

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Qenan Maxhuni
Project Title	Conservation of White Storks (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>) in Kosovo through inventory and restoration of nesting sites
Application ID	23472-2
Grant Amount	£5,00
Email Address	qmaxhuni@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	04.09.2019

1. 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
Investigating the status of the White Stork population in Kosovo				This objective is fully achieved by completion of a detailed white stork inventory covering the entire country.
Implementing conservation actions				This objective was not fully achieved since there was a request from the Ministry of Environment to lead this activity without involving directly the NGOs sector. Despite this there was a close collaboration by preparing a detail design for the platforms. Setting those platforms on existing electric line poles (in dangerous nesting place) will serve an example for decision makers in the other municipalities on of how to solve out this conflict between technical progress and birds.
Raising awareness of the local communities for the value and fascination of "their" storks				Fully achieved by rising the general public's awareness (mostly the local population) of the white stork protection through joint public events, project leaflets etc.

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

Fortunately, there was not any such difficulties.

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

- Full inventory of all white stork nests made for the first time in Kosovo resulting in presence of 86 nests,
- The establishment of cooperation between the two main relevant institutions in the field of white stork management (Ministry of Environment and Electrical Distribution Company - KEDS) by erecting, for the first time in Kosovo the platforms for some white stork nests,

- Raising awareness of the local communities for the importance of coexistence with white stork.

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

The local community was one the main partner in order to successfully implement our project activities. Their involvement through direct meetings and communication was very important in order to get as much as possible the relevant data about the phenology of the white stork and all other relevant data related to white stork activities from their arriving until their departure/ migration.

Residents addressed to us the new information from the field and they directly helped us in locating some of the nests.

The local community benefitted in the form of education that they were given from as through brochures, discussions and giving messages for importance of preserving the living habitat for this protected species. Most of them didn't have neither elementary information about the stork biology and the importance of their protection.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Since we have established now the monitoring plan by collecting for the first time very important data about the Kosovo white stork biology and ecology, we will continue to collect the information each year in order to have the possibility to compare and analyse those data for many years.

The started activity with nest platforms will continue since we have got the promise of both institutions to build such platforms for every necessary nests with financial assistance of Kosovo Electrical Distribution Company-KEDS.

We plan also to continue with promoting and raising awareness among local population about the importance of biodiversity conservation with special attention on the development of bird watching.

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

Since we had been obliged to get the permit from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Kosovo to realise such project with a protected species such as white stork, we are obliged to prepare a report for the Ministry until the end of this year where will be specified all the activities and results realised within this project.

Articles highlighting the main findings of this study would be sent to peer-reviewed and popular journals to reach a wider global audience where the contribution of Rufford Foundation will always be mention.

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

The period foreseen for this project has been designed from March – September 2018 but since the decision to support the project has been taken in July 2018 we have been pushed to extend the project activities also in 2019 in order to cover the main period of white stork phenology and also to continue with such activities until the August 2019!

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Project coordinator	700	1200	+500	Since the project has been extended until the end of August 2019 there was also more engagement for project coordination
Car rent	1000	1350	+350	The car renting had been continue also in 2019
Fuel	300	430	+130	The same was happened also with fuels
Food for project team	200	280	+80	
Renting the hydraulic lift platforms	350	350		
Material for nests platforms and reconstruction	1800		-1800	Almost all the material planned to spend on this activity has been covered my KEDS company and since the project had to continue for the next year (2019) the main amount has been spent in other activities.
GPS/GSM solar panel loggers		3000	+3000	It has been covered by MaxPlanck Institute
Handy GPS machine	350	420	+70	We found a better equipment from what we have planed and payed a bit more.
Preparation, design, printing of leaflets and posters	300	430	+130	Also, the number for printing materials and the quality was a bit higher and better than planned one.

TOTALS	5000	7460	+2460	The difference in the amount of money (from the old budget plan) which was planned to spend for platform construction has been covered by the KEDS, except the amount of 350 EUR for platform design. After spending the necessary amount on extra expenses for project prolongation, the sum of 190 EUR was remained and will be sent back!
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9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

We are considering as a very important activity to continue with monitoring of white stork population in order to maintain a continuous monitoring of this species and also to start with some other important and endangered species. Our future plans are to promote birdwatching tourism in our country, as a potential solution for the protection of biodiversity and preservation of natural habitats.

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

Yes, Rufford Foundation logo has been used on information leaflets and posters with guidelines that RF forwarded to us. Financial assistance of Rufford Foundation has been mentioned also in the acknowledgement of my PhD thesis which has been realised in the scope of this project.

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

The list of team members:

Dr.sc. **Qenan Maxhuni**. As a team leader was responsible to coordinate all the project activities.

Dr.sc. **Wolfgang Fiedler**. His main role was monitoring and advising the activity related to mounting the GPS/GSM solar panel loggers in order to track the migration routes of 3 individuals of White Storks.

MSc. **Donard Geci**. He was mostly responsible for data collection in the field and also to help in organizing the events and meetings with local community.

MSc. **Besa Sadiku**. She has been replaced with **Leonora Ibrahim** and had been responsible except others also in fieldwork and preparing the material such was leaflets, posters etc.

MSc. **Fatmir Fazliu**. As a researcher in field of social sciences he was mostly been engaged with awareness raising activity.



