

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	Svetlana Goloshchapova
Project title	Grassland butterfly conservation initiatives in South-Western Russia
RSG reference	15456-2
Reporting period	June 2014 - May 2015
Amount of grant	£5985
Your email address	sv.goloshchapova@gmail.com
Date of this report	3 rd July 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
Expanding Butterfly Monitoring in south-west non-black soil area of Russia			+	The new monitoring transects were established in south-west non-black soil area of Russia.
Updating of data about butterfly distribution in region.			+	New data about distribution of 83 butterfly species included in our data bases.
New knowledge about butterfly population trends in grasslands			+	Population trend for 10 grassland species was estimated. Four species have declined its population, six species have uncertain trend.
Long term monitoring with involving local communities and citizen sciences			+	20 trained volunteers from different part of project region involved in butterfly data collection.
Public awareness about grassland butterflies.			+	More than 5000 people of different age obtained a new knowledge about butterflies and necessity of its conservation.
Preparation of recommendations for stakeholders and local communities			+	The project team based on analysis results developed special recommendations about conserving of butterfly species in south-west non-black soil area of Russia.

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

The one of the difficulties that arose during the project was the problem of road quality. Sometimes we couldn't get to needed place, but our volunteers kindly gave own more practicable transport. At second, some people don't consider butterfly an important animal species and they don't understand the importance of its conservation in our region. We overcame it problem involved people in special games, used lectures and field trips.

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

1. *New data about butterfly distributions and trends in region.*

The team of project during data collection and data analysis received new data about distribution of 83 butterfly species. This information enabled to update information about of butterfly habitats and planning butterfly's conservation and future monitoring transects. Trends for the 10 grassland species were calculated. For the 4 years of butterfly monitoring for four species declined its numbers. There are: *Coenonympha pamphilus* (decline in Europe), *Lycaena phlaeas* (decline in Europe), *Maniola jurtina* (decline in Europe) and *Polyommatus semiargus*. For other six species the trend is uncertain.

2. Developing long term monitoring through community and citizen science.

Involving volunteers as citizen scientists and members of local communities enabled to develop long term butterfly monitoring as a powerful cost-effective tool to measure butterfly diversity in region in relation to various pressures and conserving grassland butterflies in region.

3. Increasing public awareness about grassland butterflies.

Wide educational campaign about butterflies and saving biodiversity in region enabled to spread knowledge about grassland butterflies through involving local stakeholders and communities. This educational activity created support for the management of key butterfly areas as important places for saving our biodiversity.

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

In some schools of region, the team of project involved member of local communities (schoolchildren, they parents, school teachers) in creating butterfly friendly gardens. In design of gardens we used feed plant for caterpillars of grassland butterflies and nectariferous plants (that important for local communities too, because some people have apiaries and these plants attract bees from apiaries). The design of gardens schoolchildren created themselves.

Some people from local communities we attract for data analysis. For example, in one town we met with engineer, who well informed the mathematical analysis of data and he helped us in developing of database and analysis of data.

A lot of volunteers gave their cars for team of project. Some people from local communities who like nature observations dive a hint about places with large abundance of butterflies. It helped us in planning transects in region.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We will continue our work in region. We will involve new volunteers as citizen scientists in our projects for saving long-time monitoring of butterfly in region for estimating population trends and influence human activity on butterflies as important bioindicators of different processes in nature. The activity will direct on saving and developing "butterfly friendly management" in Prime Butterfly Areas for conserving and/or increasing numbers of grassland butterflies. We will disseminate our results for Russian and foreign scientists through Butterfly Conservation Europe.

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

We have already shared our results through scientific articles (two articles in Russian scientific magazines), international conferences (Butterfly Conservation Europe Meeting, Laufen, Germany, December of 2014). We gave our data for Butterfly Conservation Europe for updating The European Butterfly Indicator for Grassland Species: 1990-2013. Our results took into account during preparation of recommendation for the new edition of Red Data Book of Bryansk region. False ringlet (*Coenonympha oedippus* was recommended for including in Red Data Book of Bryansk region.

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 Rufford Foundation grant used for 1 year. The timescale presented in the table.

	Meetings with volunteers	Training seminar for regional coordinators	Training workshop for volunteers	Training workshop for volunteer recorders	Collection of data	Analyse of results	Awareness campaign	Preparation of educational materials
June 2014								
July 2014								
Aug. 2014								
Sept. 2014								
Oct. 2014								
Nov. 2014								
Dec. 2014								
Jan. 2015								
Feb. 2015								
March 2015								
Apr. 2015								
May 2015								

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
Transects (30 GBP/1 route / 50 routes)	1500	1500	0	
Equipment (260 GBP /Notebook/ 1 notebook)	260	260	0	
Equipment (120 GBP/Glasses/ 8 glasses)	960	960	0	
Traveller (35 GBP /Trip /30 trips)	1050	1050	0	

Per diem (5/ Day / 40 days)	200	200	0	
Leaflets (0,2 GBP/ 1 copy / 500 copies)	100	100	0	
Posters (3 GBP/ 1 copy / 100 copies)	300	300	0	
Butterfly key identification guide for schools (1,5 GBP/ 1 copy / 200 copies)	300	300	0	
Conservation guidelines for schools and local communities (1,5 GBP/ 1 copy / 100 copies)	150	150	0	
Training for volunteers (Travel of participants)	535	535	0	
Training for volunteers (Lunch (8 GBP / Person / 35 persons)	280	280	0	
Training for volunteers (photocopy)	150	150	0	
Training for volunteers (Materials & Supplies)	200	200	0	
Total	5985	5985	0	

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

At first, the important next step is creating and development special field guide for citizen scientist on the base of smartphone, which improve quality and speed of butterflies' identification. At second, it is creating a long-term plan of management for Prime Butterfly Areas. At third, it is exposure of influence of climate change on butterfly populations in European part of Russia.

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?

We used RSGF logo in educational materials as field butterfly keys, posters, leaflets in materials for workshops and meetings, in our presentations. We noted the financial support of our project by Rufford Small Grant Foundation at the end of our public activities.

11. Any other comments?

I would like to acknowledge Rufford Small Grant Foundation to support of our project, Dr Tom Brereton, Dr Chris Wan Swaay, Laboratory of Bioindicators and Biomonitoring of Bryansk University (the Head of Laboratory, Dr Igor Prokofev), Alexander Gorbachev and all volunteers and participants of the project.



Educational activity for schoolchildren



Presentation of project result



Cleaning of butterfly habitats



Public awareness campaigning



Meeting with volunteers



Workshop for schoolchildren



Workshop for schoolchildren

