

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	Milan Ruzic
Project title	Conservation of Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i> winter roosts in the Province of Vojvodina, Serbia
RSG reference	8976-1
Reporting period	November 2010-November 2011
Amount of grant	£5572
Your email address	miluruzic@yahoo.com
Date of this report	26 December 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
Detailed monitoring and research of Long-eared winter roosts in 12 towns and villages in Kikinda, Zrenjanin and Vrsac municipalities			Yes	Our team has done detailed research of more than 30 owl roosts during the project.
Conservation of owl roosts on sites through information boards			Yes	We have made a total of 18 (instead of 12) information boards since we have got additional funding from Kikinda Municipality.
Negotiation with local authorities, stakeholders and landowners			Yes	We have done numerous meeting with local stakeholders, mostly local authorities in order to arrange future conservation of Long-eared Owl winter roost sites. The largest achievement is official protection of Kikinda Town centre as the Special Area for Long-eared Owl wintering.
Education activities via lectures and workshops for the local community			Yes	During the project duration we have organised five different workshops, lectures and more than 30 media appearances.
120 wicker baskets for Long-eared Owl nesting			Yes	Instead of 120, we have got small additional funding and bought 150 nest-baskets which are installed on numerous sites within Vojvodina Province.
Media campaign			Yes	We are very proud on media campaign which we have undertaken during the project. We have had several dozen appearances on TV, Radio newspapers and Internet. Especially important was TV program about owls in Kikinda and our work to conserve them done by a famous Serbian broadcaster Jovan Memedovic. This TV program was broadcasted on Serbian National TV RTS at least six times during 2011 and was seen by millions of viewers in Serbian and countries around.

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

We had some delays in information board instalment in some villages and towns due to very complicated official procedures. This was all solved during the spring as we were very much helped by the local communities.

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

Our work during the project was seen by millions of people in Serbia and has got us huge public attention. This helped us to do on-site conservation, to gain more influence in the community, to do some fund-raising, etc. Beside that, our team has become recognised as the leading long-eared owl conservation group in East Europe by our colleagues from all over the World. Also, we have done very serious research and monitoring and have presented that on the First International Long-eared Owl Conference in Kikinda 1-5 November 2011.

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

We have put special attention to Kikinda Municipality and the entire relevant subjects within it. No, Kikinda is known internationally by the name "The World Owl Capital". The Tourist Organisation of Kikinda has made wide promotion of town, The National Museum of Kikinda has done a great exhibition on the long-eared owls and several small activities during the 2011, a group of artists from Kikinda started to make terracotta owls as official town souvenirs, a local restaurant has changed name to "Sova" – and owl in Serbian and started to offer local drinks and dishes with special names connected to owls, etc.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The next step for us is to make an International Owl Festival in Kikinda. Also, we plan to continue all our research, monitoring and conservation programs on the long-eared owl in Vojvodina Province and the rest of Serbia as it is proven to be very efficient. Local communities also invite us to work with them and often offer us some help.

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

We have shared all our experiences with hundreds of people who deal with owl, bird and nature conservation in Serbia and abroad. For example, in December 2010 we have visited our colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina and trained them in the field how to search for and then monitor long-eared owl winter roost sites. All our experiences were presented to more than 60 participants of the First International Long-eared Owl Conference in Kikinda 1-5 November 2011. This scientific conference has gathered owl researchers and conservationists, but also ecotourism experts from 22 countries from all over the World.

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 implemented from December 2010 until December 2011. This is in a line with the project proposal.

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
Nails	10	10	0	
Metal wire	6	6	0	
Metal screws	60	60	0	
Aluminium ladder	180	180	0	
Hammers	6	5.8	- 0.2	Price has changed a bit
Screw drivers	6	6	0	
Information boards	1,200	1,800	+ 600	Extra funding from Kikinda municipality for 6 more boards
Wicker baskets	960	960	0	
Liquid for wood protection	24	24.3	+ 0.3	Price has changed a bit
Brochure printing	1,300	1,300	0	
Postal costs	280	280	0	
Project T-shirts	440	440	0	
Fuel during surveys	500	500	0	
Fuel during basket installation	200	200	0	
Fuel during media campaign	200	200	0	
Press conference	200	200	0	
TOTAL	5,572	6,172.1	600.1	

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

Our goal is to continue conservation of long-eared owls in Serbia by monitoring their populations, ecotourism development, media campaigns and educational activities working closely together with all stakeholders, especially local governments and communities. These tasks would need some more funding and we will try to get it in Serbia and also abroad.

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. We have used it on T-shirts and brochures. Millions of people have watched TV programs about your work and project, and thousands have seen information boards, T-shirts and have read brochures. This might lead to increase of project proposals to RSG from Serbia and countries around.

11. Any other comments?

Our team wants to thank your Foundation for understanding and support of our conservation project. We are looking forward to continue working with you in the near future.