

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	Levan Mumladze
Project title	Conservation of Caucasian Wildlife: Applying the National Conservation Status to some Georgian Molluscs (Based on IUCN Criteria) - Stage 2
RSG reference	14845-2
Reporting period	02.2014 - 02.2015
Amount of grant	£5910
Your email address	lmumladze@gmail.com
Date of this report	20.02.2015

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
Determine the exact distributional ranges and population parameters of selected (15 in total) land snail species				In spite of extensive field work, the time period was not enough to obtain the needed data for all target species. In particular, we obtain the complete range data for eight species, incomplete data for remaining seven species.
Determining the conservation status of target species according to IUCN criteria				This objective was also partially achieved due to incomplete data for some species. Also, not all the species for which complete data is already available were treated accordingly and are waiting to be processed. Currently we have completed the analyses of six (three of them critically endangered and other three vulnerable) species and are working on the others
Publishing the peer-reviewed papers				This objective was expected to be achieved after the completion of others. Currently I have two papers submitted to the journals and I hope them to be published during the 2015 year. The following work is expected to result in peer-reviewed articles as well (2015-16)
Publishing general purpose information booklets for local communities				After the collection and analysing significant part of our data, we were able to produce such a booklet at the end of project period. With the help of IRC (Invertebrate Research Centre) and Ilia State University we are currently finalising the publishing process of the booklet which will be available at the end of March 2015.
Involvement of students in project implementation				Three MSc students were actively involved in the project implementation phase. Currently they are doing their MSc thesis based on the data collected within the project

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

We had significant difficulty during the project implementation. Specifically, the number of species was too large to cover in single year. In order to fulfil the project objectives and finish started works, we are going to invest all necessary, own resources in field working period of 2015. The difficulty was also unexpected large amount of collected data, processing of which did not finish during the project. Instead we are still struggling to the part of data to effectively shape and present the results.

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

- Three MSc students are motivated and involved in the study of molluscs. This is the most important outcome of the project as until now the project leader was single malacologist in Georgia.
- During the course of the project we collected data of high conservation values for invertebrate animals for the first time in the region (Caucasus). This is very important step towards the understanding the importance, conservation needs and ways of hyper-diverse and highly vulnerable invertebrate animals. We believe that the results of the project will contribute much not only the conservation of some vulnerable snail species, but also in strategic development of conservation programs in Georgia. We have already attributed national conservation status of six snail species and will gradually increase the number during the 2015. This will be legalized in the next issue of Georgian red list (expected to be published in 2016).
- As the result of the project we already finished preparation of two scientific articles and working on others. They are expected to be published in second half of 2015 year and forthcoming in 2016. This is (or will be) also very important outcome as makes strong bases to attract the general scientific and financial attention to the study and conservation of invertebrate animals in Georgia.

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

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5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

There are well understood plans of the continuation of the project. Firstly we did not finish all the planned work yet and whole year of 2015 will also be used to achieve all initial objectives.

Apart this, we are already planning next steps in order to expand our experience and targets in conservation of terrestrial molluscs. This includes the selection of additional narrow-range snail species as well as incorporation of community-wide research/conservation tools in our work. We have also started and are going to incorporate (phylo) genetic study of a target species in order to obtain thorough knowledge on their identity and origin. This will help much to contribute in a complete or general view of molluscan conservation strategies at country level.

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

To the local scientific community, the results will be presented during the master defence which will hold in June 2015 (one thesis) and in February 2016 (two theses). For a wider scientific community the scientific article and Georgian red-list web site will be used to share the information. The booklet including the key topics of the project will be used (first half of the 2015) to inform local community.

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

The RSG found was used for 1 year (02.2014-02.2015). However this time was not enough to achieve all the objectives of the project. Additional 1 year must be enough to fulfill the remaining tasks as much of the work is already done.

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
Rent a car	1380	800	+580	With the rent we also used a second (my personal) car as well to conduct parallel field trips by two groups
Per-diem	1260	1950	-690	The amount of person-working days was more than expected
Petrol	1320	2160	-840	The amount of petrol was also more than expected
Rent room	450	0	+450	We use only tents during the field working periods
Publishing brochure	1500	2000	-500	The number of pages of brochures is two times more than expected
TOTAL	5910	6910	1000	
Differences is partly covered by the IRC (500) and by the Ilia State University (helping in publishing booklets)				

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

First of all I (with the collaborator students) have to finalise all the objectives and represent all the results as it was planned. This will help in maintaining and aggravating interests and motivation of students to continue the work on snail research and conservation. In other hand this will also make a strong foundation to enhance the land snail conservation in Georgia as well as to establish a successful practice in invertebrate conservation activities in the region.

After that (and not only) the important investment (time and finances) is needed to grow up the attention of legal bodies and local communities towards the invertebrate diversity and conservation. We need the analyses of the gaps in this respect and well planned campaign to create truly conservation oriented society.

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?

Until now, we used only oral representation of RSGF and the project during the course of project. However forthcoming booklet, scientific articles and master thesis will all acknowledge the contribution of RSGF (and some of them will also use the logo as well).