

The Rufford Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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 | Ivan Svetozarevic |
| Project title | Ecotourism Accelerating Nature Protection on National Park Djerdap, Serbia |
| RSG reference | 9781-2 |
| Reporting period | 12 months |
| Amount of grant | £ 5.000 |
| Your email address | svivan@gmail.com |
| Date of this report | February 2018 |

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 |
|--|--------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Developing the conditions for ensuring nature protecting issues in tourism development | | | | This objective was planned to be achieved by establishment of two-way communication between NP Djerdap authorities and local communities in order to integrate them in development of ecotourism in NP Djerdap area. This was done firstly by collecting inputs from local stakeholders. We tried to choose different groups of people and talk to them about importance of nature protection. This was done during the fulfilling the questionnaires. We invited people to the upcoming meetings. We collected in total 91 questionnaires. Afterwards, we organised three meetings in three different locations in NP Djerdap. We presented data from questionnaires and organised discussion on ecotourism development with focus on nature protection, where we received many very good ideas and reflections. |
| Support to the local stakeholders to be involved in nature protection and ecotourism development | | | | Within this objective we undertook preparation and dissemination of guidelines for ecotourism development which are focused on nature conservation issues and how to manage it according to ecotourism development. Also, we organised training on educational issues such as: how to prepare tourism product; how to develop additional offer in ecotourism; marketing of ecotourism, legal and institutional system regarding protected areas and ecotourism, role of local community, allowed and prohibited activities in |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | protected areas. |
| Support to NP Djerdap to organize ecotourism offer | | | | In order to have an ecotourism offer, NP Djerdap representatives were participating to our training and they collected inputs from local community representatives about possibilities for ecotourism offer. Also, guidelines for ecotourism development contains recommendations for NP Djerdap authorities. |

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

There were no serious difficulties. Training was postponed for mid-September 2017, although it was originally planned to be organised by the end of August 2017.

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

Outcome1: Establishment of two-way communication platform. This platform consists of members from local communities, environmental NGOs, NP Djerdap employees, owners of rural accommodations, representatives of tourism agencies and members of associations. The platform has own dynamics for consultation processes and the leaders. Platform is open for other members which join the group over the time.

Outcome 2: Organisation of training. The training was organised with participation of almost all members of communication platform (local communities, environmental NGOs, NP Djerdap employees and members of associations). Training provided much of useful information on how to prepare tourism product; how to develop additional offer in ecotourism; marketing of ecotourism, legal and institutional system regarding protected areas and ecotourism, role of local community, allowed and prohibited activities in protected areas.

Outcome 3: Development of guidelines for ecotourism operations. Guidelines contain real and useful information, advices and recommendation about ecotourism operations. Guidelines have clear focus on nature conservation issues and how to manage it according to ecotourism development – treats of over tourism etc.

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

Local communities, from one side contributed a lot to the project (by providing relevant and from the filed information about ecotourism possibilities), but from the other side, achieved to be consulted in, important for them, process of ecotourism offer development.

During the consultation process and field work many individuals from local communities expressed great thanks for involving them in some process with NP authorities and where they have a chance to contribute.



5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Sure, we plan to continue work on ecotourism development now when there is a communication platform and when there is an enthusiasm and support from local communities and NP Djerdap representatives.

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

Project team members are coming from different NGOs and each of them will have a chance to distribute the know-how of communication platform development and especially Guidelines for ecotourism operations. The guidelines are available at premises of NP Djerdap. Also, we were contacted by one municipality from Stara Planina (Balkan Mountains) region regarding this project and they expressed interest to support similar project in their area, in Nature Park Stara Planina.

As well, professors from University of Belgrade, Technical Faculty of Bor were happy to host us and hear about the project.

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

The Rufford Foundation grant was used starting from September 2016 to September 2017. Actually, we had to prolong an organisation of training. It took place in mid-September 2017, which is total project duration of 13 months. With this prolongation there were not any negative influences on project activities, objectives and outcomes.

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 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Project leader / Ivan Svetozarevic - Salary | 1,400 | 1,400 | 0 | |
| Travel expenses / bus tickets and fuel for terrain work | 500 | 750 | +150 | We have to have more terrain work and visits to stakeholders offices than planned |
| Office costs | 400 | 400 | 0 | |
| Refreshments for participants on 3 meetings and 1 training | 500 | 400 | -100 | The costs was lower than planned |
| Guidelines / graphic design and printing of 500 copies | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0 | |
| Food and accommodation for team members | 300 | 250 | -50 | The costs were lower than planned |
| 2 assistants / Natalija and Teodora Milivojevic | 600 | 600 | 0 | |
| Communication manager / Nikola Dojcinovic | 1,200 | 1,200 | 0 | |
| Total | 6,400 | 6,400 | 0 | |

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

Now, there is a communication platform and people involved are enthusiastic and willing to invest their time in maintaining the platform. Continuing cooperation is important and to this regard NP Djerdap inserted in their operation plan for 2018 some budget for operational costs for communication platform. The challenge will be in 2019, when it will be crystallised the path for ecotourism in NP Djerdap. Most important task would be to keep nature protection as key pillar for ecotourism and not allowing compromises to involve some other, nature unfriendly, tourism activities.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The logo of The Rufford Foundation was used in every material we produced within this project: questionnaires, presentations on the meetings and training and in guidelines for ecotourism operations. Also, we were hosted by local radio station where we presented the project and the Foundation

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Hosted by local radio station where we presented the project and the Foundation Project leader / **Ivan Svetozarevic**: overall coordination and ensuring that all process is going good. Leading the training and meetings. Drafting the Guidelines for ecotourism operations. Communication and cooperation.

Communication manager / **Nikola Dojcinovic**: Communication with stakeholders, media and local communities.

2 assistants / **Natalija and Teodora Milivojevic**: support in office work.

2 volunteers / **Darko Savic** and **Marko Mihajlovic**: support in terrain work.

12. Any other comments?

We would like to thank The Rufford Foundation for enabling us to work for the nature and people in NP Djerdap. Our great thanks go also to the representatives of local communities who supported us in giving us the hope for ecotourism.

The project had great impact on environmental and social component of the area of NP Djerdap, especially to the people who had direct contact with project's activities.

The project moved the ecotourism one step forward and from this point, only big policy changes could eventually erase the ecotourism principles built in tourism development on the area.

Once again, emphasizing the great support of The Rufford Foundation, we are looking in the future with the optimism.