

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	Anton S. Vlaschenko
Project title	<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i> in Ukraine: inventory of current status, proposals to revise the species status in IUCN Red List and conservation
RSG reference	8188-1
Reporting period	August 2010 – October 2011
Amount of grant	£ 5325
Your email address	vlaschenko@yandex.ru
Date of this report	November 23 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
To check localities where greater noctule was found in the middle of 20th century in the north and the east of Ukraine (breeding part of range).			+	Two localities in Goloseevo forest (Kiev city) and Lesopark forest (Kharkov city) were observed. Ten and more days were spent in each locality and more than 200 bats were caught in each one. The greater noctule wasn't found.
To check localities where greater noctule was found in the middle of 20th century in the south of Ukraine and Crimea peninsula (transit and hibernation part of range).		+		We visited all planned localities and two over plan. These two ones were choose like compensation on lost point in Chernobyl exclusion zone and uncapability to mist net bats in Askania-Nova reserve. On those localities where we hadn't possibility to catch bats we used Time expansion bat detector with digital recorder for record bat sound. The greater noctule wasn't found.
To check locality in Chernobyl Exclusion zone where greater noctule was found in 2009.	+			This point was checked earlier than our project started (in July 2010) as part of Sergij's Gashchak project "Fauna of bats as an indicator of the most valuable natural complexes in Chernobyl exclusion zone worthy of legislative protection" supported by Rufford Small Grants Foundation also. The greater noctule wasn't found.
To involve high schoolers, students, volunteers from NGO, volunteers biologists, free volunteers and professional zoologists to bat research activity with to pay attention to bat conservation.			+	More than 55 people were involved to the project activity!
Conservation of bat's habitats in practice: present data to the			+	This objective will be full achieved till the end of 2011. The data is presented now and we are waiting for official documents.

Ukrainian Governmental Cadastre of Animals.				
Report on review of greater noctule status in Ukraine to IUCN/SSC Red List Programme.			+	This objective will be full achieved till the end of 2011. I have contacted with IUCN.
To continue the project aim to international level.			+	We have contacted with zoologist from Russia (Dmitry Smirnov) who work with population of greater noctule in Central Russia and with zoologist from Hungary (Peter Estok) who conducted deep research of greater noctule roost ecology for 5 years. The idea of future project were join experience and research efforts of these three research teams for inventory of GN status throughout Central and Eastern Europe, for specification of the species status in IUCN categories and for searching the key ecological requirement. The application will be compiled in 2012. Moreover we are contacting with bat researchers genetics from Germany towards to connect to future research the genetic study (to estimate degree of isolation of the Eastern and the Western population of greater noctule in Europe)

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

We had only two unforeseen difficulties during our project activity. Both of them were connected with reluctance of administration of two Reserves to cooperate with our research team. The first of them is Ackania Nova Reserve. We contacted with administration of the reserve previously in winter 2010-11, but they didn't want to permit us to handle bats in the area of the reserve mentioning some strange documents. For example we should confirm our research plan in National Academy of Science before annum of beginning of research. The single explanation of this strange action that the administration on the reserve don't want to see any others researchers than they have in staff. This problem was tackled simple. We visited the Ackania Nova Reserve incognita and recorded bat sounds by Time expansion bat detector. The similar situation was with the Crimean Natural Reserve. We had long time talks with administration of this Reserve. The reserve is subordinated to Administration of President of Ukraine and time to time people from Ukrainian government visited this territory. The July and August is hot time in the reserve and ingress is denied. On this reason we tested other locality in Crimean Mountains (with the same habitat old beech forest Kurasu stream) in August. We visited the Crimean Natural Reserve in the beginning of October (2011). But the other

sudden problem happened in our project direction! It was forest fire in the territory of the reserve, and ingress was denied again. We tackled this problem the same: did a lot of records of bat sounds by Time expansion bat detector around the reserve area.

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

On the base of our inventory we can confirm that Greater Noctule do disappeared from the biggest part of its range in the Eastern Europe (the North of Ukraine). This result allows us to recommend IUCN to change the Red List Category of this species from Near Threatened to Vulnerable or if not Endangered. We hope it will be motivation for more effective conservation of forest habitats for all forest-dwelling bats.

The key practical outcome is recommendation and documents for protection of forests in cities (Kiev and Kharkov) where these forests are more vulnerable under press of modern “wild capitalism”.

More than 40 volunteers (not professional biologists) were included to research activity. We opened the magic world of bats for these people!

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

Data on the bats distribution in Kharkov city Lesopark forest were included to full report about all vertebrate species inhabited in the forest. This report was presented to Ukrainian Governmental Cadastre of Animals and to two Kharkov NGO (Environmental Group PECHENIGY & Green Front) for using in confrontation with Town-council for organization of Nature Protection area in this area.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We are going to continue this work by two ways 1) to study bat migration in three key localities (where the most number autumn migration were registered during realisation of this project) it will be Kharkov Lesopark, Ackania Nova Reserve and Kurasu stream in Crimean Mountains; 2) to continue inventory of greater noctule status in Russia in close cooperation with Russian bat researchers and tune up exchange of experience with people who work with this species in the Central and the West Europe. We are planning to start the new wave of activity in the second part of 2012.

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

All collected data will be wide spread, in scientific world and for other people. Now we are preparing the paper for Ukrainian scientific journal “Nature reserves in Ukraine” on the result on bat catching in Goloseevo forest (Kiev city). The paper will be finished for the end of November 2011. All other collected data will be published also in 2012-2013. Summary of the project results will be set on the website of Ukrainian Centre for Bat Protection (www.kazhan.org.ua) up to the end of December 2011. The special report will be prepared to IUCN where our data on the changing of greater noctule number in Ukraine will be tasted on IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.

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

We planned to spend on this project activity 14 months (1st August 2010 to 30st September 2011). Unfortunately we get some problems with bank transfer (we get money by hand only in the end of November 2010). On this reason all field work that was planned for the autumn 2010 was realised in autumn 2011. Only one expedition was realized in August 2010. We finished the field work on the 10 of October 2011. In summary the total duration of the project exceed the planned 14 months a little.

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
Food and accommodation in field	2400	1890	+510	We planned to spend 4£ per 1 person for food per each field day but the real cost was bigger – 5£. We planned 120 field days, but in real we have 88 f.d. including: 8 f.d. per 2 persons; 22 f.d. per 3 persons; 13 f.d. per 4 persons; 26 f.d. per 5 persons; 19 f.d. per 6 persons.
Stay in hotel	-	250	-250	10£ per 5 persons per 5 days.
Rent of a car	1750	660,5	+1089,5	Full rent a car for expedition to the South Ukraine 16@35£ = 560£. Taxi for moving inside cities 10 travels per 5,5£ = 55£ and 7 travels per 6,5£ = 45,5£.
Train tickets	300	450	-150	Train and bus tickets = 322£; Public transport for moving inside cities 58£; Fuel for boat = 70£.
Digital camera	500	817,5	-317,5	Digital camera (Canon D1000) + camera lens (Canon compact macro) = 504,5£; and ring-flash (Metz 15 MS-1 digital) = 283£; coffer = 30£. We should buy all assemblage of this equipment to get necessary quality of bat photos.
Batteries for headlamp and ultrasound detectors	100	100	0	
Headlamps	50	50	0	
Climbing rope	150	150	0	
Tree climbing system	-	150	-150	
Rucksack	-	100	-100	
Sleeping-bags	-	120	-120	3 sleeping-bags per 40£ for each
Telescopic fishing rods	-	120	-120	We used them for mistnetting, 4 rods per 10£ and 2 rods per 40£.

Bat ring (Aranea Poland) 2500	-	400	-400	We critically needed in bat rings.
Maps, notebook, paper etc.	35	35	0	
Medicine	40	40	0	
Total	5325	5333	8	

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

The most important steps in the field of inventory of current status of greater noctule in Eastern Europe are 1) to check locations in Central Russia where this species was found in past (since 1939 to 1980), 2) to organize deep research of roost ecology greater noctule in Russia (Samara region) with radiotelemetry where exist the local breeding population (we are planning to use the experience of Hungarian bat researchers).

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?

No.

11. Any other comments?

I want to say great thanks to the Rufford Small Grants Foundation team for support my project idea! My team and I have realised the biggest part of planned work; we visited different landscapes from forests of the North Ukraine to the Black Sea Coast beyond the Crimean Mountains. But in general our project isn't successful as we didn't found greater noctule in locations where our predecessors found it easy. We confirm that this species is disappeared and it is sad to spend money to confirm that the Planet biodiversity is lost. We don't imagine what is happened with greater noctule! What is the reason of such reduction of species range? What is the key ecological peculiarity of greater noctule was touched by human activity for this last 50 years? We don't know answers!

And the most sadness output of our project that is future not holds out hope for this forest-dwelling species. The deforestation is growing on degrees for last 5-7 years in Ukraine. The undeveloped economic in undeveloped country isn't contribute to conservation of rare species with difficult ecology.