

## 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>	Dmitry Grummo
<b>Project title</b>	Development and Implementation of Conservation Plan for the Oldest Bog in Belarus
<b>RSG reference</b>	11883-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	10/01/2013 – 31/12/2013
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	zm.hrums@gmail.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	28/02/2014

**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
Inventory of biological and landscape diversity of the wetland "Morochno"			×	Detailed investigations of prospective specially protected natural territory conducted, including: 1. Complete inventory of biological diversity in the area (flora, fauna, vegetation, rare and protected plant and animal species, rare plant communities and ecosystems); 2. Study of the physiographic conditions of the area (topography, climate, hydrology, soils, landscapes); 3. Socio-economic conditions (structure of population, economic activities, recreational potential of the area, historical and cultural potential, valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity); 4. Assessment of the current state of the ecosystem of the wetland, and the research of anthropogenic factors negatively affecting to ecosystems wetlands. 5. Mapping of the environment (vegetation mapping, maps of biological diversity, location of rare plant and animal species, rare habitats). Based on the results of research scientific substantiation of border area and protection regime of the reserve developed. Results are presented in a scientific report.
Development of scientific and a feasibility study for the establishment of Specially Protected Natural Area of National Importance "Morochno"			×	Scientific and feasibility study for the establishment of specially protected natural territory developed in accordance with the applicable national standards, directed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of 14.02.2014. Currently, the draft of Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus "On Establishment of National Reserve" being coordinated by the Government (Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Energy and others). The official decision is scheduled for 2015.
Declaration the peatland as			×	A wetland Morochno received the status of Ramsar site under the decision of the

Ramsar site				Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (WI Site №. 3BY011; Ramsar № 2139) in 2013. -- 3BY011 <a href="http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database/SearchforRamsarsites/tabid/765/Default.aspx">http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database/SearchforRamsarsites/tabid/765/Default.aspx</a>
Developing of the management plan			×	Management plan for the national wetland of the Reserve Morochno developed, but its realization is possible only after the establishment of specially protected natural territory.

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

The bog area is in the interests of the local peat enterprise. Together with the Czech Company "Rashelina", in 2014 JSC "Peat Enterprise Glinka" implementing a project to establish production of peat substrates (planned annual volume of peat substrates is 183 600 m<sup>3</sup>) on peat-site "Zubkovo", which is adjacent to the reserve. Therefore, company representatives were not interested in creating a protected area in the proposed boundaries and offered significantly reduces the area. However, in a series of negotiations with the participation of the local community were presented scientific justification value wetland for conservation of landscape and biological diversity, hydrological functions. Leadership of District Executive Committee decided to establish the Reserve within the boundaries that we have proposed (6415.9 ha).

Besides, during the preparation of all documentation for declaring National Reserve "Morochno" set of preventive and compensatory measures developed and agreed. In particular is planned:

- building of protecting impervious dams between protected bog sites and peat drainage systems;
- commissioning of peat extraction area only gradually;
- maintenance of environmental monitoring of ecosystems and populations of plants and animals protected species for the Reserve "Morochno" and adjacent areas upon completion of each phase of peat extraction;
- environmental remediation of the site (rewetting) upon completion of each stage of peat extraction;
- determination of the buffer zone up to 100 m along the periphery of the reserve.

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

- a) Scientific research helped preserve the unique bog. In accordance with the applicable national standards, scientific and feasibility substantiation of creation of specially protected natural area developed. Border and protection regime of National Reserve "Morochno" justified and agreed upon by all land users. Currently, the draft Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus "On Establishment of National Reserve" being coordinated by the government (Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Energy and others). The official decision is scheduled up end of 2014.

- b) Besides a range of additional measures succeeded in agreeing (including the creation of buffer zone, the construction of dams between a protected part of the bog and peat drainage systems, etc.) to minimise negative impacts on ecosystems of reserve.
- c) Within the boundaries of the wetland the Ramsar site created (WI Site №. 3BY011; Ramsar № 2139) that additional protection for this unique bog is.

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

Participation of local communities: Border and protection regime of wetland Reserve was reviewed and agreed by local land users (Stolin forestry, Municipal Agricultural Enterprise "AgroGlinka" Land Management Service of Stolin District Executive Committee).

Local authorities on the basis of scientific evidence has decided to increase the Reserve area (from 4307.0 ha to 6415.9 ha), as well as obliged the local peat enterprise to implement a set of additional measures to minimize the negative impacts of peat extraction on ecosystems of prospective reserve. Benefits: On the territory of the wetland picking berries (cranberries) is an important source of income for more than 5,000 families. According to expert estimates the annual harvest of cranberries estimated 150 000 – 400 000 \$USD. Basically inhabitants of the settlements located around the wetland this activity is carried out. Therefore, preserving the bog (in the reserve will be allowed amateur berry picking) is an important condition to generate additional income for the local population.

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

Yes there are, we would like to implement the following:

- a) Scientific support to the final implementation (creation of the Reserve, management plans and measures to minimise the negative impacts of peat extraction on Reserve ecosystems) required.
- b) Organisation of a system of ground and remote monitoring of the bog ecosystem appropriate and the monitor of the implementation of protection regime for reserve.
- c) Taking into account positive experience of this project, we would like to implement similar approaches for other "problem" wetlands in the country.

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

- a) The publication of scientific monograph "Biological and landscape diversity of the wetland Morochno";
- b) Presentation at scientific conferences, public hearings, and the media.

Research results were presented at the Regional Workshop for Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe for the preparation of the Fifth National Report, which was held from 20 to 24 January 2014 in Minsk (Belarus). In the seminar, representatives appointed by the Governments of the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Croatia participated.

At the seminar, project leader Dmitry Grummo on the case study of bog Morochno considered the practice of settlement valuation of ecosystem services and biodiversity. Comparison with alternative scenarios (using the territory for peat extraction) has been proved that the preservation of the ecological functions of peat deposits is more cost-effective than their development for the production of fuel briquettes.

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

The project was realised during the year (10.01.2013-31.12.2013). The project started to be realised not immediately with scheduled date (20.09.2012), because it was necessary to coordinate it with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, as well as its official registration. Time frames were quite optimal for this project.

**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
<b>Project Management</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>690.0</b>	<b>-190.0</b>	The level of salary in the country increased than the time of the application drafting
Project manager salary per month	41.7	57.5	-15.8	
Project manager salary - for a year	500.0	690.0	-190.0	
<b>Field work on the detailed information on the peatland</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>916.3</b>	<b>+1083.7</b>	As the cost of services vehicles has strongly increased, we spent on the fields not planned 4 weeks, but 2 weeks.
Accommodation on the field	1667.8	728.5	+939.3	
Food on the field	332.2	187.8	+144.4	
<b>Development and approval of the Reserve management plan</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1662.5</b>	<b>-162.5</b>	The level of salary in the country increased than the time of the application drafting
Researcher's salary per month	75.0	85.3	-10.3	
Researcher's salary for a year	900.0	1023.6	-123.6	
Research assistant's salary per month	50.0	53.24	-3.2	
Research assistant's salary for a year	600.0	638.9	-38.9	
<b>Local travel</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1387.4</b>	<b>-387.4</b>	As the cost of services vehicles has strongly increased
Payment for services vehicles (expedition minibus) during field work, including the services of a driver	1000.0	1387.4	-387.4	
<b>Expendable materials</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>523.6</b>	<b>-123.6</b>	Prices for supplies increased

Office supplies and household stuff for the field time	400	523.6	123.6	
<b>Overhead</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>820.2</b>	<b>-220.2</b>	We got bonification, except payroll. So here contains the amount that we paid as a payroll tax.
Possible equipment's damage, or a prices increase, etc.	600	820.2	-220.2	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

- a) Scientific support to the final implementation (creation of the Reserve, management plans and measures to minimise the negative impacts of peat extraction on Reserve ecosystems) required.
- b) The publication of scientific monograph "Biological and landscape diversity of the wetland Morochno".

**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?**

Into all documentation directed to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, as well as in the scientific report, during speeches was pointed that the results were obtained with financial support of RSGF. This practice we will also apply in the future.

RSGF logo was used in the report to the Regional Workshop for Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe in the preparation of the Fifth National Report.

In the thesis of project executors (Natallia Zeliankevich) indicated that the findings of research of some areas were also obtained with the support of RSGF.

**11. Any other comments?**

We express our deep appreciation that your financial support has helped to preserve this unique wetland.