	5950	0	On the whole, vehicle freight and fuel costs were lower due to not working in highland areas, like Zangezur in previous grant, which are more expensive to survey.

Grant was received in USD (9300 in cash), because local banks do not accept £ sterling. USD were exchanged to Armenian drams, average rate 404/1 USD (Dec. 2013).

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

- 1) Survey least known areas around Sevan Lake and farther north, maybe Karabakh.
- 2) Try to obtain data on legal hunting in Armenia, particularly in areas being in private lease.
- 3) Choose and train at least one student for wild goat monitoring in Armenia according to worked-out programme (most difficult task).
- 4) Repeat survey of Zangezur Range population in order to monitor changes which might have happened since 2010.
- 5) Find additional appropriate wild goat observation sites and routes for purposes of ecotourism, which is the most accessible and popular way of sustainable use.

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?

We had not produced any materials during the project, but everybody dealing with us and everybody employed knew that the project was financed by RSGF.