

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

### Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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>	Andriy-Taras Bashta
<b>Project title</b>	Capacity building for bat conservation in the Eastern Carpathians (Ukraine)
<b>RSG reference</b>	
<b>Reporting period</b>	November 2008-February 2010
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5880
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:atbashta@ukr.net">atbashta@ukr.net</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2010

**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
1. Collection and analysis of new data about the occurrence of bats and their shelters in the Ukrainian Carpathians			yes	All the planned bat shelters are investigated. Very low winter temperatures during the January and February (till – 30C) and deep snow cover did not allow us to investigate the shelters in time. A range of new bat shelters, first of all hibernacula, were discovered during the project realization. Those hibernacula are situated in remote parts of the Carpathians and some of them will be investigated next winter season, together with the staff of the nature-protection areas who participated in the training sessions.
2. Preparation of publicity and advisory materials			yes	Three types of publicity materials (booklet, technical manual publication and set of calendars) have been published during the project realisation. Thanks to an arrangement with the publishers the number of copies of the manual was a lot of higher than planned (500 instead of 300). Published materials were given to the administration and staff of all the nature protection areas of the Carpathians as well as distributed among all interested stakeholders (like naturalists, foresters, hunters, tourists etc.). Several exemplars of each publication have been sent to the RSGF by the common post. Despite the large printing, it was not sufficient quantity for all of those wishing to receive them. We have discussed in our organisation the possibility of special education programmes directed at school children, foresters and tourists.
3. Training of staff of the nature protection areas and foresters			yes	All the planned training was conducted. Training (including field exercises) have been organised for the staff of nature protection areas, representatives of some local state nature protection departments etc. Because a large number of staff wanted to

				<p>participate in the training, we decided to organise several training sessions in some nature protection areas. Especially, three training sessions were organised in the Uzhanskyi NP. Some other NP had only one training session.</p> <p>Additional training was organised for the leaders of forestry regional departments in Transcarpathian region (village of Kostryno, Transcarpathian region).</p>
4. Monitoring network development			yes	<p>The bat monitoring network was created. We have developed the list of objects to be included in the monitoring network. General number of monitored places consists of 44 units; 28 of which are investigated in winter and 16 in summer. 16 underground sites were inspected in the first time. "Bat network" includes 12 persons in different region of the Carpathians. They are members of the staff of nature protected areas, naturalists, foresters.</p>
5. Preparation of materials for the local media and realising it			yes	<p>A short informational film was produced about bats, their shelters and important habitats and necessity of protection. The film was shown on regional TV.</p> <p>One radio programme (about 15 min.) was organised about bats, its necessity of conservation and their role in ecosystems and for the people.</p>

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

Rising of fuel costs in comparison to the planned ones (from 5.10 hryvnia (about 0.71 ) to 8.00 hryvnia (about 0.83) per £).

Severe weather prevented carrying out of the field work in the winter time.

Single training session was insufficient for some national parks. We provided two and more in some places.

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

Generally, one of the main results seems to be a reduction in the negative influence and conflicts between bats and people, and an increase in the level of bat protection in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

**1) Improved understanding and awareness of bat biodiversity issues and their value to human well-being.**

A real increase of public awareness concerning the importance of bats for natural ecosystems was noted. Bats and problem of their protection caused high interest among the people who participated in the training (administration and staff of protected areas, NGOs, some foresters and stakeholders). Thanks to this work good and effective contacts were organised with a range of specialists, who started to make phenological and monitoring bat observations. Some of local people who participated in the training or who obtained the leaflets showed us a range of new bat hibernacula and maternity colonies. Some of them proposed to provide bat monitoring and to initiate some local development activities concerning bat protection (e.g., protection of cave entrance by planting of thorny bushes). It can demonstrate and deliver enhancement of the rich biological diversity of the region. A film about local bats helps to arise of knowledge of local human population about the necessity of bat conservation and their role in ecosystems.

**2) Increased knowledge and expertise among Ukrainian conservationists in bat biodiversity management and monitoring (e.g. management planning, taxonomy, data acquisition/collation, reporting).**

**3) Continued evaluation and implementation of integrated monitoring programs in the established network of nature protection areas.**

Bat monitoring is an integral part of conservation, and provided nature protected areas staff with a powerful tool to inform a long-term biodiversity strategy for this area. The established network of nature protection areas continues the evaluation and implementation of integrated monitoring programmes.

Additional, but important outcome – record of new bat species, Alcatheo's bat *Myotis alcathoe*, on the territory of Ukraine. In the publication we will note that the contribution of RSG.

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

The administration of nature protected areas are engaged and help us to organise training and seminars, and participate in the work. Members of local communities help us to discover new winter and summer bat shelters. Especially, there were some foresters, who later became members of the “bat network”.

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

Successful cooperation has been organised with the administration of a range of Nature protected areas. Agreement has been achieved concerning the investigations of these territories for new bat important areas. Some parks asked about additional bat trainings for staff (with field practice). Fundraising is planned for involving of all western Ukraine in this work.

Thanks to active work and seminars we outlined the main and priority directions of the future cooperation. Especially, we plan to take account the eco-education of children, foresters, tourists and speleologists.

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

Essential experience with carrying out training was obtained, which will help us to more effectively provide the new seminars and field training in all the western part of Ukraine. We preliminary agreed about some bat investigation and trainings in the Nature protected areas in the Western Polissia area (NP "Prypiat-Stokhid", Rivnenskyi Nature Reserve).

Our activity caused great interest among the people in other part of Ukraine. We organized join field inspection together with the "Krystal" Speleological Club from the city of Ternopil. Agreement has been achieved concerning the bat investigations of the caves of Podillia area (western Ukraine) in the next years in cooperation with some local NGOs.

## 7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

Main costs were used in the planned time frame. However, because of unexpected very low temperatures this winter, we were not able to complete inspections and bat monitoring of winter bat shelters in January 2010 and we did it in February 2010 instead. Also, some training was postponed for this reason and fulfilled in March 2010. Therefore this report is made later (overlapping with the next investigations season).

## 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
Staff costs	0	0	0	Own costs
Office space	0	0	0	Own costs
Travel and subsistence	1732	2133	401	Unexpected growth of fuel costs (from 5, 10 hryvnia (about 0, 71) till 8, 00 hryvnia (about 0, 83) per £) forced us to change slightly our expenses distribution.
Equipment and consumables	3078	2677	401	The purchases of night vision equipment (121) and photo camera (280) were refused.
Publications	1070	1070	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5880</b>	<b>5880</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

Further development of the database concerning bat distribution and roosts location in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

Improving of bat network activity. Continuation of bat monitoring in the Carpathians as an integral part of the long-term biodiversity conservation strategy for this area. Discovery of new important bat shelters and elaboration of protection measures for them.

Active eco-educational work for reducing of negative influence and conflicts between bats and people, as well as for increasing of level of bat protection in the Ukrainian Carpathians and delivering enhancing the rich biological diversity of the region.

Further eco-education activities with local community members and foresters for decreasing the negative influence on bat populations. Creation of eco-education programs for children and tourists. The main direction would be eco-education programme for foresters as one of the key actors for conservation of forest bat species.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

The RSGF logo was used in all produced materials during the project realization. All the published materials were sent to the Foundation by common post.

The article concerning the new records of bats in the Eastern Carpathians as well as about record of new bat species for Ukraine are under preparation. It was noted in the articles that the investigations were carried out thanks to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation which has supported this important investigation.

**11. Any other comments?**

Results of our investigations supported by the First and the Second RSG a lot of new data about bats were included to the new edition of Red Data Book of Ukraine.

*THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!*