

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	Igor Prokofyev
Project title	Community driven bat conservation in Western Russia
RSG reference	9086-1
Reporting period	January 2012
Amount of grant	£5852
Your email address	igor.prokofev@gmail.com
Date of this report	22 nd January 2012

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
Determine the distribution, habitat preferences and population trends of bats in three regions of Western Russia			+	<p>During the project period we collected data from 60 car transects and got more than 90 hours of recordings. We got new information about distribution of 12 species in three regions of Western Russia:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greater noctule (<i>Nyctalus lasiopterus</i> Schreber, 1780); 2. Noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i> Schreber, 1774); 3. Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus</i> Schreber, 1774); 4. Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> Leach, 1825); 5. Parti-coloured bat (<i>Vespertilio murinus</i> L., 1758); 6. Northern bat (<i>Eptesicus nilssoni</i> Keyserling and Blasius, 1839); 7. Serotine (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i> Schreber, 1774); 8. Brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i> Linnaeus, 1758) 9. Nathusius' pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> Keyserling et Blasius, 1839) 10. Leisler's noctule (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> Kuhl, 1817) 11. Daubenton's bat (<i>Myotis daubentoni</i> Kuhl, 1817) 12. Kuhl's Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i> Kuhl, 1817) <p>We got records of about 2300 calls of bats in three regions of Western Russia. We used these data for identification of sites with high bats biodiversity level in three regions of Western Russia. We used it for creation of echolocation calls library of bat species of Western Russia. It is very important for improvement of species identification methodology by bats calls.</p>
Increase awareness among the general public on the ecological importance of			+	<p>Bats are often misunderstood by the general public in Russia who fear them or view them as pests. Fundamental to conservation is to change the attitude of the general public towards bats. We altered the public</p>

bats and the need to protect them				perception of bats through a series of training, publicity and public events and establishing an education programme within schools. It dramatically improved the public perception of bats and as a consequence it has a long and lasting positive effect on their conservation. We created the Bat conservation Alliance (BCA) and the Bat Educational Center (BEC) (http://www.ibats.allianceperesvet.org) for improving public awareness and perceptions about bats.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

We met with indifference and lack of understanding of many officials and land owners to problem of bats conservation and their habitats. Many people do not understand the importance of it. Some people have an aversion to these animals, because they believe many myths about bats. Some religious people believe that bats have attendant dark powers in nature. But the education of adults and children about the biology and ecology of bats is very important for improvement of the situation. Many people become involved in our programme and they changed their opinion about bats. We're going to continue our educational activities.

Many community groups became members of our programme. They want to participate in the bat monitoring. Unfortunately, the amount of equipment for this purpose is limited. So, we're going to continue fundraising to purchase equipment for these groups.

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

In order to implement the United Nations Environmental Programme's (UNEP) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) resolutions, there is a pressing need for countries to generate long-term time series data on species distribution and abundance in order to evaluate the effect of global change on biodiversity and ecosystem function. By generating long-term data on bats as biodiversity indicators, the project supports Russia to meet CBD commitments and, as bats are migratory, meet Russia's obligations under the Convention of Migratory Species. The expansion of bat monitoring in terms of sites monitored and volunteers trained ensure the long-term sustainability of the project and the data contribute to the global monitoring of bats and global change through the iBats programme. In addition, the generated data on bat distributions is used to construct habitat niche analysis models, determine micro-habitat associations and identify important conservation areas for bats.

Another important result is a large volunteer network trained in bats and bat conservation and a range of publicity materials including education materials for schoolchildren. It improved the public perception of bats and as a consequence has a long and lasting positive effect on their conservation. We involved local communities in bat conservation. It is very important. Also, the project result is recommendations for the future management of bats for local authorities and the development of bat conservation policy in regions and communities.

Maintaining and expanding the monitoring project in Western Russia and initiating a campaign to increase public awareness about bats gave us the experience and the expertise to develop into a national organisation for bat conservation in Russia, acting as the authoritative voice for bat conservation throughout all regions.

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

Local people have been familiar with bats and committed to protect important bat habitats. The project achievement is enduring since public communities have been involved in bat conservation. We created a sustainable partnership between local communities and stakeholders through workshops and creation of model bat-friendly gardens and involving them in bat monitoring (as volunteers). We attracted people in bat conservation activity through distribution knowledge about bat-friendly gardens, bat boxes and others. We involved communities from Bryansk, Orel and Kaluga and Smolensk regions in bat conservation activity. In partnership with leaders of local communities, scientists and stakeholders recommendations for bat conservation were development. About 80% of project participants are members of local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, we are going to continue this work in next few years. In particular we would like to work at:

1. Expanding this project on new regions and involving more and more volunteers in bat conservation activity in Western Russia. This data will help us to get long-term data for monitoring of bat population dynamics in Russia.
2. We are going to buy additional equipment packs for expanding the project.
3. We are going to continue education campaign and involve volunteers from new regions. We will also publish educational materials for children and adults.
4. We will develop the Bat Conservation Alliance and the Bat Education Center through web-site support and improvement. We will also use web-site for education campaign and new members' attraction.
5. We will organise a number of actions for attraction attention for key bat areas conservation, which were identified during the project.

Towards this I would like to submit second small grant proposal in due course.

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

The project results were published in a variety of publications including research report, a number of journal articles based on the spatial and trend analysis of data generated, various publicity materials associated with the improvement of public perception of bats such as leaflets, posters and banners, as well as school education materials. These materials are sharing through the Bat Conservation Alliance web-site, mass media (local and regional newspapers, radio, etc.), scientific journals and volunteers network. We were given two TV and one radio interviews, three publications in local and regional newspapers, two talks on scientific conferences and six publications in scientific journals and chapter in scientific monograph "Ecology of flora and fauna of Bryansk region".

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

Actually we received the RSG in January 2011. We followed to conformity with our plan of action. And the last part of the grant, we used in December 2011 to according our timetable of project. This grant helped us to prepare and implement three important phases of our project. The first was preparing for the summer (winter, spring 2011). During this period we provided training, expanded our contacts with local communities, made preparation for bats monitoring during the summer. The second phase (summer 2011)- monitoring of bats and involvement in data collection volunteers and representatives of local communities. The third phase (autumn and winter 2011), we analysed the data, carried out educational activities. The grant helped us to implement all three phases of the project.

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
Monitoring routes (45 GBP/1 route / 40 routes)	1800	1800	0	
Traveller (20 GBP / Trip /10 Trips)	200	200	0	
Per diem (7 / day / 30 days)	210	210	0	
Leaflets (0,2 GBP/ 1 copy / 1000 copies)	200	200	0	
Posters (3 GBP/ 1 copy / 200 copies)	600	600	0	
Banners (15 GBP/ 1 copy /10 copies)	150	150	0	
Recommendations for the future bat management (1,5 GBP/ 1 copy / 500 copies)	750	750	0	
Conservation management guidelines for landowners and managers (1,5 GBP/ 1 copy / 500 copies)	750	750	0	
Training for volunteers (Travel of Participants)	510	510	0	
Training for volunteers (Lunch (9 GBP / Person / 45 persons)	405	405	0	
Training for volunteers (Coffee Break - 0,6 GBP/person / 45 persons)	27	27	0	
Training for volunteers (Photocopy)	150	150	0	
Training for volunteers (Materials & Supplies)	100	100	0	
Total	5852	5852	0	

All our expenses correspond to approved budget.

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

1. To develop the plan of bats monitoring for 2012 summer period, to determine the number of transects, regions, which will be involve in field research.
2. To provide sustainable conservation for bat key areas, which were identified during 2011, to carry out additional educational campaign for local community from these regions.
3. To organise number of bats conservation actions with participation of children, teachers, youth and farmers from local commubities.
4. To build the "Project Model" that could be replicated in other regions of Russia by other bat conservation groups

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?

The RSGF logo is shown on the main page of the Bat Conservation Alliance website (<http://www.ibats.allianceperesvet.org>). RSGF was also recognised in the presentation of the research projects at the two International conferences in Novosibirsk and Bryansk. We acknowledged the funding from the RSGF on workshops and interviews and used the logo too. We added the RSGF logo on our education materials also.

11. Any other comments?

I am thankful to Rufford Small Grants Foundation personally and on behalf of our team for support of our conservation work in Western Russia.























