

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	Gayane Karagyan
Project title	Current state of endangered insect species of Southern Armenia and elaboration of measures of their protection
RSG reference	17140-2
Reporting period	March 2015 – April 2016
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	gaykaragyan@yahoo.com
Date of this report	11.04.2016

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
Develop GIS-based database on threatened insect species already created in the framework of 1st RSG supplementing the data on the species from Ararat valley (already registered in the database) which occur in southern Armenia as well, and adding data on the species known from the country's southern provinces only			x	Database was supplemented with data on endangered insects from southern Armenia both obtained during project implementation as well as all other available data.
Collect data on current distribution, some ecological and biological data on endangered insect species of southern Armenia.		x		During project implementation not all the Red Book species mentioned for the study area were revealed because rather short time of the field work did not allow cover all the territory of the provinces of southern Armenia.
Develop recommendations and draft Action Plan for conservation and further investigations of insects and their containing ecosystems in southern Armenia		x		Respective documents were elaborated for further discussions and harmonisation with some stakeholders including authorities of different levels, non-governmental conservationists' organisations, and scientists from academic and high education institutions
Select and asses insect species of special conservation interest not included yet into Red Book of Armenia for further edition of the book			x	25 species from five orders not yet included into the Red Book of Animals of the Republic of Armenia were selected, assessed and categorised using IUCN criteria, fact sheets for each species are elaborated
Prepare documents for IUCN SSC with categorisation and assessment of Armenian species and populations for data inclusion into IUCN Red List of Threatened Species			x	19 insect species from Coleoptera and Lepidoptera orders endemic for Armenia were selected and assessed; fact sheets for IUCN SSC with categorisation and assessment of status of these species and populations were prepared according to IUCN Red List requirements, the preliminary list is submitted to SSC

Perform public awareness rising activity		x		Meetings with local communities' authorities and officers of all protected areas of southern Armenia provinces were conducted. Lectures in schools of 25 settlements were performed. Informative and educational materials were disseminated. This activity could not cover all the settlements of southern Armenia
Perform training of young specialists in the field of entomology, experienced also in the nature conservation and public awareness issues			x	Two postgraduate and one graduate students (stipulated by the project proposal) as well as three masters students additionally involved participated in field and laboratory work, as well as in public awareness events getting respective experience

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

Only appreciable obstacles were due to inconvenient weather conditions during some expeditions; these difficulties were tackled by minor prolongation of expeditions which became possible owing to use of some amount saved from other points of budget (see below).

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

1. The database of rare and endangered species of insects created in the framework of RSG 1 was supplemented with new data both on species already included in the framework of RSG 1 common to Ararat valley and southern Armenia and those which are specific for the target study area.
2. Especially threatened insect species do not included yet into current edition of Red Book of Armenia and IUCN Red List were selected and assessed using IUCN criteria, respective data sheets were elaborated.
3. The data obtained were used in justification of development of Armenia's Emerald Network and were taken into account during preparation of National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity Conservation of the Republic of Armenia submitted to the Secretariat of UN CBD.

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

Local communities' authorities actively participated in organisation of meetings with their staff and pupils of local schools targeted to awareness rising of the members of communities. Same activities were supported by authorities of PAs and other official structures of nature conservation of the provinces of southern Armenia. Representatives of young generation got information on the importance of insects' conservation and protection of threatened ecosystems. Illustrative and didactic materials shared during project' implementation will be continuously used with educational purposes.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In our plans is continuation of study of threatened insect species of all over Armenia. It is supposed to collect new biological and distribution data surveying both territories already covered and new ones. As a result our database will be supplemented, and its analysis will allow elaboration of description of the set of the country’s Important Insect Areas harmonized with already selected important biodiversity areas of different types (e.g., IBAs, IPAs, KBAs, etc.). It will help to create further scientific justification for development of PA System of Armenia and joining it to European EcoNet.

It is planned to continue our approaches in the field of public awareness rising as well. Using existing and prospective capacities we are going to continue preparation and dissemination of informative and educational materials in local communities and perform respective meetings and lectures.

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

1. The project outputs (report, recommendations, draft Action Plans) will be submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection, and, besides, to the high educational institutions in Yerevan and Syunik Province (e.g. Yerevan State University, Yerevan State Pedagogical University, Goris State University, etc.), and to Scientific Council of Scientific Centre of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia for further discussions and harmonization. Besides, the data will be incorporated into the Program of Identification of High Conservation Value Forests of Armenia supported by World Bank through the WWF-Armenia.
2. Proposals for inclusion of additional insect species from the area surveyed for replenishment of further edition of the Red Book of Armenia will be submitted to the MoNP of RA which is responsible for Red Book management.
3. Data on some most threatened southern Armenian insect species will be submitted to IUCN SSC for inclusion into IUCN Red List.
4. The data revealed will be presented at some conferences and workshops, and scientific papers will be prepared and published in peer-reviewed journals.

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

RSG was used from March 2015 – April 2016. The timescale was shifted in comparison with the project approved (with period of activities from April 2015 to April 2016 and with final report submission at May 2016) due to getting amount from RSG in February which allows to begin preparatory works earlier than it was planned (at the end of March) and to submit final report in April 2016.

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
Purchase photo camera for field photography	500	430	70	Camera was bought in USA by price cheaper than in Armenia

Purchase 2 sleeping bags	100	100	0	-
Purchase entomological equipment (2 nets, 1 umbrella, 2 exhausters)	100	100	0	-
Fuel (£0.8/L x 15 L/100 km x 900 km/trip x 11 trips)	960	960	0	-
Car rent and driver: £20/day x 5 days/trip x 11 trips (+2 days)	1000	1040	-40	Due to inconvenient weather conditions two expeditions were prolonged by 1 day each
Per diems: £7/person/day x 4 persons x 5 days/trip x 11 trips (+2days)	1540	1596	-56	Due to inconvenient weather conditions two expeditions were prolonged by 1 day each
Publication of booklets and posters/calendars	800	780	20	Discount from printing establishment was accepted
Total	5000	5006	-6	

The rate of £sterling (GBP)/ Armenian dram (AMD) was from 649 to 685 AMD/GBP.

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

Continuation of identification and delimitation of Important Insect Areas all over Armenia and further harmonisation of these areas with already known Important Bird Areas and Important Plant Areas (as far as we know identification of those was partly supported by RSGF) is one of the key targets of further work. This will allow elaborating more comprehensive and coordinated protection measures for areas of special conservation value.

Meaning public awareness rising, the next steps must be targeted to inclusion of insect' and containing ecosystems' conservation issues into the measurements on implementation of BSAP of RA (in particular, of points 4.4., 5.3. and 5.4. of the Document approved by the Government of RA – see: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/am/am-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>).

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?

RSGF logo was used in all the materials published in the framework of the project implementation (posters, booklets, calendars). In all of our lectures, meetings and discussions RSGF role was stressed. Special presentation of the project was made in the Scientific Council of the Scientific Centre of Zoology and Hydroecology of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia as well as at the meeting in Armenian branch of WWF. The results of our work were discussed also at the meeting of Caucasian Biodiversity Council where role of RSGF was mentioned as well. Finally, the results of studies targeted to improvement of Armenian Red Book with special mention to RSGF role were presented during giving an interview to Armenian "AR" TV Channel.

11. Any other comments?

We are glad to express our deepest gratitude to RSGF which support allowed improving our knowledge on threatened insects of our country, to get new data on insect fauna as a whole, to assess current condition of containing ecosystems, etc. Support of our approaches in the field of the public awareness field, especially among young generation (both school pupils and young scientists) is considered as very valuable as well.

