

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	Peter Villanyi
Project title	Conservation of Critical Habitats of Moustached Warbler in Albania
RSG reference	17621-1
Reporting period	April 2016-Jan 2017
Amount of grant	£5000
Your email address	villanyi.peter664@gmail.com
Date of this report	09/01/17

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
Condition survey of the Albanian reedbeds.				In the spring reedbed research we could spend a bit less time than we had expected before, we could not reach one reedbed.
To explore the endanger factors of the Albanian reedbeds.				In the spring reedbed research we could spend a bit less time than we had expected before, we could not reach one reedbed.
Autumn bird banding camp.				Everything was perfect, even more successful than we expected.
Involving the volunteers of Albanian NGOs. (AOS)				Great partnership and friendship started during the project, all the work has been done together.
Sharing our professional experiences with our Albanian partner (AOS).				We met with truly enthusiastic young Albanian birders. Within the 6 weeks we spent with fieldwork, we were able to share a lot of experiences with them. Erald Xexa, member of AOS have spent 10 days in our bird ringer station in Hungary, gaining lot of useful knowledge and meeting new methods about bird banding.
Promoting bird ringings.				In the autumn bird bander camp 60 interested youngsters could take a deeper look or even help us with bird ringing.

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

We did not face any serious difficulties during the programme. Despite our experience with the Albanian road conditions in the previous researches we have had in the country, we were not able to travel between sites of interest as fast as we

had planned before. Mainly crossing the mountain areas was more complicated than we had expected. In May 2016, the huge amount of rain caused unpleasant moments for the bird bander teams. Nevertheless. We managed to replace the time we were not able to work by being all the time out in the field and working in bad weather conditions too.

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

a) We were able to visit, collect very valuable information and prepare habitat maps (see Annex 1) about the seven largest reedbeds of Albania, so far not fully explored and often neglected despite being sites of very important conservation concern. Their importance on bird migration and their conservation status has been evaluated together with factors threatening such highly important bird habitats.

- We have also discovered the Black-marsh of Roskovec, such an important reedbed without any kind of protection status and we will propose its utmost protection to the relevant Albanian authorities on nature protection and protected areas.

b) We have cooperated very closely with the Albanian Ornithological Society (AOS) in creating and further strengthening bird banding capacities in the country. We could manage to work out a really good partnership with the Albanian Ornithological Society (AOS). We raised up their awareness on the importance of the bird banding as the method of bird monitoring. During the fieldwork we were able to teach them about the basics of bird ringing and bird identification in hand.



Ákos Németh (Lake Kolon Bird Banding Station) and Erald Xeka (AOS) during bird banding activity

Furthermore, AOS arranged a 45 minutes TV report about our common work and goals, which has broadcasted in a local TV channel and reached a lot of people.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bSM0937rEs&feature=youtu.be>



c) Our autumn bird band camp was really successful. We captured and marked an extraordinary number of 850 moustached warblers. We recaptured 14 moustached warblers which had been marked before within the Carpathian Basin, proving the importance of the Albanian reedbeds in the view of bird migration. The feedbacks of different kinds of social media shows that the Albanian university students and other youngsters who visited our camp are deeply impressed about the research we are doing.

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

Both during the Spring reedbed research and the Autumn bird ringing camp we were working together with our colleagues from AOS, and we managed to organise field presentations about the survey and the bird banding to more than 60 local youngsters.



5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Certainly our association is looking forward to continue with the program. We already have some plans for the future, such as:

- To organise a 2-week bird ringing camp in the spring season in Rushkull Reserve, because we do not have any data's about the importance of this habitat for the spring migration of the moustached warbler.
- In May 2017, in cooperation with AOS we would like to organise a photo exhibition in Tirana, about our common project and the results of work.
- In May 2017, we will have a presentation in Tirana about the research and the achievements of our project under the title of Migration of the Moustached Warbler along the Mediterranean Shore.
- We would like to start the more detailed research of the important reedbeds of Albania, with the aim of giving suggestions about the management of the habitats.
- Next year we would like to invite our Albanian colleagues to our bird bander camp in Hungary again.
- Providing AOS with the relevant logistic (mist nets, pliers etc.) in order to develop a self-sustained bird banding scheme in Albania and further strengthening the capacities of our local partner in bird conservation.
- Finally, we would like to keep working with the autumn bird banding in the Rushkull Reserve next year too.

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

We are planning to present the results of the research with professional publications and with informative presentations and articles.

Professional publications

Done:

Gergely Lőrincz, one of the member of our research team has made his thesis work about the spring reedbed research.

Title: Condition Survey of Albanian Wetlands

Eötvös József College, Baja. Water Construction and Management Institute, Water Engineering for Nature Conservation faculty.

Plans:

- An article (Ornithological Research in Albania) in Aquila, the journal of the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society.
- An article in an International Journal on the status of the reedbeds in Albania and the importance and necessity of their conservation.
- Informative approach
- Done:
- Ornithological researches in the reedbeds of Albania ppt.
- Presented in a BirdLife Hungary meeting in Szeged.
- Presented in an event of the KME (Kiskunsági Madárvédelmi Egyesület) in Izsák.

- Plans:
- Article to the Madártávlat, the magazine of the BirdLife Hungary, publishing in March.
- A presentation entitled „Ornithological researches in the reedbeds of Albania” in Tirana in May 2017 about the result of our research and conservation work in Albania together with plans for further expanding the conservation of birds and their critical habitats in Albania.
- Photo exhibition in Tirana, Albania (May,2017)

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 started the spring reedbed research a few days earlier (end of April 2016) than we planned. The reason of this decision is that besides the breeding bird populations of the reedbeds we could take a look on the late spring migration too. This change did not modified the amount of the fieldwork days. The autumn bird banding camp was supposed to last 5 weeks, but because of the pouring rain of the last week we decided to finish 1 week earlier. The camp became almost inaccessible, the water level of the marsh increased highly so the work with the mist nets in the reed turned to be really difficult as well.

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. 1 GBP = 182 ALL

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Accommodation during the research (5 weeks).	925	725	200	The bird banding activity finished one week earlier.
Travel costs bird banding (5 groups).	1025	825	200	The bird banding activity finished one week earlier.
Travel costs reedbed research.	1000	1200	200	Bad road conditions, extra kilometres.
Mist nets (Ecotone Poland) 20 pieces.	700	1000	300	Euro/Pound currency changes, cost increased.
Tent (for the bird banding research and the reedbed research).	230	230	0	
Rubber boots (4 pieces).	140	140	0	
Mp3 player for the bird banding and for other research.	210	220	10	
Travel costs and accommodation for the Albanian partner (bus 4 times).	720	720	0	
Total	4950	5072		

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

We are going to finish all the initiated articles about our program from both Albanian and Hungarian sides. We are going to schedule the next year's activities (dates, spots), scheduling the early spring bird banding expedition and applying for the next round of the Rufford Grant.

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?

Certainly yes. During the expeditions we used Rufford logos on our notebooks, we prepared and used Rufford magnetic car stickers. These two things were also shown in the TV report. The Rufford logo appeared all in our presentations and publications.





11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

12. Any other comments?

We would like to say thank you to the Rufford Grant, supporting our work and giving us the opportunity to achieve all the valuable outcomes of the research.

Annex 1: Habitat maps.





