

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Marine Arakelyan
<b>Project title</b>	The in-situ and ex-situ conservation measures for the endemic lizards <i>Eremias arguta transcaucasica</i> .
<b>RSG reference</b>	16766-B
<b>Reporting period</b>	May, 2015 – November, 2016
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£9994
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:arakelyanmarine@gmail.com">arakelyanmarine@gmail.com</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	10.11.2016

**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
In-situ conservation of the last population of <i>Eremias arguta transcaucasica</i> as result of monitoring, translocation, habitat restoration.		X		Because of intense human activities and overgrazing in the planned site for translocation in vicinity of maternal population we change our in-situ conservation plan and found a new site for reintroduction without habitat restoration.
Submission a justification to Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia to establishment Special Protected Area (wildlife sanctuary) in site of distribution of lizards			X	Based on the submitted justification for <i>E. arguta</i> species, the recommendations for protection of unique population of lizards have been involved in Management Plan for Sevan National Park.
Establishment of the basic laboratory facilities for ex-situ programme			X	The full equipped laboratory was established in Faculty of Biology (Yerevan State University).
Capacity building. Development education and practice skills for students, volunteers in field of conservation of wildlife populations			X	Two field practicums, competitions and seminars have been organised.
Raising public awareness and implementation of environmental educational programs among schoolchildren			X	The schoolchildren from Yerevan and Lichk village have visited the Faculty of Biology, participated in two competitions devoted International Animal Day and in the field trip.
Contribution of protection of land of habitat of <i>E. arguta</i> with help of land managers and land		X		We have agreement with head of Lichk village about supporting the conservation programme and endorsement for use the area of 10

owners due to dissemination of promotion materials and fund-raising program				ha to install a new population of lizards. Future eco-tourism development in this areas is expected.
Film production about rare lizards of Armenia and ways of their protection for wide public		X		In our short film we have concentrated only on one target species - <i>Eremais argute</i> .

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

Our attempts to restore the lizards' current habitat was not successful due to intense human activities, and overgrazing. The new site in historical area of distribution of steppe racerunner lizard was chosen as a new area for reintroduction without necessity to restore the habitat. We were pleasantly surprised accidentally finding a single individual of steppe runner lizard in this area.

The process of order and shipping of the incubator, UV lamps, vitamins for reptiles etc. and establishment the facilities for captive breeding laboratory took more time than expected that's why we start up the captive breeding in summer 2016 instead of summer 2015.

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

1) Installation of new reptiles' captive breeding laboratory, which will promote future ex-situ conservation programs for rare reptiles in Armenia.

2) As result of additional searching we finally found the place in nature where have possible to establish a new population of steppe racerunner lizards. Involving the maternal population in Management Plan of Sevan National Park will help in protection of current habitat of lizards.

3) Capacity building: students have received the skills of monitoring and conservation activities both in field and laboratory as well as have been trained during field practicums in vertebrate' survey methods.

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

The benefits for locals is expected from development of ecotourism in area where rare unique lizards will part of attractions for visiting the area in vicinity of village. The

head of village of Lich is interested in the development of the programme and agree to support our project.

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

The ex-situ conservation and establishment a new population of lizards are long term activities which should be continue after finish of project with support of Yerevan State University. The success in this project will allow us to implement the similar activities for other critically endangered species of reptiles in Armenia.

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

The successful reintroduction and captive breeding programmes is important for development of conservation strategy in the world. The publications on this topic will done. We assume that short film in YouTube also will help to share with the results of this work with wide auditory.

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

Instead of 1 year we made our project during 18 months. To establish of new laboratory was required more time because of no reptile care facilities was available in Armenia. Therefore we started our captive breeding activities on one year later.

**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
Terrariums with supplies (near £172 per item, 30 units)	5160	6182	1022	We spent more money on construction of equipped captive breeding laboratory.
Incubator (ReptPro6000) with shipping	270	320	50	Payment of customs duties was added
Leaflet and posters preparation (material,	300	300	0	We printed posters and certificates of attendance

photos, design) and print				
Prize for 10 school children (£ 20 each)	200	240	40	We have organized two competitions in 2015 and 2016
Short film design and editing	300	500	200	We made two short films (one devoted to International Animal Day, and second - about the achievements of this project)
Fuel: (£0.7/L x 12 L/100 km x 300 km/trip x 15 trips)	378	400	22	We made more fieldworks in Sevan Lake basin because of searching a new site for reintroduction of lizards
Per diems: £5/person/day x 4 persons x 45 days and £5/person/day x 12 students x 9 days	1440	1600	160	We organized two trips for students, one trip for schoolchildren and spend more days of field.
Car rent for students: £26/day x 3 days/trip x 3 trips	346	452	106	Additionally to field works with participation of students, we organized two field practicums and one trip for schoolchildren.
Official payments under management of "Special Protected Areas" agreements	400	0	-400	No payment was need for management and receiving necessary documents
One week visit of foreign specialist (air ticket, accommodation)	1200	0	-1200	We didn't implemented the habitat restoration program and used the amount for laboratory construction.
<b>Total</b>	<b>9994</b>	<b>9994</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

For next step we need to increase the facilities of captive breeding programme, successfully implement the reintroduction works, try to foster students who are interesting in conservation activities, to continue monitoring works for rare reptiles species and provide public awareness among wide auditory for protection of native fauna.

**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, we have printed the posters and certifications, as well as the logo was used in two short films produced by us in framework of this project.

**11. Any other comments?**

The Rufford Small Grant supports the works that have a great importance for wildlife and conservation of nature. I would like express my gratitude and appreciation to Rufford Small Grant for possibility to do conservation works for our nature and endangered rare species of fauna and flora.