

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	Olena Slobodian
Project title	Diversity and conservation of ground insects in the Gorgany range (Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains)
RSG reference	17584-1
Reporting period	June 2015 – August 2016
Amount of grant	£4612
Your email address	olenaslobodian@gmail.com
Date of this report	31.10.2016

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
Assessment habitats, diversity, distribution range and threats of ground insects in the project area			yes	It was made scientific investigation of ground insects, monitored and assessed habitats of ground insects in the project area. It was installed ground traps in the critical habitats. Most activities have been conducted in the field to get precise picture of the distribution of rare ground insects. In the field the specimens have been collected using ground traps: the most efficient and unbiased method for collecting ground invertebrates. It was organised workshop with key stakeholders to identify main threats facing the rare ground insects. In the frame of this activity was organised discussion, identified current and potential threats for the species.
Development measures designed to prepare specific species conservation action plan for adopting by the Ministry of Environment and sharing with all groups of key stakeholders			yes	Based on threat analyses we developed a conservation action plan to protect ground insects. Action plan was developed on a base of scientific data and threat analysis and was given to the Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and existing local nature protection institutions.
Increasing public awareness for the conservation of rare insects through the creating awareness campaign in the			yes	All the planned training was conducted. Training (including field exercises) has been organised for the students and staff of nature protection areas. During these activities a lot of effort was made to involve and train students and

<p>Gorgany region</p>			<p>protected areas staff and to establish network of people involved in protection of insects. Additionally, training and excursions for schoolchildren have been organised.</p> <p>Publicity materials (insects circle –guide "Carabidae of Gorgany") have been published during the project realisation (100 copies). This publication includes information of rare ground insects and keys for their identification in the field.</p> <p>Published materials were given to the administration and staff of the Gorgany Nature Reserve as well as distributed among all interested stakeholders (like naturalists, schoolchildren, scientists, teachers, etc.).</p> <p>The design and draft version of the book "The Underground World of Carpathians" has been made. It includes interactive and pop-up elements, information about variability, structure and importance of ground invertebrate for nature protection and keeping balance in the natural ecosystems. The Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds and Frankfurt Zoological Society agreed to support publication of this book (the final price for the publication of 1000 copies of book cost near 11000 Euro and soon the book will be published).</p> <p>Project results were presenting to the public. We organised meetings with community and protected area staff. Moreover, lectures in school for schoolchildren were conducted. Children also painted pictures for the picture competition. And winners of the picture competition have received the prize -insects circle – guide "Carabidae of Gorgany"</p> <p>The meetings were also focused on</p>
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				promotion of the conservation of rare ground insects and their importance in keeping balance in forest ecosystem.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Extreme difficulties have been in transferring the grant to Ukraine and I would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for making efforts in solving grant issues and for support and giving opportunity to implement the project.

It was hard for the project team to make research in the field, because the project area is mostly mountainous with some inaccessible sites. The study area in some sites was quite clutter up by the trees, branches and etc.

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

One of the main results is development of measures, adopting specific species conservation action plan which enabled long-term conservation and survival of rare ground insects.

1) Assessed habitat, diversity, distribution range and threats of ground insects in the project area.

Results of data collection and monitoring analysis have been served as a base on identifying main threats facing the rare ground insects. Information about population status, critical habitats, number and distribution, threats of ground insects has been obtained in the Gorgany Range. This data is available to the public. This information was presented in the Action Plan. And also it was spread out via trainings, lectures and etc.

2) Adopted Ground beetles Conservation action plan by the Ministry of Environment and spread out among all key stakeholders.

A commitment from protected areas and stakeholders has been secured conservation collaboration. As an outcome of such cooperation approach the Gorgany Nature Reserve agreed Ground beetles (Carabidae) Conservation Action Plan.

The existence of the species, its importance, the threats, government management and the need for undertaking actions in favour of the species have been widely disseminated. The Ground beetles Conservation Action Plan has been prepared

and approved by the Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and agreed by Gorgany Nature Reserve.

The project brought an environmental revolution in the Gorgany Range and in context of the local and regional governments. The actions carried out, the large number of people involved, the results achieved and in depth knowledge obtained about ground beetles in the Gorgany Range as well as the management of the ground beetles in terms of conservation have brought a milestone in the Gorgany Region.

A further important aspect of the project was the coordinated work carried out with other administrations that hold ground beetles population in their territories and those responsible for its conservation.

The endorsement of the Ground Beetles (Carabidae) Conservation Action Plan forced the Gorgany Nature Reserve and regional forestry to carry out a series of guidelines and measures aimed at the species conservation in the Gorgany Range, so the continuity actions in favour of Ground beetles is guaranteed.

3) Increased public awareness of Ground beetles conservation issues.

One of the main results is increasing level of ground beetles protection among public in the Gorgany Range (Ukrainian Carpathians area) via the awareness campaign. The general action plan for the conservation of ground beetles was developed on the base of field researches and it was adopted by the Ukrainian Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, agreed by Gorgany Nature Reserve and spreading among the existing local nature protection institutions, state forestry, NGOs, local authorities and etc.

It was published publicity materials. It was organised final seminar with public where were presented project results.

Main approaches on conservation of ground beetles were presented for schoolchildren and students. Lectures about the project and the protection of ground beetles were conducted in the regional school. Local schools received materials on value and conservation need of ground beetles and use those during biology lessons. We also had training and discussions at administrations in order to help people to inform staff about conservation measures. So, local communities became aware of a species, its value and necessity to conserve species habitat.

Publication of booklets, trainings and aware raising campaign increase ecological awareness of public and extend knowledge about local fauna and attract attention to problem of conservation biodiversity in the Carpathian Mountains.

Additional, but important outcome – record of very rare ground beetle species *Carabus fabricii ucrainicus* Lazorko, 1951 which occurs only in the Gorgany range.

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

The administration of nature protected areas has been engaged and helped us to organize meeting and participate in the work. Conservation education activities with local people and children in the villages and district level schools in close proximity to ground insect habitat were conducted. Some local schools have received materials on value and conservation need of ground insects and used those during biology lessons. So, local communities became aware of ground insect species, its value and necessity to conserve species habitats.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Successful cooperation has been organised with the administration of Gorgany Nature Reserve, state forestry and made contact with other protected areas such as Carpathian National Nature Park. Agreement has been achieved concerning the investigations of the Park's territories for indentifying new ground beetles important areas.

Fundraising is planned for involving new protected area from the Carpathian region in this work.

We outline the main priority direction for future cooperation with education institutions. Especially, we plan to continue eco-education of children, protected area staff, etc.

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

Significant experience which we obtained during the project realisation helped us more effectively plan new seminars, lectures, trainings in the protected areas and education institutions. Ground Beetles Conservation Action Plan was firstly developed in Ukraine, especially for ground beetle protection. And it is in great interest among the other people from other Part of Ukraine. And we plan to exchange experience and share results with all interested groups during the scientific conferences which will take place next year.

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

We had some difficulties in receiving the grant on the first stage. And we are grateful that The Rufford Foundation has been solved grant issues, supported and enabled us to implement the project objectives and finalised them in time.

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
Laptop	720	691	-29	The laptop came out a less expensive than we planned
Cartridges for printer (black, colored)	20	20	0	
Stationery	15	15	0	
Lens for digital camera	544	715	+171	The price of Lens for digital camera was a little bit expensive than we planned
Batteries (6 x recharges)	30	30	0	
Rucksack	80	86	+6	The price of rucksack was a little bit higher than we planned
Liquid for traps	15	15	0	
Liquid for storing biological samples	10	10	0	
Containers for the samples	200	198	-2	Expenses may differ a bit, because the price was changed.
Travel services for investigations	450	445	-5	The total costs for travel services for investigations were a less than expected.
Subsistence (31 days@3 person@11 £/day)	1023	1011	-12	It was possible to save the costs.
Transport services for promotion education	180	138	-42	Some costs for transport services were covered by the Gorgany Nature Reserve.
Workshop with key stakeholders	150	150	0	

The design and draft version of the book "The underground world of Carpathians"	840	840	0	
Publishing "Insects circle - guide (100 copies)	230	230	0	
Bank expenses	105	18	-87	Total bank expenses costs may differ a bit, as we've changed the bank.
Total	4612	4612	0	

The exchange rate at the time of transfer was 1.4888 USD/GBP.

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

Further development of:

- The conservation measures concerning ground beetle protection in the Ukrainian Carpathians (identify new critical habitats for ground beetles, develop conservation action plan to cover more sites and provide lasting protection of ground beetles in the Carpathian region).;
- Ground beetle monitoring research in the Carpathian region. This activity will be an integral part of long – term conservation strategy in this area.

Promote eco-educational activities on ground beetles protection for reducing negative influence and increase public awareness. One of them will be development of eco-educational programme for children and protected areas staff.

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 Rufford Foundation logo was used in all produced materials during the project realization. All the published materials were sent as PDF to the foundation by email. The article concerning the results of distribution and diversity of ground insects in the Gorgany range was prepared and sent to the scientific journal. It was noted in the article that the investigations were carried out thanks to the Rufford Foundation which has supported this important study.

11. Any other comments?

As the project result ground beetles conservation action plan was developed. It is firstly developed in Ukraine. It will serve as an example for other protected areas and in this case it will help scientists to develop measures for long-term protection of ground beetles in the forest ecosystems of Ukraine.

We would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for the support of our efforts in conserving ground insects in Gorgany Range (Ukraine, Carpathian Mountains).

We are grateful that The Rufford Foundation has enabled us to do fieldwork on this project area.