

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	Svetlana Goloshchapova
Project title	Initiation of volunteer butterfly conservation movement in Western Russia
RSG reference	11453-1
Reporting period	April 2012 – April 2013
Amount of grant	£5960
Your email address	sv.goloshchapova@gmail.com
Date of this report	9 th May 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
Expansion of butterfly survey and monitoring programme			+	Involving new volunteers in project ensured success of the project. This network of skilled volunteers and enthused local communities involved in long-term recording butterflies and undertaking direct action for saving butterflies. We established with volunteers and transect recorders 30 new transects and spread monitoring programme in early under-recorded part in majority districts of Bryansk region. We spent about 110 days for field research. We received about 160 feedback forms (protocols) from coordinators of project. Data about distribution and abundance of 68 species of butterflies included four rare species were received during project.
Initiating of public awareness campaign for studying and protection butterflies			+	About 170 people took part in different activities such as lectures, field trips, seminars, presentations, school and community festivals. We used posters, banners, and leaflets during our meeting with member of local communities, schoolchildren, teachers and students for attracting attention to the problem of saving butterflies and their habitats on regional level. People interested in creation butterfly friendly garden for butterflies and other pollinators near their home. These activities let to change public perception of butterflies. The most active participants of meeting became volunteers in project and they will continue butterfly recorder next field season.

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

One of the difficulties was bad weather conditions during days when we planned field trips or transects. For this reason, we were compelled to change the day or time of our activities.

Secondly, our team was faced with transport problems. Our project is spread throughout a big area and we spent a lot of time on movement between points.

We concluded that for subsequent successful work we need in renewal of equipment.

In some communities we met incomprehension, because people didn't understand why they needed to protect butterflies. For this reason, our team imposed larger effort for increasing public awareness about butterflies in our region.

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

1. The data about distribution and abundance of 11 grassland butterflies received during this project were included in book «The European Butterfly Indicator for Grassland Species: 1990-2011» published by Butterfly Conservation Europe. The indicator shows that since 1990, butterfly populations have declined by almost 50%, indicating a dramatic loss of grassland biodiversity. The changes in economic development in Russia have led to decline of rural communities which depend on low intensity farming. For this reason, cultural landscapes will be lost and butterflies and other pollinators will disappear. Butterflies offer the possibility to be used as a structural headline indicator, not only for grasslands but also for other habitats and to track other pressures such as climate change.

2. We identified new habitats of rare butterfly species included in national and regional Red Lists on area of Bryansk region. The status and distribution of rare butterfly species was poorly known, and we received new data about four rare species, one of that is included in IUCN Red List as endangered species in Europe.

3. We involved 48 people such as students, schoolteachers, schoolchildren and members of local communities in our project. They became transect recorders in their communities in our region. They have established new transects in previously under-recorded places. This network of people will let us continue our project in future. It provides a low cost and sustainable tool to enable future monitoring of the changing status of butterfly.

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

A teacher of one school with his schoolchildren created a small butterfly friendly garden on territory of their school in Bryansk city. Attracting different blooming flowers, butterflies came flying more frequently. Schoolchildren observed flying butterflies and counted these insects. Thereby children raised level of love for nature and change their concern to it. Children and they parents knew about importance butterflies as pollinators of flowers. Parents saw that children interested in observing for butterflies and they became to think about creating butterflies' friendly gardens at their homes in Bryansk.

In other case, at agricultural part of Bryansk region, for example, in Sevsk, people usually think that butterflies only blighted plants. For example, the caterpillar of large white eats cabbages thereby blighted to farmers. Our company led to a change in this belief and members of local community know that butterfly's benefit for nature as pollinators.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

I will continue our work. Our activity will concentrate on developing network of volunteers with support of citizen scientists and develop monitoring of rare butterflies on the territory of region. This future project will eliminate the gaps in distribution of rare species of butterflies. This future project will draw the attention of local communities and local authorities to the problem of protecting

habitats of rare butterfly species. The data obtained in the project will be available to Russian and foreign scientists through Butterfly Conservation Europe.

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

I have already shared the results of our work. I afforded our data to Butterfly Conservation Europe and they used it for publishing a book *The European Butterfly Indicator for Grassland Species: 1990-2011*.

In partnership with Laboratory of BioIndication and BioMonitoring of Bryansk University we used data for prepare and publish articles, especially concerning questions of the prediction impact of climate change of butterflies' habitats.

The website of our project is interested not only for Russians; people from other countries view it. We were contacted by an individual from Kyrgyzstan who is interested in saving rare species of butterflies in his country and discussed our project, our successes and difficulties.

The experience of different conferences is very interesting for us. I took part in some conferences, for example, Rufford Conference in Armenia where I presented first results of this project and met with other conservation projects of participants.

We prepared article for international conference "Biodiversity and wildlife conservation ecological issues" (Armenia). We will prepare article about developing butterflies monitoring in our region for magazine of Butterfly Conservation (UK).

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 for 1 year. We met with volunteers and member of local communities during April and May 2012; in May we held a training workshop in butterfly survey and monitoring methods. The next part of our project was devoted to collecting data on transects. We held training transects and organised field trips too. From the autumn of 2012 to April 2013 we received feedback forms from volunteers and coordinators, analysed data, organised different lectures, seminars and presentations, spread educational material and prepared articles about results of monitoring programme.

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
Transects (30 GBP/ 1 route / 40 routes)	1200	1200	0	
Traveller (25 GBP/Trip /30 Trips)	750	750	0	
Per diem (6 / day / 40 days)	240	240	0	
Leaflets (0,2 GBP/ 1 copy / 1000 copies)	200	200	0	
Posters (3 GBP/ 1 copy/ 200 copies)	600	600	0	
Butterfly key identification guide for schools (1,5 GBP/ 1 copy / 500 copies)	750	750	0	
Conservation guidelines for schools and local	750	750	0	

communities (1,5 GBP/ 1 copy / 500 copies)				
Training for volunteers (Travel of Participants)	515	515	0	
Training for volunteers (Lunch (9 GBP /Person / 45 persons)	405	405	0	
Training for volunteers (Photocopy)	150	150	0	
Training for volunteers (Materials & Supplies)	400	400	0	
TOTAL	5960	5960	0	

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

One of important next steps is creating and development network of citizen scientists for increasing number of monitoring transects. Special websites will be created for collection of data from volunteers and for development of the citizen scientist movement in Russia. Citizen scientists will be encouraged to be local butterfly ambassadors. Local butterfly conservation actions will be organised with help of local citizen scientists.

A very important tool for butterfly conservation is the determination of Prime Butterfly Areas (PBAs). They will cover habitats out target butterfly rare species. We will use ArcGIS software for creation maps of PBA distribution. Efforts will be made to engage with landowners and land managers, to encourage them to better incorporate the needs of butterflies into their management activities on PBA.

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, we used RSGF logo in presentations, in field butterfly keys, in printing material, in banners and posters, in leaflets and on website devoted to developing butterfly conservation project.

We noted the financial support of Rufford Small Grant Foundation at the end of our presentations and meeting.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to grateful Rufford Small Grant Foundation for support our project. Thanks to RSGF support we can receive interesting and useful data and attract people for studying and saving butterflies.



