Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Tanja Šnjegota
Project Title	The Importance of Non-Formal Education in Conservation: The European Wildcat (*Felis Silvestris*) as an Example Species
Application ID	33551-1
Grant Amount	£6000
Email Address	tsnjegota@yahoo.com
Date of this Report	9/2/2022

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
Theoretical education			■	We managed to hold the education sessions as we planned, despite the COVID 19 pandemic. We were trying to give lessons outside as much as possible. Our all actions were in accordance with the current COVID 19 measures.
Education in the field			■	No factors affecting this objective.
Monitoring of the wildcats in the field and the regional (Srbac-Derventa) road			■	No factors affecting this objective.
Database creating		■		This is the long-term process requiring a larger period of monitoring. We will continue updating the database and will have more comprehensive data over time about the presence of wildcats in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

Although we managed to fulfil the main aim of this project, non-formal education, we believe that more people would attend our education courses if the Covid situation was better. However, we became recognizable with our attempts to make the first steps in the wildcat monitoring and conservation, and we strongly believe that more and more people will give their contributions to these actions over the time and in the further project stages.

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

1. Education – we managed to educate the local community members, through non-formal lessons and courses, about conservation in general, the presence of wildcats in our local community, their appearance and behaviour, and the main threats jeopardising their existence. The particular significance of this outcome is in the diversity of the local community members that were educated.

2. Coexisting – we educated local community members on how to co-exist with wildcats and therefore increased the chance for the long-term maintenance of wildcats in our community.

3. Database – we initiated the database that includes all important information about the wildcats (e.g., presence, abundance, photos, dead cases from various reasons, etc.) not just in our local community but in the other communities as well. In this way we started with the networking of people having similar ideas about the conservation of wildcats across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

The local community was fully involved in this project by attending education sessions and being involved in the field activities. As planned, we educated various local community categories about the presence and importance of the wildcats (using tools according to the specific age/category). The main benefit for our local community was in understanding the wildcat presence in our municipality. Many people were totally surprised knowing that we share our habitat with the wildcats. People attending our education sessions didn`t know what wildcats look like and how to differentiate them (morphologically) from domestic cats. By addressing these uncertainties, both, local community and wildcats can only benefit. Conservation of the wild animals is one of the most popular topics and most needed actions in the wild animal preservation across the world and hugely important in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the countries with very rich biodiversity and a high rate of endemism.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We definitely plan to continue our work. In the next stages of the project, we plan to expand the area of the monitoring and non-formal education about wildcats. The other municipalities settled next to the river Sava, eastward Srbac, are also inhabited by wildcats. As this pioneering project showed success and raised the interest of our local community about wildcats, we expect the same in the other local communities.

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

We will share our results by: i) informing local and national medias about our project, ii) organising and attending seminars and conferences where we will present our project, and iii) publishing papers when collecting enough of data.

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

The grant was used over the period of 12 months, 2 months longer then was proposed by project. Although our project is finished, we will continue with the monitoring using photo-traps that we bought within the project budget and with the

help of the local hunters that will place them according to the sign of the wildcat presence.

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
Fee	700	700		
Travel expenses (fuel and accommodation during educational workshops and field trips, car repairing)	2500	2813	+313	This difference was due to the change in the fuel price, and we covered this minus with the "extra money" (differences) from the following items: i) Laptop for the education, ii) Brochures, roll-up banner, and promotion material, and projector.
Laptop for the education	1000	882	-118	This difference was used to cover minus in the travel expenses
Photo traps (3x)	800	840	+40	Difference due to the bam/pound course change
Brochures, roll-up banner and promotion material	800	651	-149	This difference was used to cover minus in the travel expenses
Projector	200	114	-86	This difference was used to cover minus in the travel expenses
Total	**6000**	**6000**		

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

Very important next steps, considering the ignorance of our local community about the presence and appearance of wildcats, are in the further education of the other local communities about the presence of wildcats and importance of their conservation.

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, we used the Rufford Foundation logo in our promotional material, and during the educations, as visible from our previous reports.

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

Tanja Šnjegota, BSc in Ecology and Environmental protection, team leader. The main role in:
   i) organizing and conducting all activities scheduled by the project, from the educations to the field trips.
   ii) designing promotional material
   iii) promotion of the project

Jovana Janković, BSc in Ecology and Environmental protection, team member. The main role in helping with the organisation of the project activities.

Dragana Šnjegota, PhD in Biological Sciences, team superviser. The main role in helping with the educations and field activities, and supervising of all project activities.

12. Any other comments?

We want to express our immense gratitude to The Rufford Foundation for supporting this extremely important project for our local community and wildcats, and for being friendly in all stages of this project, from submitting upon the acceptance of the project, and later, during the report submissions. We hope that we justified your trust in this project and hope to have your support in the further stages of the projects.