

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. 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	Maka Murvanidze
Project title	An ecological assessment of different forest types of Borjomi gorge protected territories by indicator insect species and education of local population on conservation of biodiversity
RSG reference	7838-1
Reporting period	01.07.2010-01.08.2011
Amount of grant	£5549
Your email address	makam94@hotmail.com
Date of this report	03.08.2011

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
Field trips with school students		YES		Instead of nine excursions with involvement of school pupils six excursions were performed due to the change of project timescale
Field trips of project participants			YES	During the field trips material of butterflies, ants, bumblebees and some other insects was collected
Laboratory treatment			YES	Laboratory treatment involved preserving and mounting of sampled insects to be useful as for scientific as well for educational purposes
Lectures in schools			YES	Project staff had a lecture on the threats to the biodiversity of Georgia with students of the No. 1 and No.3 public schools of Borjomi. More than 100 students together with the teachers of Biology joined the lecture. Their age structure varied from 13 to 17 years. Administration of the Borjomi National Park expressed their willingness to participate in educational programme set in framework of the RSG project. Their representatives have held a lecture on the management of the national park
Booklet publishing and distribution in Borjomi schools and administration of the National Park			YES	The leaflet describing project activities was published. The leaflet was distributed among the students of public schools No.1 and No.2 in Borjomi and the administration of the national park.
Forest type assessment			YES	

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

There were no unforeseen difficulties during the project. Number of field excursions with the involvement of school students was reduced from nine to six due to change of project timescale.

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

1. Students of the public schools received the theoretical (during the lectures) and practical (during field trips) knowledge about the biodiversity of Borjom-Kharagauli National Park, about the major threats of the local wildlife and the general threats to biodiversity

worldwide; obtained knowledge about the major ecosystem types of Borjom-Kharagauli National Park, insect sampling and collecting methods, the importance of insects for ecosystem health.

2. The administration of Borjom-Kharagauli National Park actively participated in project fulfilment. They had a lectures in schools on the park management, different activities performed to improve the infrastructure and the importance of the involvement of young generation in nature protection.
3. The analyses of insect diversity and density showed that natural forests of Borjomi protected territories can be regarded as "healthy", in burned forests secondary succession processes are evident together with increase of insect fauna, especially of flying insects (butterflies, bumble bees), ant populations on these territories are still depressed.

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

Parents of the children, school teachers and directors were happy with performed activities. They expressed their gratitude for educational efforts performed by project staff and willingness for further cooperation. Local bus drivers took part in field excursions and enjoyed the obtained information and overall situation existing during the field trips

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This was initial project that proved to be very successful especially in terms of education of school children. More and more schools existing in region expressed their willingness for participation in lectures and field trips.

Similar activities can be provided in mountainous regions of Georgia, what is especially important due to lack of information on biodiversity conservation importance in regions with extreme climate conditions.

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

Booklet published during the project activities will be distributed among the interested people, especially in schools. Presentations will be performed in several public schools of Georgia. Project updates and the final report presented on the RSG website will help in spread the project outcomes among the wide society worldwide

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

The project was actively running during the 9 month excluding the winter period, when Christmas Holydays and cold climate disturbed project fulfilment.

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
Entomological equipment	245	323	78	Entomological equipment appeared more expensive due to shifting and custom costs.
Alcohol	15	15	0	
Food for pupils during the field trips	360	240	120	Instead of nine days, the field excursions were performed during the six days, what resulted in reduced costs.
Travel expenses	100	100	0	
Minivan rent	875	875	0	
Fuel	100	142	42	Prices for fuel increased.
Logging	2250	2250	0	
Per diem	960	960	0	
Office needs	157	157	0	
Cartridge	50	50	0	
Booklet publishing	437	437	0	
Total	5549	5549	0	

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

Planning and management of activities concerning involvement of school students and teachers may be improved. More precise timescale will be provided for planning field trips.

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?

RSGF logo was printed on the front page of the booklet and on the title slide of the presentation held in schools. It was also presented on the notebooks that were spread among the pupils and the working sheets distributed among them during the lectures.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to express our gratitude to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for giving an opportunity to fulfil the project. Our efforts were especially important in terms of field trips, where the children could practically observe the main ecosystem types of the region, use entomological equipment for sampling and preserving insects, obtain knowledge on the importance of preserving the biodiversity