

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Giorgi Kirkitadze
<b>Project title</b>	Forest rational use, conservation of chestnut and oak endangered trees, training of local people and their education for this purposes
<b>RSG reference</b>	11675-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	25.04.2012 – 20.04.2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5934
<b>Your email address</b>	giorgi_kirkitadze89@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	20.04.2013

**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
Field expeditions and seminars with school children from 10 high schools in Kharagauli district			Yes	We conducted seminars and expeditions in 10 different schools from 10 different villages in Kharagauli district
To choose model plots with students			Yes	We chose model plots and pupils got trained how to collect and record data.
To make herbarium and collect pests			Yes	Students learned how to make herbarium, collect and preserve pests.
To understand importance of chestnut and oak forests in Georgia			Yes	Students understood how important is to protect chestnut and oak forests in local and global scale.
Evaluating present condition of forest, determining of dominant forest pests and species of trees			Yes	We determined present condition of forest based our model plot data and trained pupils how to do this. We identified dominant tree and pest species.
Booklet Publishing and distribution			Yes	The leaflet about project activities was published. We sent it to each participant school and student.

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

We had no unforeseen difficulties.

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

1. School pupils learned how to evaluate the present condition of forest. Identify the composition of trees and land cover by plants. Using new devices and create dataset for farther analyses.
2. Participants learned how important are chestnut and oak trees for their district and how to protect it. They learned that chestnut natural growing is one of the biggest in Georgia and there are several disputed species of oaks, which are grown in their region.
3. Students made presentations and they present 10 themes on different subject: ecology, pest management, forest importance, conservation, etc. We reviewed all these works and evaluated and finally we gave certificate to the winner, second place and third place. So students got motivation to participate in this kind of project and they asked to us to continue such projects and work with them. Teachers of each school were actively involved in our project as well.

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

The municipality government helped to as to contact to school directors, who selected teachers who were in direct contact with us to help in organisational things.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

We are planning to develop and continue our works in Borjom-Kharagauli National Park. For the next step we will find touristic routes, which will show to locals and park visitor's present condition of chestnut and oak trees in the forest. This route will be named after Rufford Foundation, if the foundation will give us this permission.

This route will be separated as vertical zonal characteristics, so chestnut and oak zones will be separate, and all biodiversity elements representing the given zones will be given on the information desks placed on the routed on their respective locations. This will serve as an eco-guide for tourists as well.

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

The leaflet about the project published during the project will be distributed to the schools and to local municipalities. During our field studies and travel we will present our data to nonparticipant schools of the district and also to other districts of Georgia. It will be published also in the local newspaper and it will give to local's information about Rufford and our activities.

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

As money was transferred in April, RSG was used since April 25, 2012 and final step we completed in April 20, 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
Laptop	400	500	100	
Projector	350	250	100	
lunch for pupils during field excursions	400	400	0	
Minivan rent	350	350	0	
fuel	60	60	0	
logging	3000	3000	0	
per diem	960	960	0	
block paper	14	14	0	
100 block notes	80	80	0	
100 pens	20	20	0	
booklet publishing	300	300	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5934</b>	<b>5934</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

As our main aim was conservation of chestnut and oak forests in Georgia, next steps must be chestnut and oak forests detail description and study of present condition in Borjom-Kharagauli National park, to elaborate future plans

**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?**

RSGF logo was used on participants T-shirts (3), we made also 3 badges. Also it was used on leaflet, on certificates for participant students and on the field blank.

**11. Any other comments?**

We would like to thank RSGF for their activities and help to the local people for better understanding conservation programs and biodiversity importance in such regions such as Georgia and whole Caucasus.