

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Ana Vujović
Project title	Distribution and Treats to European pond turtle (<i>Emys orbicularis</i>) at Zeta and Bjelopavlici Plain at Montenegro
RSG reference	15156-1
Reporting period	July 2014 - September 2015
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	hermanna85@gmail.com
Date of this report	September 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
Get information from the previously published data about locations where European pond turtle is present in Montenegro			x	After literature search we managed to find only data about the European pond turtle in some part of region of Skadar lake and some localities at Bjelopavlici plane. That gave us good bases for field research.
Get information about the risks European pond turtle face in their natural habitats			x	At all localities we visited we noted and photographed all risks factors European pond turtle face with. At most localities those were: water pollution, electrofishing and habitat destruction.
Popularisation of the project			x	During the project we held lectures at seven schools and university, and we promoted our project at TV Vijesti show (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3rgx4cflFI&feature=youtu.be). Seven volunteers were intensely involved in field work and popularisation. We communicated with all the people we have meet at the research region and distributed promotional material: leaflets and posters.
Workshop			x	Round table about European pond turtle distribution and conservation was held. People from relevant institutions (University of Belgrade, National park „Skadar lake“, Podgorica municipality, Danilovgrad Municipality and Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro) were present and discussed important issues for the species conservation.

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

We had a lot of problems with research period and localities – some localities were dry or the water level was too high or the vegetation around water body were too thick and moody to come too close or too see is there individuals.

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

1. Found a lot of localities inhabited by the European pond turtle, also some very suitable potential habitats, which in next seasons we can check.
2. Noted most important endangering factors. We used that to warn public (students, local inhabitant's etc.) and authorities about its consequences.
3. Shared information about the European pond turtle and the project in public and with relevant institutions. So we promote the degree of vulnerability of this species, the importance of its conservation, our organisation and RSGF.

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

Everyone was interested in helping at field research and sharing information about poachers, illegal fishing and waste disposal. We hope that with communication with local authorities we will be able to control and protect valuable habitats and help local inhabitants to protect their environment.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

First we will continue to educate pupils, students and volunteers. We will continue to work on conservation and if we find a donations to continue field research on the distribution and population status of European pond turtle. We plan to send DNA samples for genetic analysis in order to form a data base. We also plan to form a network with colleagues from neighbouring Balkan countries.

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

All the news on the project and materials prepared for rising of public awareness we published at the Natural History Association of Montenegro website (<http://drustvoprirodnjakacg.weebly.com/>) and also all the activities that we will do in order to protect this species.

Data from this research will be used for writing scientific publications where RSGF will be acknowledged.

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
Poster design, preparation and printing quantity 10	60	62.5	+2.5	
Leaflet design, preparation and printing quantity 1000	190	182	-8	
200 tubes for DNA samples, mountain boots x 2, bottles 96% alcohol x 3, sleeping bag, blades, tent, gloves, nets, spatterdashe, binsers, balance	521	615.6	+94.6	We bought three more nets than we planned
Mountain bag		40		
Food for catching the European Pond Turtle		60		
Cell phone communication		90		
Fishing boots x 4	85	32	-53	Bought just two pairs
Binocular x 2	80	79.4	-0.6	
Lap top (HD,3 GHz)	383	354	-29	A cheaper option was found in relation to the initially planned
GPS	290	269	-21	A cheaper option was found in relation to the initially planned
Video beam projector	201	288.8	+87,8	This was the cheap best option we have found at our country
Travel expenses for persons coming on field work for regional cooperation	250	122.7	-127.3	
Travel expenses for lectures in Podgorica and Danilovgrad	40	47	+7	Prices for the fuel were higher than expected.
Daily allowance for one person 17 GBT X 3 days	51	51		
Daily allowance (for food, drink, etc.) 17 GBP x 4 persons x 21 days for field work	1428	1524.6	+96.6	We had five more researchers (volunteers and students) for some field trips
Car renting and travel	700	650.2	-49,8	

expenses for field work				
Meeting (Podgorica, October 2015): Rental of meeting room, coffee break, food , accommodation	720	505	-215	We didn't pay a rental of meeting room, and spend a lesser money for coffee break, food , accommodation
Total	£499 9	£4973 .8		

The rate of conversion to Pounds Sterling used in this project is taken from Montenegrin Central Bank (<http://www.cb-mn.org/> on date 2014-03-29 (1 € = 0.8272 British Pound Sterling)).

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

- To try to, through education, convince the local authorities to understand the importance of this species and make bigger effort to protect it.
- Analyse the collected DNA samples and creating the DNA database.
- To make a network with colleagues from surrounding Balkan countries and to collect blood samples for the overall DNA database.

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?

The RSGF logo was used in all presentations of the project, and printed on the brochures and posters prepared during this project.

RSGF received publicity during this project, during our field work, in local community, among scientists, during educational lectures in Montenegro.

RSGF will be acknowledged in all the publications which will come out from this project.

11. Any other comments?

I am very grateful to RSGF for the financial support. The data and samples are precious and necessary for next work on this species. But, this is just a beginning of conservation and distribution resolving of the European pond turtle.