

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Yurko Hudyma
Project title	Restoration of Transcarpathian conifers diversity through reintroduction of relic species
RSG reference	21815-B
Reporting period	April 2017 – March 2018
Amount of grant	£9923
Your email address	<a href="mailto:hudyma@ukr.net">hudyma@ukr.net</a>
Date of this report	14/03/2018

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
Detailed exploration of project's preserves, discovering unplanted deforestation sites, studying documents at archives of state ecology departments and forestry enterprises				<p>We have completely explored perimeter of nature-protecting objects. Observation in terrain proved unprecedented logging scope in Transcarpathian region, however specifically sensitive highland preserves are mainly kept untouched (except for Bradulsky, where in the 2000s, massive "sanitary" wood-cutting has taken place). No information or protecting signage inventory has been found. We explored forest seedbeds and plantations, which species of seedlings are grown, infrastructure status of the whole Mokriansky and Brusturianske state forestry enterprises. The project's approval has taken a mere month. We held numerous meetings with forestry personnel and administration, discussed forests natural reproduction issue, local climate and other features that influence red book species restoration. Requested forest maps and other materials needed for timely and full project implementing has not been granted (as reported, classified docs, not to share), thus we had to proceed with delay and without necessary information basis. However we discovered all data the other way (retrieved from another institutions and sources) and shared over FB and Wikipedia.</p> <p>Photos taken at the exploration phase:  <a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/6EUEoA8XTyolfvss1">https://photos.app.goo.gl/6EUEoA8XTyolfvss1</a></p>
Manufacturing and installation of ecology-protecting signage				We have manufactured and installed all scheduled in 2017 protecting signage for mountainous areas of nature-protecting objects. Additionally we provided with

inventory			<p>signage some adjacent preserves and natural monuments, found in documents during the project launch (Bertianyuk, Kernychhny, Yavirnyk, Arshyshna). As well we purchased materials and mostly produced all scheduled information boards for preserves, however intended bureaucracy and early snowy winter prevented from installation in 2017, therefore those few would be set as soon as snow goes down (spring 2018). Moreover while studying documents we found documents on some highland lakes area that have appeared to be protected. We will install signage inventory for those not included within the project in 2018 (Hereshaska and Vorozheska lakes). It is most demanding now as local businessmen plan to enhance Bukovel ski resort in this locality. Also we plan to install extra-project signage inventory for landmarks Gropynets, Bratkovets, Verkhnie Ozeryshche (as bonus). Photos for this phase: <a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/cjq7pBO0Z64_WGwZx1">https://photos.app.goo.gl/cjq7pBO0Z64_WGwZx1</a></p>
Planting saplings, arranging new site for cedar and yew reproduction, holding of volunteers actions			<p>We visited all known seeding stations and plantations, but did not discover any yews in tree form, only bush variety which is more persistent and popular as décor species for household gardening. Also we funded 70 seedlings of larch which we plan to plant during coming action in Spring 2018. 20 seedlings of yew we currently cultivate in plantations and shall replant within beech forests in late spring 2018, when ground warms enough. Jointly with volunteers it has been established a cedar plantation. A complicated and long-term period of its prior stratification and further germination allows us to replant 350 cedar seedlings as soon as in Spring 2018-2019 (the later – the better chances to survive). We found volunteers who agreed to visit highland logging areas where seedlings shall be planted in</p>

			<p>coming Spring for supervision. This autumn the expedition is scheduled for collecting cedar and larch cones in Yaykivsky cedar preserve and after treating to have them sawn at plantations. This winter we've run a search mission for locating the oldest <i>Pinus cembra</i> in Ukraine. This species, a witness reported, is 1.45 m wide in diameter and is probably 700 years old. When found it shall make a solid contribution to scientific knowledge as 500 years age is still acknowledged as ultimate for this species and region. We didn't find one, so the expedition shall be resumed in Summer 2018.</p> <p>The presumed quantity of all seedlings to be replanted in 2018-2019 is at least 440 pcs.</p> <p><a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/wUCijdzjV6VSExHj1">https://photos.app.goo.gl/wUCijdzjV6VSExHj1</a></p>
<p>Discussing and development of ideas on protected areas augmenting</p>			<p>We have studied documents and discussed key issues on protected areas enhancement with forestry department officials and areas' administration. Firstly, in Transcarpathian area it deals with National Nature Park "Zacharovany Kray". It is managed by regional forestry department thus it does not have either stable budget or autonomy. Forestry officials discuss possible park extension very distantly especially when it concerns commercially valuable matured forest areas cession. Instead we are proposed to include devastated, eroded or deforested area that have no scientific or recreational significance. Locals also oppose any parks expansion, as they deny any control in adjacent to their village woods (where they provide illegal logging, poaching and other misbehavior). Any persuasion in favour of saving environment does not work. Therefore we consider wise to influence higher instances for changing park's jurisdiction from Ministry of Agriculture to Ministry of Ecology. While the discussion goes on, this summer the park has been</p>

			<p>acknowledged as UNESCO heritage. From the other side we keep on working with forest certification programme, initiated by Forest Stewardship Council whose methods utilise sophisticated techniques. Every forest enterprise to be FSC-certified needs clear scope of activity directed at nature protection matter.</p> <p>However it is usually a weak side of their backbone. But in common augmenting of protected zones square at 1-2% per a single forestry might be successful. We have already processed proposals on additional area expanding, however, it may demand a few years of scientific-technical reasoning to complete. When timescale is critical, we shall better convert areas into protecting plots without annexing lands into reserved fund of nature.</p> <p>A profound contribution has been made by state forest managing service, whichs recently published most of highly wanted by us and other NGOs forest-division maps (which we now use to determine where the nature protecting object is).</p>
Establishing grounds for plantation sites enhancement to be seeded with cedar, larch and yew seeds. Meetings of activists and nature-protecting NGOs.			<p>We have settled contacts with volunteers who collect cones in highlands, sow them at own plantations and therefore replant seedlings in mountains. We agreed to intensify cones supply, assign new plots for sowing and raising red book species (<i>Pinus cembra</i>, <i>Taxus baccata</i>, <i>Larix larix decidua</i>, <i>M. polonica</i>). Furthermore we have agreed to expanse actual plantations of state forestries to twice red book species to be sawn. Monks of Greek-Catholic Skete of St. Andriy Pervozvany have join our project on cedar and yew population, they shall arrange a plantation and look after seedlings.</p>
Arranging media campaign for popularisation of nature protecting, green advocacy			<p>Following tendency of intense development of social media tools we created a dedicated Facebook page "Nature-protecting fund for Ukrainian Carpathians")</p>

<p>principles strengthening, ecology awareness growth</p>			<p>(<a href="https://www.facebook.com/karpaty.pzf/">https://www.facebook.com/karpaty.pzf/</a>), where we publish all the results achieved so far and discuss all arising proposals, answer questions, oppose and discuss different points of view. Also we share information via official web-page of Carpathian Trails Tourist Association NGO <a href="http://stezhky.org.ua">http://stezhky.org.ua</a> via FB page of it (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/stezhky">https://www.facebook.com/stezhky</a>) (6000+ followers), its FB-group, Ukrainian Carpathian Tourist Group (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/karpaty">https://www.facebook.com/groups/karpaty</a>), (1100+ followers), Forest Watch FB Group (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/liso_vavarta">https://www.facebook.com/groups/liso_vavarta</a>) (1300+ followers) Also we popularise environmental advocacy via <a href="#">YouTube channel</a> Our activity on signage inventory installation is followed by friendly NGOs and national reserves' administrations. E.g. Edelweiss Club NGO, jointly with Carpathian biosphere reserve, have installed an information board for sphagnum bog natural monument Andromeda. It is reported that a Bukovel-size ski resort would be emerged in a few years in the area, so the countermeasures are applied whenever possible. All nature protecting objects engaged in the project or adjacent ones from collected data have been shared via Wikipedia along with discovered documents referred and bound with geotags. Explored perimeters are proposed for publishing in newest topographic maps. Over 80 wiki articles were created or amended within this project. All signage units' photos have been uploaded as well. Wiki is a universal database that is independent from governments and officials that we actualise and utilise every day.</p>
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			<a href="https://photos.app.goo.gl/Mhl6d4oMlvhCM8Qe2">https://photos.app.goo.gl/Mhl6d4oMlvhCM8Qe2</a>
Participating in all-ukrainian action jointly with forestry enterprises for planting saplings of traditional conifers "Forest's future – in your hands", moving accents towards relic species enhancement			We have scheduled the event of action on April 22th (Earth Day), 2018. Students of Karazin national university from harkiv will join the action. It includes planting seedlings of cedar and larch at sensitive highland deforested sites. <a href="https://youtu.be/CcvSBvnrXgg">https://youtu.be/CcvSBvnrXgg</a>
Arranging action "Plant a cedar – save the forest"			This action is planned for Autumn 2018. It involves volunteers for collecting cones of cedar and larch and delivering packs to vehicles. After stratification and germination seedlings would be replanted at deteriorated deforested areas. Participants would be presented souvenirs and tourist accessories, granted by tourist stores <a href="http://Gorgany.com">Gorgany.com</a> , <a href="http://huskysport.com.ua">huskysport.com.ua</a> . Earlier we have held an auction donation. All surplus funds have been reserved as costs for ecoroutes maintaining.

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

Alas, forestry personnel had not provided us with a due pragmatic support. We've been granted an oral permission, management has been instructed to facilitate in all possible ways, however it never came far beyond promises. Presumably it is connected with parallel business of state forestry personnel performed by their families. Therefore officials in charge are not motivated to signposting perimeters of nature protection areas as those signage inventory units shall simplify the public monitoring.

We have not been provided with requested forest-division documents, needed for fieldwork and navigation, foresters consider those as classified. We've got the necessary documentation from other legal source, however we've wasted priceless summer time. These docs are indeed an argument when proving illegal logging etc.

Another issue. Several times volunteers were treated as undercover ecology guard or ecocide radicals who always "make obstacles" in their activity.

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

1. We have thoroughly explored all Transcarpathian highland preserves, detected major problems of their current maintaining status, found collisions and documents mistakes. All collected data (including photos and coordinates) have been incorporated and published in wiki. Most of protected areas' perimeter has not been demarcated in topography maps or posted mistakably. We installed protecting signage and information boards with maps, rules of behavior and rescue service contacts.

2. We have launched a long-term process for recovering of essential (primary) mixed mode of conifer species lifecycle in Carpathian woods. This balance had been breached 200 years ago. Within this project nearly 440 (or more) red book trees will be replanted in fragile areas. We have examined all neighbouring plantations (private and state), seed stations and seedling centres in search for red book species to be replanted, achieved experience and practice for cultivation. We have not found yew trees (only bush variety); that means yew reproduction basis is quite poor. State forestry plantations do not reproduce red book species (cedar and Polish larch), as those are not commercially valuable (forbidden for logging), hard to germinate and slow growing. We have focused public attention upon restoration of forests that might have been lost (due to climate changes, windfall and drought).

3. This project has invented a new approach to popularize forest resources among local people. Transcarpathian region has been deforested way more than adjacent Ivano-Frankivsk one. Popular high-revenue business for picking mushrooms is possible in matured forests where they grow. Preserves the project deals with are now better protected with signage in terrain, forestry support (as they one way or another assisted), FSC certification, tourist attention and volunteer control. This new approach is world-wide known as tourism, it would be adopted in this area with no doubt.

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

For more than 10 years we implement replacement of obsolete methods of business (logging) for sustainable development principles (tourism, cultural and natural legacy preservation, traditional craft restoring) in the Carpathians. Locals earn money in two ways: emigration to EU countries and local business for logging. Tertium datur: tourism. Forests to be saved at least in preserves would serve as a point of recreation. Inhabitants build hotels and local attractions, local economy grows, west-workers return back home, invest their euros in restaurants, hostels, workshops, ski schools etc. Logging loses its primary profitability, as recreation from now on plays a dominant role.

Our activity draws villager's attention. Having been cutting woods for the lifetime there are many among them who do not understand what preserves exist for. But they watch tourists love forests. Tourists bring money. Tourists reorient the value of forests from mineral resources to the environment where goods mostly occur

(mushrooms, animals, tourists with money). In this region preserves are now the only place where human can observe old trees and compatible species habitats.

Since recently government reforms of decentralisation facilitate communes to receive additional funds for development. At first they even did not understand how to make the money work. Now they do. Our project commutes wishes and possibilities.

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

The headstone of the project – not to make everything instead of local people, but to stimulate doing by themselves. If a local forester does his part to install a signage pillar, he'd value it more than an outlander made it instead. He knows why it's been installed and will boast to his children. New generation born after USSR break-up apprehend environment in other way than ex-Soviet one do. These people without stamps in their heads are true hosts in its widest meaning. This a true force that cannot be overridden by any bureaucracy. We shall continue to support the area with volunteers and law enforcement practices, but the main function of due environment maintaining would be carried out by new open-minded citizens. It's called self-sustainability.

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

We actively share our achievements via social networks (facebook groups and pages), profile tourist forums (travel.club), official webpages of NGOs. We participate in miscellaneous conferences (where we present our projects results), connected with sustainable development of Carpathian region (jointly with FSC/WWF), cooperate with Forest Watch, Eco.Law.Human. We publish a yearly calendar (with results of activity). Also we use traditional TV-broadcast and printed media for conservative older generation <https://youtu.be/dvDE1vRqvF8>

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

Most of our activity has taken place in 2017, i.e. throughout a year. However the planting actions and further activity would be provided in 2018. We expected the project length as realistic, therefore we have indicated 18 months term as the realistic project's length.

#### **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
Nutrition costs for protected and deforested areas exploration	194	180	14	We used to cook ourselves where possible instead of café and restaurant food thus saved money.
Transportation services for protected and deforested areas exploration, work in archives, forestry households and authorities	675	719	-44	Fuel and public transportation costs directly depend on USD/UAH exchange rate that has risen and caused extra expenditures.
Mobile and internet, printer cartridges, paper, postal services	25	22	3	
Materials and manufacturing costs for information tables and perimeter signage units	2529	2362	189	We saved funds thanks to some timber materials supplied by forestry.
Nutrition for installation squad, 4 volunteers per 90 days	642	620	22	Made it sooner, saved several days.
Transportation for installation squad, 4 volunteers	1092	1284	-192	Fuel cost rose due to exchange rate
Tools for signage's installation (showels, crowbar, hammers, screwdrivers, wrench kit etc)	100	83	17	We didn't use some tools and took own or borrow for free. But we purchased some new to replace broken.
Onetime gloves and raincoats for planting action volunteers	34	20	14	Used supplies, saved a little
Volunteers transportation to the place of action's holding, 30 people	464	780	-316	Fuel cost rose due to exchange rate, must've ordered 4x4 transport as the forest road is hardly passable
Volunteers nutrition in action, 30 people	143	120	23	Cooked ourselves of farmer's products, saved some funds.
Costs for purchasing 500 saplings, reimbursing plantation land allocation and/or rent costs	1276	1037	239	Plantations owners had made a discount for 440 pcs out of 500.
Tools for planting saplings (scoops, backpacks,	73	52	21	Some tools used as own or lent by forestry

sapling boxes)				
Transportation of planting squad, 10 volunteers	1594	1822	-228	Impassable road required 4x4 more expensive transport (truck)
Nutrition for planting squad, 10 volunteers	983	811	172	Cooked ourselves of farmers products, saved funds
Bank transfer fee, 1%	99	50	49	Commission fee is 0,5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9923</b>	<b>9962</b>	<b>-39</b>	<b>At the moment of accepting funds exchange rate GBP/USD 1.2182, at the end – 1,3782</b>

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

One of the recent in Ukrainian legislation is the protected plots novation within industrial forests. When found red book habitat the law allows to implement a protected plot inside the industrial forest (assigned for logging). Those red book species could be bats, flowers, and trees. This procedure is internal for an enterprise, enters into force by the principal's order that is obligatory for personnel, significantly more rapid and simpler (when time is critical). Legal arrangement of full-time natural monuments or landmarks demand a complete scientific report and may take years. Therefore internal protected plots are more acceptable by forestry officials.

Another technology novelty that we plan to utilise is drone-watching. This revolutionary device may dramatically simplify monitoring and acting.

### 10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, certainly. All printed oracal tapes and banners contain Rufford Logo. All media publications mentioned cooperation with Rufford Foundation, including wiki articles.

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

**Yurko Hudyma** – project leader, area exploring, negotiation and documentation

**Victor Khudiak** – exploring preserves, installation of signage units, volunteers delivery, logistics

**Natalka Voloshyna** – information support in Trancarpathian region

**Vyacheslav Dikun** – coordination in Ust-Chorna village, volunteer's accommodation

**Artur Dikun** – territory exploring assistance

**Yulia Sevostyan** – preserves and red-book species study, protected plots provision, layout and design

**Oleksandr Bursanov** – volunteers' coordination Forest Watch

**Oleksandr Matura** – eco trails exploring and clearing, logging control

**Vladyslav Korsun** – eco trails clearing

**Maryana Kovaliova** – food supply and assistance

**Brat Serhiy** – leader of volunteers of St. Andriy Pervozvany Skete, plantation of cedar and yew, eco trails maintaining

**Oleksandr Mashtaler** – cedar seeds germination, stratification and replanting

**Volodymyr Kydon** – endangered species reintroduction (edelweiss)

**Victoria Hrynevych** – accounting

**Halyna Dolnyk** – social media, project draft development

**Ivan Shostak** – logistics, local communes, archive works

**Oleksandr Dyshlyvenko** – old cedar trees research expedition

**Vasyl Chopovsky** – eco trails maintaining

**Andriy Vyniavsky** – eco trails maintaining

**Volodymyr Kernytsky** – engineer calculations, signage installation consulting

**Mykhaylo Burkalo** – manufacturing and installation of signage perimeter units and information boards

**Ivan Lyspuh** – installation of signage perimeter units and information boards

**Denys Myrko** – legal affairs

**Dmytro Umanets** – supplies

**Yaroslav Shutka** – transportation

## 12. Any other comments?

We kindly thank the Rufford Foundation for their support.

