

## Final Evaluation Report

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Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Olena Miskova
<b>Project Title</b>	Study of rare plants of Seymskiy Regional Landscape Park (Ukraine, Sumy Oblast)
<b>Application ID</b>	34594-1
<b>Date of this Report</b>	03.05.2023

**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
Discovery of rare plants of the Seymskiy Regional Landscape Park and analysis of their populations				We carried out planned expeditions and collected a lot of data.
Publication of research results				The article and three abstracts of the conference reports have been published. Another article is planned to be published.
Draft guidelines for the preservation of the park's rare plants				We have developed recommendations for the preservation of the park's rare plants, which can be fully implemented after the war in Ukraine
Raising public awareness concerning the value of the park's rare plants via educational activities for schoolchildren and students				We held educational events with students and five classes with schoolchildren, which is more than we planned. The material prepared by our team was sent to educational institutions for the integration of the topic into the educational process. To achieve the planned goal, such activities will be held regularly. Therefore, our team and educational institutions with which we began to cooperate will continue to organise educational events for local people.
Elaboration of recommendations for improvement of the park's functional zoning				Proposals for improving the functional zoning of Seymskiy Regional Landscape Park were submitted to the administration of Park and presented at International Scientific Conference.
Elaboration of a proposal to expand the territory of the park at the expense of new areas valuable in the floristic aspect				Prospects of expanding the territory of Seymskiy Regional Landscape Park were submitted to the administration of park and presented at International Scientific and Practical Internet Conference.
Internet activity and sharing information				During the entire period of project implementation, we published

				information about our research and activities in social media.
Distribution of promotional material about rare plants (posters, booklets)				We sent most of the material to schools, museums and libraries. Distribution of posters and booklets is still ongoing.

**2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

- a). For the first time, a comprehensive study of the rare component of the flora of the largest protected area in the north of Ukraine was conducted. The obtained data have a scientific value.
- b). The developed measures are aimed at preserving the biological and landscape diversity of our country. Attention was paid to the protection of plant species from the European Red List and Resolution 6 of the Bern Convention.
- c). The topic of preserving rare plants of our region is integrated into the educational process in local educational institutions, this topic is also revealed during ecological educational events in museums, visitor centres, and libraries.

We believe that the most important thing is that our project is comprehensive, it includes both scientific research and educational work. Since the public has a decisive role in the impact on the environment. And the problem of preserving rare plants immediately raises many issues of anthropogenic influence on natural landscapes.

The project is not a one-time action. The results of our scientific research will be used in the future, for example, for a comparative analysis of the state of rare plants in other protected areas, as well as for further monitoring of the rare plant populations in the studied area.

In the context of the fact that Ukraine, as a participating country that has joined the Resolution of the UN Conference on Biodiversity (2022), has committed to increase the percentage of natural resources by 2030. To achieve this goal, our proposed optimisation of park zoning is important.

**3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

The biggest difficulty was the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine and all the related events. Military operations took place on the territory of our park, there was a partial occupation of the territory of our study, martial law is currently in progress, a ban on visiting the forest is underway, part of the territory is mined, institutions work unstable, the prices of food and gasoline have been increased, there are constant rocket attacks, there was a lack of electricity for several hours a day. As a result, the plan of our work has changed somewhat, and the pace has slowed down a lot. But not a single planned event was cancelled, we did everything we planned.

#### **4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.**

Many events of various kinds (lectures, lessons, conversations, excursions, presentations, round tables, ecological camp for children) were organised and conducted either by our team or we were co-organisers. The local population participated in our events and received the necessary material support. Contestants received prizes. Various institutions received material for environmental and educational work. Among local communities, we distributed promotional material.

NGOs and the Park administration were also involved in the implementation of the project.

NGO Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group, cooperating with our team, conducted various activities in Sumy region, and participated in the preservation of the element of the emerald network (Seymskiy Regional Landscape Park) and the protection of natural objects that have international, national, and regional protection status.

NGO Vorgol – participation of volunteers in our events, joint projects, such as the “Vorgol” eco-camp, and excursions.

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

We plan to continue this work.

We have collected a lot of factual material, so we plan to publish another article based on the data obtained. We have created promotional material that we will continue to distribute, both electronic and printed versions of promotional material.

Together with the employees of the park, we will contribute to the implementation of measures developed by us to preserve populations of rare plants and their habitats.

Together with the NGO Vorgol, we plan to hold an eco-camp for children annually. After the end of the war in our country, we will again be able to conduct cycling and walking excursions, which will contribute to the environmental education of the population.

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

- We publish the results of the conducted research and present them at conferences.
- Our team organises events for the public and informs about our work in local media.

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

It will be important to develop methods of combating and rules of behaviour with invasive plant species. During this study, it was found that the expansion of alien plants causes the loss of biodiversity, in particular, rare plants species.

**8. 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?**

We consistently used the Rufford Foundation logo in presentations during the speech, as well as verbally communicating the foundation's grant support.

The logo is also on the material we distribute, including photos and videos. In publications on the network, we also noted the official page of The Rufford Foundation.

**9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.**

**Olena Miskova**, Project coordinator – field work, processing and analysis of maps and data, organization and holding of events, media and educational activities, development of promotional materials, development of improvement of functional zoning of the park.

**Oksana Kucher** – field work, data analysis, conducting online events, communication with the public.

Were also involved:

**Oleksii Vasyliuk**, Leader of the NGO Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group (UNCG) – assistance with project financial management, Facebook and blog support, management of printing published materials.

**Sc. D. Sergiy Panchenko**, Head of the scientific department of the Hetman National Nature Park, expert at the Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group – scientific consultations, co-organization of project activities.

**10. Any other comments?**

We are very grateful to the foundation team for supporting our project and supporting us during the war. In an extremely difficult time for our country, we were able to contribute to the most important goal - preservation of biological and landscape diversity.

Delivery of posters and booklets to the library

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Poster presentation event for biology teachers in Konotop.

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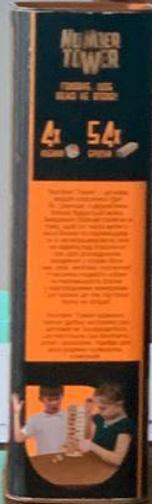




Рідкісні рослини  
регіонального ландшафтного  
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The  
**Rufford**  
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**UNCG**  
Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group





Environmental and educational activities for schoolchildren  
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Тирлич звичайний  
*Gentiana pneumonanthe* L.



Фото О.В. Міськової

Poster presentation in Putivl

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