

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. 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. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. 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>	Dubravko Dender
<b>Project title</b>	Research of the nesting bird populations in high mountain ecosystems of Mt. Bjelasnica and Mt. Igman, with review of the species' conservation status
<b>RSG reference</b>	13571-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	May 2013 - July 2014
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£ 5990
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:dubravko_dender@yahoo.com">dubravko_dender@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	2.9.2014.

**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
Field research, data collection, processing and presentation		+		<p>Nearly 85 % of the planned field research activities were completed and a large quantity of data was collected. Data collected using the line transect and point count methodology are particularly important, as they made it possible to ensure monitoring in the upcoming period. During this research only, new data were collected for almost 90 species nesting in these mountains. Some of them were proven to be nesting for the first time with certainty. At this point, we can already conclude that this will be one of the IBA areas in the territory of BiH in the future.</p> <p>MS Excel database was created to include the data collected in this and previous researches.</p> <p>Project activities were presented on the website and Facebook page of the Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature BIO.LOG, as well as through various activities of this society. Certain media were informed on all major activities. However, we failed to organise the planned meetings with journalists at which the project would be presented.</p> <p>During the project, we realised important contacts with experts from the Faculty of Science of the University of Sarajevo. Some of them offered expert assistance in designing of the conservation measure proposal paper. We accepted the offer with pleasure, since we think it will greatly contribute to quality of this paper. Since vacation season is underway, designing process will last for a while. This is why we marked the activities in this section as partially achieved, but it is clear that it will be corrected in the future.</p>
Creating and printing the brochures and posters for			+	<p>Fliers and posters highlight the importance of the area under research for nesting birds, as well as factors</p>

promotion of the area under research as an important bird habitat				endangering their survival. Five copyrighted photographs were bought in order to make them more attractive.
Workshops (presentations)			+	<p>A series of presentations was organised in the following institutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Second Grammar School Sarajevo</li> <li>• The Third Grammar School Sarajevo</li> <li>• The Fourth Grammar School Ilidza</li> <li>• Catholic School Centre “Saint Joseph” Sarajevo – General Grammar School</li> <li>• Faculty of Science of the University of Sarajevo</li> <li>• Faculty of Forestry of the University of Sarajevo</li> <li>• Scout Group Igman 92</li> </ul> <p>We are extremely satisfied with interactions with participants and their positive reactions to our presentations.</p>
Equipment and gear			+	The following equipment was purchased: one GPS and three pairs of binoculars which greatly contributed to this research.
Creating and printing the fliers for promotion of bird watching tourism			+	Bird watching was presented to all groups we addressed during the project, but the most of attention was paid to tourism. Special fliers were created for this purpose, with five purchased photographs used again, as for the abovementioned fliers and posters.

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

In February 2014, a wave of social protests spread across many cities in BiH, which resulted in a difficult political situation. This fact is considered to be the key reason why representatives of various levels of government did not attend the presentations that they were invited to in a timely manner. The same reason applies to forestry experts who were invited to the presentation organized at the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Sarajevo as well as to journalists for whom a special meeting was planned.

Both seasons in which the field research was carried out were marked by heavy rainfall. This affected the quality of research to some extent, i.e. a small part of the planned research was not completed. These heavy rainfalls are best reflected by the floods that struck a major part of the territory of BiH in spring 2014.

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

We think that the most important outcomes planned by this project were mostly achieved. This primarily refers to collection of the data on nesting bird populations in the mountains of Bjelasnica and Igman. The field research made it possible to have a much better insight into the number of populations of certain species, and we also collected new data on their distribution. The data made it possible to create a database, to establish monitoring in the upcoming period and to design the conservation measure proposal paper. Since we are planning similar researches in other mountains in BiH, our activities will be significantly facilitated thanks to this fact. After the conservation measure proposal paper has been designed, the project activities will be successfully finalised, as we think it is particularly important to present the data to all levels of government.

In order to educate various groups, a series of presentations were organised. Participants were warned of the importance of this area for nesting birds, and all threats endangering the ornithofauna of this area were highlighted as well. The education efforts were significantly improved by fliers created for this purpose, while very attractive photographs that we supplied made the materials much more appealing. The presentations were adjusted to certain institutions, so the ones organized at the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Sarajevo implied a wider lecture on the influence of forestry on various species of forest birds.

Promotion of sustainable development in this area, through promotion of birdwatching tourism, is one of important objectives of this project. As it was planned, fliers were created to present the potentials of this area for development of this unexploited field of tourism. Besides the promotion of bird watching, other natural landmarks of this area were presented in fliers. Birdwatching was presented to all groups, but special attention was paid to mountaineering clubs and tourist agencies from the area of Sarajevo, as well as tourist centres and restaurants in the area under research.

Reactions were extremely positive and we are planning to continue our efforts in this field in the future.

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

Presentation participants were informed on the possibility of active engagement in research involving birds and their habitats, as well as other groups of plants and animals. In order to engage them in similar research in the future, they were informed on the work of the NGO Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature BIO.LOG, and they were invited to actively participate in the work of this organisation. As a result, several biology students and pupils joined the NGO.

We will continue with promotion of birdwatching tourism, and we have reasons to believe that local community should benefit from its development in the future.

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

We have been researching the bird fauna of this area for several years now, so the research carried out within this project is continuation of the previous ones. Of course, the funds granted by this project significantly accelerated our work. We are planning to continue the research in these and other mountain areas in BiH. During the project, significant progress was made with regard to education and promotion of bird watching, which we are planning to continue, particularly through

activities of the Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature BIO.LOG and Centre for Living Environment, Banja Luka.

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

Some of the project activities were published on the website and Facebook page of the Society for Biological Research and Protection of Nature BIO.LOG. The data collected by this research were presented to other NGOs from BiH and surrounding countries. Results will be presented to relevant federal and state-level ministries and other stakeholders responsible for the nature conservation.

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

The project activities were carried out from the second half of May 2013 to July 2014, by which two nesting seasons were covered. The grant was used throughout the period June 2013 – July 2014, since it was not approved before June 2013. Up until this point, we used our own funds that we compensated for by using the grant afterwards.

**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.**

1 GBP =2.25 BAM

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Brochures (Mt. Bjelasnica and Mt. Igman as an important bird habitat)	300	300		
Posters (Mt. Bjelasnica and Mt. Igman as an important bird habitat)	300	300		
Brochures (Promotion of bird watching on Mt. Bjelasnica and Mt. Igman)	300	300		
Photographs (pet photographs purchased and used to create both types of brochures and posters)	0	100	+100	Funds for photographs were provided by unused funds intended for media campaign.
Media campaign	200	10	-190	
Fuel (fieldtrips)	1700	1700		
Fuel (presentations, workshops)	440	530	+90	Additional funds were provided from unused funds intended for the media campaign.
Food allowance	600	600		
Accommodation	1200	1200		
Office costs	100	100		

Equipment and gear	850	850		By items: GPS - 550 Binoculars for three persons - 300
<b>Total</b>	5990	5990		

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

As we already highlighted, we think it is the most important to finalise the conservation measure proposal paper and to forward it to stakeholders responsible for the nature conservation. Also, as we already highlighted, we are planning to continue the research, as well as education and popularisation of birdwatching.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, the logo was used in all materials produced within the project activities. Participants were informed on the work of RSG at each of the presentations.

**11. Any other comments?**

We want to thank the Rufford Foundation for your trust.