

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	Danijela Stešević
Project title	Conservation of psammophytic vegetation of Long Beach in Ulcinj, Montenegro
RSG reference	14048-1
Reporting period	May 2015- May 2016
Amount of grant	5000£
Your email address	danijela.stesevic@ac.me
Date of this report	May 9 th 2016

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
To create relevant dataset about the structure, function and importance of psammophytic (sandy) ecosystem of the Long Beach as well as of recognised threats.			+	We gathered all published data about sandy ecosystems of the Long Beach, enlarge it with own field investigations and observations, recognised actual threats and proposed conservation measures.
To publish scientific papers, popular and educational materials (brochure, information table), which will promote biological values of the Long Beach and point to the need of its conservation and conduction of some restoration measures.			+	<p>One scientific publication: "<i>Cenchrus spinifex</i> Cav., a new alien species for the flora of Montenegro", is accepted for publication in <i>Acta Botanica Gallica</i>.</p> <p>Two publications are under the review: "Notes on synecology of <i>Cutandia martima</i> (L.) Benth, a rare psammophytic species along the Montenegrinian Coast (East Adriatic Coast)" and "<i>Lippia nodiflora-Cuscuta caesattiana</i>, a new plant community from the Long Beach in Ulcinj"</p> <p>Brochure, posters and educational materials were printed and distributed to the participants of the workshops, lectures, field work, as well as to the visitors of the exhibition.</p> <p>Information tables which promote NATURA 2000 habitats and rare species are displayed near the most frequently used paths and entrances to the beaches.</p>
To promote biological values of the Long Beach via exhibition, workshops, lectures for different target groups			+	<p>In the frame of the manifestation "Days of Science" we organised exhibition about the plant file of the Long Beach, and importance of its conservation. Pupils from the Primary and Secondary school all over the country, as well as the students and citizens, visited the exhibition and get educational materials.</p> <p>Workshops were organized in the Primary and Secondary schools in Ulcinj and Podgorica.</p> <p>A lecture and the fieldwork were organize for the biology students and volunteers from Ulcinj and Podgorica.</p> <p>One additional activity was promotion of the project at the University in Graz. Participants were</p>

				informed about our project, but also the Rufford foundation.
To establish better collaboration between scientists, activists, local authorities and policy makers			+	This projects connected scientists from Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, enable students, pupils and volunteers to get into the closer touch with scientific work. Through the project we established good collaboration with the Municipality of Ulcinj, Touristic organization of Ulcinj, Primary and Scondary Schools, NGO sector.

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

Two unforeseen difficulties were: i) duration of the process of getting a permission to install the information tables, and ii) the installation. Thus, instead in April 2015, this action was completed in May 2015. Due to extremely strong winds, it was not enough just to bury the tables into the sand (at 60cm depth, but to put the cement.

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

- We created very detailed database about the psammophytes of the Long Beach (current state), mapped NATURA 2000 habitats and gave recommendations for further preservation and protection of the area.
- We promoted biological value of the Long Beach in Ulcinj, and stressed the need for its preservation. We organised very successful and visited exhibition about the plant life of the Long Beach, visited numerous primary and secondary schools, as well as University in Podgorica and Graz and gave lectures and/or organise workshops. We also had one joint field excursion with scientists and volunteers.
- We contribute to the strengthening of collaboration between scientists, activists and local authorities.

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

Local authorities in Ulcinj and local community were extremely supportive both in organising of scientific activities, as well as in participating and promoting of the results and supporting of spreading the idea about conservation of the area. Local authorities benefited from the project with free access to the database, which contains all historical and the most recent dataset. In addition, through this project new connections between local authorities and NGO sector is established.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Of course!!! We intend to continue the research of the area, and pay attention on newly recorded alien species. In addition we plan the research of Ada Bojana, neighbouring island located into the mouth of river Bojana into the sea.

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

Via scientific publication, promotive materials, posters, information tables, the Rufford site.

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

Project lasted 1 year, from May 2015 to May 2016. All planned activities were done during this period.

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
Accommodation	1080£	1080£	0£	
Daily allowance	1350£	1350£	0£	
Transportation	250£	300£	+50£	Additional sum was spent for transportation of colleagues from Belgrade to Ulcinj. According to the planned budget participants from Ljubljana and Belgrade should come by airplane, but the ticket prices were significantly higher.
Airplane ticket	300£	251.44£	-48.56£	Due to higher prices of the return ticket Ljubljana-Podgorica, we could not provide plain tickets for all participants from Serbia, thus they used own car. Expenses are included into "Transportation"
Material for lecture and workshop	220£	220£	0£	
Exhibition	730£	730£	0£	
Informative tables	950£	950£	0£	Although we got a better offer for design and preparation of the tables (876£), the rest of 74£ were spent on the cement daily allowance for workers. This action was supported by NGO Green Home and Municipal Service.
Consumables	120£	120£	0£	
TOTAL	5000£			

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

Prevention of the further landscape changes along the Long Beach. Very frequently the contractors of the beaches are removing the native psammophytes and planting ornamental and frequently, invasive species, like *Carpobrotus* sp. Sand excavation is still present in some sites, as well motor racing, which negatively affect the vegetation.

It is suggested to preserve one additionally identified sites with representative dune vegetation. Since 2013, the part of the Beached with well-preserved dune and retroduneal depressions have been fenced and protected. It would be necessary to limit the impact of tourism and construction of additional touristic infrastructure.

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 logo of the RSGF in all materials produced in this project: presentations, brochure, posters, and information tables.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to thank Rufford foundation for supporting the project idea, and Jane Raymond for wonderful communication during project reporting.