

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	Ena Hatibovic
Project title	Assessment and promotion of biodiversity values of three karst poljes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
RSG reference	9755-1
Reporting period	May 2011 –June 2012.
Amount of grant	£ 5782
Your email address	ena_simic@yahoo.co.uk
Date of this report	10.12.2012.

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
Fieldwork			+	<p>Data were collected for 21 bird species. During the fieldtrips, out of 21 target species, 17 were registered on the poljes. Nine species are breeding, five not breeding and three of them have habitats and conditions to breed but still were not recorded, probably due to bad weather conditions (drought).</p> <p>According to the EU Wild Birds Directive, 14 species are listed in the Annex I of the Directive, 1 in the Annex II and two of them are not listed in the Directive.</p> <p>According to 'Birds in the European Union-a status assessment (2004), BirdLife International', two species are listed as SPEC1, two are SPEC2 and seven are SPEC3. Six species are NON-SPEC.</p> <p>According to the IUCN Red list, all species are listed as LC (least concern) except two that are listed NT (near threatened).</p>
Data analysis			+	<p>A simple database in MS Excel was made where all collected fieldtrip data are stored.</p> <p>Habitat analysis was made based on 1 year monitoring of the 17 recorded target species on the selected karst poljes.</p> <p>Phenogram was made for three species: common crane (migratory species), great grey shrike (wintering species) and barred warbler (breeding species).</p>
Monitoring scheme			+	<p>For each polje fixed counting points were established: Glamočko polje – 25 points, Duvanjsko polje – 23 points and Kupreško polje 12 points.</p> <p>Every month all counting points were visited and bird species recorded.</p>
Meeting with local authorities	+			<p>Bureaucratic complications of local authorities prevented meetings with them, so it was not possible to do any arrangements with them.</p>

Workshops			+	<p>Workshops were done with students of three high schools, hunters from three hunting organisations, from Kupres, Glamoč and Tomislavgrad and one and only environmental NGO in Livno. On the occasion, a presentation about the biodiversity values of the poljes was done, as well as the presentation of the project and its aims.</p> <p>Crane Identification Cards were distributed, and special attention to common crane migration was given in the presentation.</p> <p>Data about crane migration were sent by mail by workshop participants. More than 50 observations of cranes were recorded in both migration seasons.</p>
Media coverage			+	<p>All news about the project was posted on the web page of 'Our Birds' Ornithological Society's website.</p> <p>Also, a few local newspaper and web portals published news about the project.</p> <p>Unfortunately the national TV did not respond to us.</p>

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

In the beginning of February 2012, heavy snow hit the whole country, so the poljes were inaccessible until the end of March. Therefore, a break in the research was done during February, and almost entire March.

Following results of general elections in 2010, cantonal government was operating in technical mandate only, until new ministers would be appointed. However, political turmoil and filibustering caused that new cantonal government was not appointed until well past the project's due date. For that reason, no meetings with local authorities were held at all.

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

The most important outcome of the project is beginning of assessment of biodiversity values of selected poljes. As they comprise a big area rich in biodiversity, as well as important historic and cultural sites, the research is not finished with this project. This is just the beginning where we came to important conclusions, such as their importance for breeding, migration and wintering of certain species. Also, they are important cultural areas, the biggest tombstone from the Ottoman period is located in Glamočko polje, the first king of Croatia was crowned in Duvanjsko polje, etc.

Database is created. All results collected during field research are located in a simple, but effective database in MS Excel. The database can be used in the future as a basis for a more complex database for all poljes.

Raising the awareness was also one of the important outcomes of the project. The area of selected poljes was not researched systematically earlier. The consequence is that local population is not aware of richness of biodiversity of their surroundings. So, for many participants of the workshop, this was the first time to hear about the importance and value of the nature surrounding them. As a result, many of the participants sent back the filled Crane identification card with their observations of Common crane migration.

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

One of the aims of the project was to meet representatives of local communities, such as majors of cities and representatives from municipalities and canton. Unfortunately, it was impossible to accomplish this due to unique government system in BiH. Following general elections in 2010, a new cantonal government should have been appointed. However, this did not happen until a post - elections majority could be established, which occurred only recently, after the project ended. For that reason, as bizarre as it sounds, no meetings with local authorities were held at all.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

This project gave great results in term of the primary assessment of the biodiversity values of the three poljes. With results of this project, there is a general idea which species can be found in the area, and which of them are important for further research. It is important to continue systematic research in these areas in order to have a complete picture of the situation. Later, those data can be used in studies of any kind of negative impact in the area in the future.

It still remains to establish cooperation with local authorities, hoping that political instability will be over with in future.

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

The results will be summarised and will be presented in forms of papers and posters. One paper is already in progress.

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

The grant was used from May 19th 2011 to June 7th 2012. Since there was no field trip in February, because of bad weather, there were enough funds to extend the project, so two breeding seasons could be compared.

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
Crane identification cards	700	700	0	
Leaflet (Importance of the researched poljes)	700	700	0	
Posters (Cranes and poljes)	250	250	0	
Gasoline for fieldtrips	2565	2665	+100	Slightly higher price of gasoline than planned
Gasoline for meetings	387	287	-100	There were no meetings with local authorities
Accommodation	1080	1080	0	
Costs of media campaign	100	100	0	
Total			5782	

Exchange rate 1GBP=2,3BAM

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

One of the most important outcomes is the primary assessment of the biodiversity values of the selected poljes. Having in mind the results, future projects could be more specific. That means that the focus of future projects will only be on the research of most important target species from the 17 already registered. Also, in order to have more detailed and specific results in future, it is important to focus more detailed research on one polje per time.

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 was used in all materials produced during the project: poster, leaflet and Crane Identification Card. The project had publicity on several occasions during the project. In every school, NGO and hunting association, promotional materials were distributed. Posters were put up and were available for every visitor to see.

During the International Symposium "Man and Karst 2011" in Međugorje (BiH), the project was presented as important step in the research of fauna in karstic areas of Western Balkans. In April 2011, in Kraljeva Sutjeska (BiH) the first ornithofestival in BiH was held. On this occasion, several local TV stations mentioned the project.

Another local TV (KISS) was interested in the work of the Ornithological Society 'Our Birds'. On that occasion the project was also presented. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1F6NgkTgnA>).

11. Any other comments?

During the project, not only the project team participated. A few ornithologists from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina got interested in the subject and several times participated in the field research with the project team.

During the first student research camp in Bosnia and Herzegovina in August 2011. An ornithological research group was organised and was lead by one team member and a volunteer ornithologist from Serbia.