

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 | Milica Stanišić |
| Project title | Seminatural dry grasslands in Montenegro as potential NATURA 2000 sites – Vegetation diversity, habitat typology, conservation |
| RSG reference | 25264-1 |
| Reporting period | May 2018 – May 2019 |
| Amount of grant | £5000 |
| Your email address | stanisic.milica90@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | 30/04/2019 |

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 |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Flora-vegetation-habitat mapping | | | | |
| Plant identification/data processing/habitat mapping (ArcView Gis) | | | | |
| Preparation of a short documentary about about the biodiversity of semiarid grasslands and their conservation values. | | | | |
| Design of the internet page | | | | |
| Lecture for students/volunteers | | | | |
| Excursions with students/volunteers to Piperi, Grahovo-Dragaljsko polje | | | | |
| Workshop for farmers | | | | We think that the response of local farmers and interests in workshop was not as good as we expected. There may be several reasons for this. Many of local farmers are not permanently living in the investigated area. We assume that the second reason is the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development. |
| Workshop for pupils of Primary and Secondary schools at the manifestation „Days of Biology and Science“. | | | | |
| Lecture at the Biological Institute Jovan Hadži ZRC SAZU in Ljubljana | | | | |
| Lecture in the Botanical Society of Slovenia | | | | |
| Lecture for pupils of | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| biology sections in Primary schools in Podgorica and Nikšić | | | | |
| Mobile exhibitions and promotion of a documentary at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Podgorica, schools in Nikšić and Grahovsko polje | | | | |
| Mounting of information boards | | | | We will finished mounting boards during May 2019. We had a problem with finding an appropriate place for mounting boards, because a significant part of land is a private property, and for state land we need a special permit from local authority (getting this permit is going very slowly). As the ultimate solution we can mount boards in primary schools in investigated areas. |
| Preparation of the elaborate | | | | We will finished elaborate during May 2019. |

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

In the previous question in the part of table for comments we emphasised some difficulties during the project: mounting information boards, and, in our opinion, a lack of interest of local farmers for a workshop. We will finish the mounting boards during May 2019. We assume that the main reason for lack of interest for workshop is the current policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. They encourage the development of agriculture and the introduction of modern technologies in agricultural activities, giving grants to local farmers for equipment purchase. This can result in an increasing abandonment of traditional and extensive farming systems, which leads to loss of biodiversity on dry grasslands.

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

1. Completed list of plant species, vegetation units and habitat types in investigated areas.
2. Getting data about structure and management of dry meadows and grassland ecosystems of arid karst fields in Montenegro as well as their importance and recognised threats.

3. Promotion of results, especially to local farmers.

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

N/A

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Of course, we have plans to continue with this work. Research about flora and vegetation done during this project represent a good basis for my PhD thesis. The object of my thesis are dry grasslands in Montenegro, and with this project I have finished a significant part of fieldwork. In the following vegetation season we will continue similar research in the other locality in Montenegro.

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

We plan to share our results through scientific papers, popular and educational materials. At the moment we are working on scientific papers for botanical conferences and congresses. During the project, we have promoted our results to primary and secondary schools and local farmers.

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

The Rufford Foundation grant was used from May 2018 to May 2019. Research on flora and vegetation, especially fieldwork, is very difficult to finish in one vegetation season. In spite of that we have very good results about flora and vegetation, in this year we will have more fieldwork days and work in laboratory (about 7 days). That work will be done without experts from Slovenia.

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 |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Daily allowance for researchers | 1,080 | 1,080 | | |
| Costs of the accommodation in field for researches | 570 | 570 | | |
| Costs for fuel: | 480 | 200 | -280 | Co-financing by Slovenian research agency for fieldwork. |
| Field trip with students | 540 | 540 | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Equipment: Portable banners | 300 | 300 | | |
| Materials for exhibition (printing of posters, filming of a documentary) | 800 | 800 | | |
| Informative tables | 900 | 900 | | |
| Consumables | 150 | 150 | | |
| The budget for airplane tickets for guest researchers | 180 | 256 | +76 | |
| TOTAL | 5,000 | 4796 | -204 | |

*The rest of ca 204£ will be used for fieldwork in this vegetation season.

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

The next important steps are to extend the investigated area, in order to get complete data about dry grassland in Montenegro. These ecosystems are very poorly investigated in Montenegro so far. Also, very important step is to work with local farmer and to promote the importance of this type of ecosystems.

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?

We have used Rufford Foundation logo in all materials used in promotion activities (posters, banners, etc.) This foundation received a lot of publicity, especially from students of Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Podgorica. Already, some of our students have done application for Rufford grants.

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

MSc Milica Stanišić – fieldwork (vegetation and floristic research), lab work and promotion activities.

Dr Danijela Stešević – fieldwork (vegetation and floristic research), lab work and promotion activities.

Dr Danka Caković – lab work (vegetation and floristic research).

Dr Urban Šilc – fieldwork (vegetation and floristic research), lab work.

Filip Kúzmič - fieldwork (vegetation and floristic research), lab work and promotion activities.

Branko Anđić – promotional activities in primary schools.

Marijana Katić - promotional activities in secondary schools.

Vuko Nikolić - promotional activities in secondary schools.

Duško Vujačić – cartography.

Jasmina Rojević – promotional activities on excursions for pupils of primary and secondary school.

Zoran Bojović - promotional activities on excursions for pupils of primary and secondary schools.