

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	Ashot Aslanyan
Project title	Conservation of critically endangered species of reptiles of Ararat Valley, Armenia.
RSG reference	11394-1
Reporting period	23 March, 2012 – 23 March, 2013
Amount of grant	£5715
Your email address	aslanyanav@rambler.ru
Date of this report	28 April, 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
Creation of a comprehensive database of assessing current abundance, distribution and conservation status of reptiles.			+	The survey of spring- autumn has revealed that many sites of rare species of lizards are destroyed. Censuses were replicated in the spring of 2014.
Creation of a maps of current distribution with outlining the exact locations of habitat.			+	We are created the detailed map of current distribution of lizards however will not publish them to protect the sites from poachers
Involvement of the students in conservation activities			+	Five students participated in fieldwork and in analysing of results and got new knowledge and skills. One of them have defended the Bachelor thesis on topic conservation of rare species reptiles of Ararat Valley, while following Master student are continuing work on this issue and will defend her thesis in spring 2015 on results collected during 2012-2014 years observations.
Assessment of the main threat on endangered species			+	The urgent conservation actions are important to save the Critically Endangered species as in-situ and ex-situ conservation programmes.
Development of recommendations for protection of unique semi-desert ecosystems in Ararat Valley		+		After full screening of Ararat Valley and completing the database, the plan of conservation of rare species will be prepared and submitted to Ministry of Nature Protection
Raising public awareness and implementation of environmental education programme among local people on threatened species		+		The raising public awareness is long term process. We have disseminated the calendars among locals; however after finish fieldwork we will prepare the posters and will distribute them in different schools and government institutions.
Publications in local and Scientific Citation Index peer-reviewed journals		+		Achievement of this objective requires additional time

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

We didn't expect that many populations of critically endangered species already fully destroyed. Thus we need spend more time for screening all possible habitat of rarest in world species to discover new sites where they possible migrate after ploughing of their original habitats.

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

- First of all the alarm situation of distribution of Critically Endangered *Phrynocephalus horvathi* and *Eremias pleskei* has been revealed which will stimulate urgent protection actions.
- During the project we foster at least one student who will continue her career in field of conservation of reptiles
- The maps, database of lizards as well as awareness program start to promote the conservation actions and will serve as background for new projects in our country.

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

The verbal communications with local people was helping us in searching of new populations of lizards. The distributions of calendars were increasing their interesting and awareness.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, surely. Continuation of this work is important and urgent!

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

The results will be summarised and will be presented in forms of papers and posters. The preparation of posters is already in progress. The results of work will be included in my lecturers in Yerevan State University.

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

The grant exceeds a period of 1 year as proposed in project (March 2012 – July 2013). More intensive fieldwork requires for receiving a realistic picture of distribution and abundance of rare species of lizards, because most of known habitats are disappeared.

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
Notebook – Toshiba Tecra A5	980	1050	70	The taxes and shipping was higher price
Camera - Power Shot Sx40	360	421	61	The taxes and shipping was higher price

GPS Garmin, GPGMAP 76 with soft and accessories	450	310	-140	We choose more cheap model of GPS Dacota20
Binoculars- Opticron Countryman MC	168	198	30	The taxes and shipping was higher price
Duel Triplet Loupe, 10X and 20X	72	0	-72	We didn't purchase it
Digital Thermometer Hanna HI-8753 High Accuracy	120	52	-68	We choose second hand variant
Therma-Hygrometer, ETI Hygrometer	48	0	-48	We didn't purchase it
Digital Caliper	66	10	-56	We choose more cheap model of Digital Caliper
Persola MS500 Digital Pocket Scale	140	120	-20	It was discount on this model of scale
Pesola LightLine Scale, 50g	66	0	-66	We didn't purchase it
Tracker Measuring	75	0	-75	This function was in GPS
Software "Statistica"	300	300	0	
Topographic map 1:100	120	0	-120	We didn't purchase it and use the map obtained from YSU
Fuel:£0.6/L x 15 L/100 km x 250 km/trip x 12 trips	270	603	333	The number of trips has excided the plan and price on fuel has increased. Thus, fuel:£0.7/L x 15 L/100 km x 250 km/trip x 23 trips
Car rent: £35/day x 2 days/trip x 12 trips	840	840	0	12 trips was made on rent car and 11 trips was on personal car of colleagues
Per diems: £7/person/day x 5 persons x 2days/trip x 12 trips	840	1015	175	23 trips : £7/person/day x 5persons x 2days/trip x18 trips and next 5 was one day trips
Print of calendars	500	500	0	
Print of posters	300	300	0	
TOTAL	5715	5719	4	

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

The following steps are important:

- Establishment of in-situ and ex-situ conservation programmes.
- Rent a land and creation special protected area.
- Monitoring of known site of distribution of lizards.
- Ecological niche modelling in GIS and Maxent.
- Public awareness programme.

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 all materials produced during the project: calendars, poster, and every Power Point presentation shown in schools and training courses.

11. Any other comments?

I wish to thank RSGF for the opportunity to work on this project and help to start the conservation of Critically Endangered species of lizards and its habitats in Armenia. With this data we will continue conservation actions and hope to save one of beautiful element of our rich biodiversity.

