

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	Gayane Karagyan
Project title	Identification of Priority Areas for the Conservation of Endangered Insect Species of Ararat Valley in Armenia
RSG reference	ref: 13316-1
Reporting period	April 2013 – May 2014
Amount of grant	£ 6000
Your email address	gaykaragyan@yahoo.com
Date of this report	31.05.2014

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
Create GIS-based database on endangered insect species of Ararat valley, Armenia.			X	Database was created and all the data obtained during project implementation as well as all other available data were included.
Collect data on current distribution, some ecological and biological data on endangered insect species of Ararat valley.		X		Due to rather short time of field work during project implementation not all the species preliminarily listed for the study area were registered.
Select and assess insect species of special conservation interest not included yet into Red Book of Armenia.			X	24 species from four orders not yet included into National Red Book were selected, assessed and categorised using IUCN Criteria, fact sheets for each species are elaborated.
Prepare documents for IUCN SSC with categorisation and assessment of Armenian species and populations for data inclusion into IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.			X	14 species endemic for Armenia were selected and assessed; respective documents for submission to IUCN SSC are prepared according to IUCN Red List requirements.
Perform public awareness rising activity		X		Meetings with local communities' authorities and staff of all Protected Areas of the study area were conducted, and lectures in schools of 26 villages were performed. Educational materials were disseminated. Surely, this activity could not cover all the settlements of the Ararat valley.
Develop recommendations and draft Action plan for conservation of insects of Ararat valley		X		Respective documents were elaborated but they need some discussions and harmonisation with some stakeholders including authorities of different levels, non-governmental organisations, and scientists from academic and high education institutions.

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

Actually there were no real difficulties during project implementation; only what can be mentioned that sometimes weather conditions did not allow to work in the field enough effectively. Besides, there were problems with taking pictures of insects in the field because of use of rather simple camera which did not allow getting qualified images of active insects.

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

1. The database of rare and endangered species of insects was elaborated and the modern data on distribution, some peculiarities of biology were obtained and included into database.
2. Species of high conservation interest do not included yet into modern edition of Red Book of Armenia were selected and assessed using IUCN Criteria.
3. The recommendation for conservation of endangered insects of Ararat valley, including proposals of development of Protected Areas system of Armenia were elaborated.

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

Local communities were not directly involved in project implementation, but authorities of communities supported our activity organising meetings with their staff and pupils of local schools targeted to awareness rising of the members of communities, especially among young generation. Illustrative and didactic materials shared during project' implementation will be used with educational purposes.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

During project implementation not all the species preliminarily known from the study area were found, and data on them are necessary, as well as additional biological and distribution data on the species already revealed. We need to continue the field research activities to get these data.

Besides, project revealed quite unsatisfactory level of public awareness on importance of insects and on necessity of their protection among local people. So, we are planning to continue dissemination of respective educational materials in local communities. Finally, we are going to continue teaching students of MSc course in taxonomic and conservation entomology.

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

1. The project output (report, recommendations, draft Action Plan) will be submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection, to the high educational institutions in Yerevan (e.g. Yerevan State University, Yerevan State Pedagogical University, etc.), and to Scientific Council of Scientific Centre of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia.
2. Proposals for inclusion of additional insect species into further edition of Red Book of Armenia with datasheets will be submitted to the MoNP of RA which is responsible for Red Book management.

3. Documents on species proposed for inclusion into IUCN Red List of Threatened Species will be submitted to IUCN SSC.
4. Scientific papers will be prepared and published in peer-reviewed journals.
5. The project results will be shared with scientists in different conferences and workshop, in particular it is planned to report some results in the conference “Biological diversity and conservation problems of the fauna of the Caucasus” which have to be held in coming September in Yerevan, Armenia.

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 during period of end of April, 2013 - end of May, 2014. Duration of the project implementation was prolonged for one month because of one extra expedition in April, 2014 to register spring aspect of condition of insects’ fauna and necessity of elaboration of the data obtained and their analysis.

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
Purchase of Garmin GPS	200	200	0	
Purchase Trinocular microscope with photo camera	1300	1195	105	Microscope and camera were bought in Russia by price cheaper than in Armenia
Purchase of notebook with accessories	500	390	110	It was a discount for winter sale prices
Purchase of small electrical generator	140	113	27	Due to change of rate £sterling/AMD the same price in drams was lesser in pounds
Purchase of sleeping bags	100	100	0	
Fuel (£0.8/L x 15 L/100 km x 300 km/trip x 11 trips)	360	396	-36	One extra field trip was carried out in April, 2014
Car rent and driver: £20/day x 5 days/trip x 11 trips	1000	1100	-100	One extra field trip was carried out in April, 2014
Per diems: £7/person/day x 4 persons x 5 days/trip x 11 trips	1400	1540	-140	One extra field trip was carried out in April, 2014
Publication of booklets and posters/calendars	1000	980	20	Discount from typography was accepted
TOTAL	6000	6014	-14	

The rate of £sterling / Armenian dram (AMD) was from 641.63 to 694.58 AMD/£.

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

Very important step, in our opinion, is identification and delimitation of Important Insect Areas not only in Ararat valley but in all over Armenia and further harmonization of these areas with already

known Important Bird Areas and Important Plant Areas (as far as we know identification of those was supported by RSGF). This will allow elaborating more comprehensive and coordinated protection measures for areas of special conservation value.

Meaning public awareness rising, the next steps must include enforcement of education authorities (using, for instance, civil society capacities) for special inclusion into educational programs issues on insect conservation.

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 used the RSGF logo in all the materials published (posters, booklets, calendars). In all of our lectures, meetings and discussions RSGF role was stressed. Special presentation of the project was made in the Scientific Council of the Scientific Centre of Zoology of Academy of Sciences of Armenia.

11. Any other comments?

Thanks to support of RSGF, we could get new information on endangered insect species of our country; distribute information on importance of these rather neglected animals and necessity of their protection among local people.