

## Project Update: March 2016

Seminars about biospeleology, paleobiology, speleology, and the necessity for local cave conservation were conducted for public school pupils in the villages of Chkhorotsku district. After the seminars, the quizzes were performed and the winners were rewarded with the cups with Rufford Foundation logo and monograph about the cave-dwelling invertebrates of Georgia. During the excursions in Savekuo, Nazodelavo, Kalichona, Kurzu, Letsurtsume, Shurubumu and Garakha caves speleobiological, meteorological and paleobiological methods were shown to the school pupils. They participated in the investigation of above mentioned caves. From the invertebrates sampled in the investigated caves two species of spiders, six species of collembolans and two species of millipedes have already determined on the species level. Two collembolan species are new species for Science. Results of palynological research suggest that the cave sediments can be quite suitable for reconstruction not only of the vegetation history but may also provide tools for palaeoecological reconstructions.



After excursion in Garakha Cave



After seminar at II School of Chkhorotsku



After seminar at Letsurtsume School



After seminar at Mukhuri School



Rewarding after seminar at II School of Chkhorotsku



Rewarding after seminar at Letsurtsume School



Rewarding after seminar at Letsurtsume School



Sampling in Kalichona Cave



School pupils in Letsurtsume Cave



School pupils in Shurubumu Cave



Seminar at Letsurtsume School



Seminar at Mukhuri School