

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. 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. 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	Olsi Qazimi
Project title	Sharra mountain dog (the Illyrian Mastif) Albania
RSG reference	35.07.07
Reporting period	September 2007- May 2009
Amount of grant	4440 £
Your email address	olsiqazimi@yahoo.com
Date of this report	22.05.09

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
Introduction of dogs in livestock flocks			Fully achieved	Eight dogs are donated to seven different shepherds and are successfully introduced in livestock flocks. Exception is only one case that the dog died of a scorpion bite.
Production of information material			Fully achieved	Calendars, brochure / leaflet, articles, magazine are produced with main purpose to promote the project subject.
Training with shepherds			Fully achieved	Training / meetings are developed and are still going on whenever there is a need. The veterinary personnel and the local coordinator that covers the project area are still supporting shepherds in some cases.
Workshop		Partially achieved		Only field coordination meetings are conducted with local stakeholders in order to provide sustainability of the project. The difficulties encountered in gathering all people involved due to their obligations changed the project objective in creating separate coordination and monitoring meetings.
Dog competition			Fully achieved	This objective is achieved in cooperation with the Cynological Federation of Kosovo.

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

A few unforeseen difficulties occurred during the project implementation but were successfully resolved. The first problem encountered was the death of one six-month old dog. We had to replace it with another one. The second problem was to organize the dog's competition, because of lack in infrastructure in the selected area we had to postpone the competition till spring 2009. On 2nd May 2009 the biggest dog competition in ethnic Albania had happened. More than 200 dogs participated and almost 3000 visitors from all Balkans, Hungary and Germany were present.

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

We realized to introduce successfully seven dogs in different sheep flocks in the project area and to create the nucleus of this dog race. The most important outcome is the feedback from the farmers, they are continuingly asking for more dogs and information how to get them. There is also an initiative from one farmer in Stebleva village to buy dogs himself. We are still expecting results from the crossbreeding scheme that will start after 5 months and the good feedback received from the

shepherds is an encouraging result because of the livestock protecting with autochthon race of dogs is functioning.

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

Seven shepherds have received livestock guarding dogs for their flock's protection from large carnivores. A local coordinator, the veterinary unit and other farmers that have not received yet any dog are consulted and involved in the scheme of dog supplying.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The work done so far will continue in the next years there is a detailed strategy how to introduce more LGD (livestock guarding dogs) not only in the national park Jabllanica – Shebenik but also in other parks. A Balkan network of dog breeders, farmers, shepherds, hunters and people interested in cynology is created in order to support every activity in this frame. However, the scheme of dog's reproduction in the project selected area will continue till the end of this year and we are expecting 15 more puppies to distribute within this year. Albanian Cynological Association in cooperation with Cynological Federation in Kosovo and specialized dog breeding farms in Macedonia is planning to promote furthermore the values of traditional livestock guarding attitudes with autochthon dog breeds.

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

Different articles are written about the project purposes in several magazines, information materials are distributed with other interested groups, fundraising processes on maintaining a website are ongoing, and a book is planned to be published within this year.

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

The RSG was used from September 2007 till May 2009. There is only one postponed activity (the dogs' competition); however, we are expecting result till the end of this year to complete the full scheme of dog's reproduction and distribution (first session).

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
Transport	500 £	0	0	
Information material	460 £	0	0	
Dog costs	1600 £	0	0	
Training	180 £	0	0	
Workshop	250 £	0	0	
Dogs competition	650 £	0	0	
Survey and monitoring	850 £	0	0	
TOTAL	4440	0	0	

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

- a. To make possible a workshop with three main stakeholders, NGOs, Government (local or central) and farmers, in order to find the best possibilities to continue the implementation of similar schemes in a national level.
- b. To publish a study book with the main focus LGD schemes and projects done so far.

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

Yes. All the information materials are produced under the logo of RSGF.

11. Any other comments?

This grant from RSG have made possible to walk the first step not only on nature conservation through LGD but also tradition and human attitudes conservation.