

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Berta Martirosyan
Project Title	Assessment of conservation importance of Aragats Mountain of Armenia
Application ID	40363-1
Date of this Report	27 Jan 2025

1. 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
Assessment of conservation value of Aragats Mountain and delivery of the message on that importance to the Ministry of Environment of Armenia, Focal Points of relevant conventions, as well as to BirdLife International and Butterfly Conservation Europe.			+	No comments. We had only one objective, and we did all that we planned.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). An article "Assessment of the conservation importance of Aragats Mountain of Armenia" which justifies the conservation value of the area as an Important Bird Area, Prime Butterfly Area, and Emerald Site is submitted to the Animal Biodiversity and Conservation journal (ISSN: 1578-665X e-ISSN: 2014-928X). In addition, the data collected in the frames of the project were used for another article, "The state and conservation of Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* in Armenia," which was submitted to Ornis Hungarica Journal (eISSN: 2061-9588).

b). The information on the conservation importance of Aragats Mountain supplemented with the video clip was provided to the Bioresource Management Department, Forest Policy Department, Strategic Policy Department, Specially Protected Areas of Nature and Biodiversity Policy Department, International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environment (formerly Ministry of Nature Protection), forming a baseline for creating Community Protected Landscape and moving the ministry towards GBF target of developing Protected Areas to cover 30% of Armenia.

c). The information on the conservation importance of Aragats Mountain was disseminated among BirdLife International, European Bird Census Council, Butterfly Conservation Europe, IUCN SSC, 5,200 members of Armenian Ornithological Society and 620 members of Butterfly Conservation Armenia.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

No unforeseen difficulties arose during the implementation of the project.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

At the current stage of this long-term initiative, the local communities have been opportunistically questioned regarding their involvement in ecotourism. According to Armenian Legislation, the ethical clearance of the questioning people is not required if the questions do not contain personal information, and we kept our questions on public goods, avoiding obtaining personal data.

The popularization of Aragats Mountain as a wildlife tourism destination will create a flow of people, which will support the development of local catering, accommodation, and guiding services. It will also result in an increase in the direct selling of agrifood from the farmer to the end customer, thus increasing the margin.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We plan to continue this work in three main directions.

First, we must explore other hidden treasures, i.e., study areas that are important for biodiversity conservation.

Second, we will continue strengthening Aragats Mountain's conservation status. We will advocate for its designation as an Important Bird Area, Prime Butterfly Area, and Emerald Site.

Third, we will continue to work towards sustainable management of Aragats Mountain. Namely, we will advocate for the development of the management plan for the area, which must focus on two aspects: (1) decrease of the load of grazing on the natural grasslands and (2) development of responsible tourism.

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

Three ways:

1. Through the publication of scientific articles that justify the need for protecting species and sustainable management of ecosystems.
2. Through dissemination of the video clip on Aragats Mountain that we produced.
3. Through

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

Within the strategy of designating priority areas for biodiversity conservation, assigning them with appropriate conservation statuses, and development of their sustainable management, it is necessary to: (1) (2) (3).

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

The logo was used in the video clip we produced. The clip was demonstrated in the Common Ground Books & Spirit pavilion (popular among youth) and later promoted through the Ministry of Environment's website and the Armenian Ornithological Society's social network.

The Foundation received publicity in Acknowledgments of two articles:

- "Assessment of the conservation importance of Aragats Mountain of Armenia" submitted to the Animal Biodiversity and Conservation journal (ISSN: 1578-665X e-ISSN: 2014-928X)
- "The state and conservation of Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* in Armenia," submitted to Ornis Hungarica journal (eISSN: 2061-9588)

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Berta Martirosyan – Principal Investigator

Anush Khachatryan – Field Research and Data Analysis

Karen Aghababyan – Field Research and Data Analysis, Text Narration

Aren Voskanyan – Film Editor

Sos Janibekyan – Text Reader

10. Any other comments?