

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

---

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Boris Davidov
<b>Project title</b>	Continuation of population research, distribution and conservation of Danube salmon in middle and lower reaches of the Una river
<b>RSG reference</b>	21323-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	1 year (2017-2018)
<b>Amount of grant</b>	4968
<b>Your email address</b>	boris_davidov1988@yahoo.com
<b>Date of this report</b>	1.22.2018

**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
Field research and gathering data				<p>The team conducted a total of 50 fishing expeditions, two more planned. This year the river and fishes faced some really hard conditions. We had the warmest summer in the last 120 years but also a most of the winter without snow and high water (up to 3 m above normal). The team used all of the knowledge we had in our advantage and monitored the water and weather conditions to get the best results on the field. In total 13 specimens were caught.</p>
Influencing general public				<p>One part of the project that we could say that for this project we are most pleased since this year was much better than the last one and we had a lot more of influence to the people than the last project. In total we did two big lectures about the Danube salmon where we shared t-shirts and flyers. The first one was at the European researchers night in Banja Luka in the end of September of 2017 and the second one was in December 2017 at the faculty for business studies for the young students of ecology. This year we managed to get a lot more people interested in the work we do and we will try to continue this path. As a Danube salmon scientist and researcher during April I was invited to be part of the "Una The One" conservation documentary and was talking about the Danube salmon, other fish species, and unique morphology of the river Una. If we hadn't had been sponsored by the Rufford Foundation we would not be invited and not be</p>

			able to share some of our work and help much more in the conservation. Premiere of the Una The One was on 26th October 2017 in Germany and from there has been shown in the several cities across Europe and Bosnia. It is considered of the best conservation movies in Europe in 2017 and it will help better understanding, protection and management of Danube salmon populations in the Una river. The filming took place out of our range in the protected area 10 km upstream of our research area where there is still abundant Danube salmon populations.
Making of the inflatable			Although we managed everything from our side and we prepared everything, the city council still does not have the exact date on when the information table will be placed. We took several talks with the mayor and he assured to us that as soon as the legal things are finished in the council and board that gets the decision plan, the table will be put. Although it took more than 7 months we are still waiting and hopefully all will be finished soon.

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

The main problem for us during our research were poachers. We took several threats from them and some even considering our life. Even though that happened we won't stop our research and protection and management plans because it is first of all our moral obligation for the future generations that we have a clean, healthy river with large number of populations of all fish species not just Danube salmon.

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

1. We continued to collect data and catch specimens. It is one of the most important parts of our project because with the data we can manage the river and the population better. Fishing society received the data and we are pleased that a lot of younger fishermen now release caught fish since they are familiar with the situation.

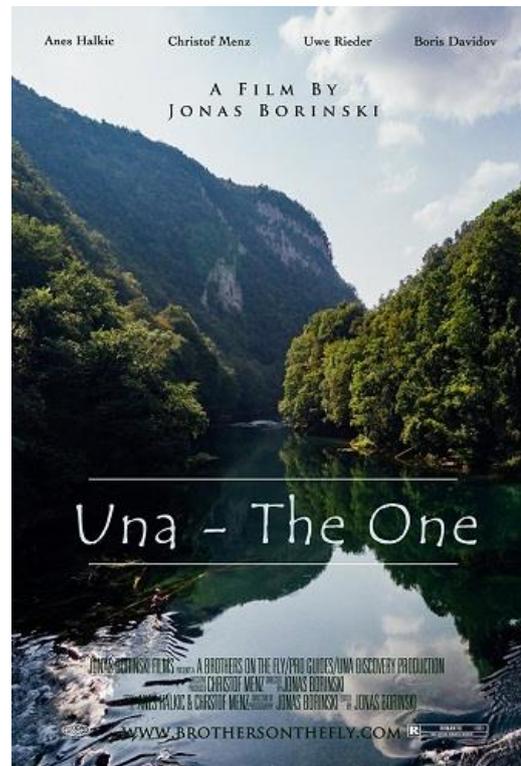
2. During our research we were invited by the government to work with them and share our data. For us it was one of the most important things this year. Our data is used now for two things:

a). Part of the Una river and its fauna as a protected area.

b). Regulation for protected and strictly protected species.

Our research on this protected endangered species is basis for future conservation.

3). Conservation effort through our lectures and the movie Una the One really started to touch people. We are awakening in them the part where they realise that this river is a part of their normal lives and that all plants and animals have the rightful place to live in and around this amazing river.



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

Local communities as newspapers, portals and pages help us spread our work. We also got invited from the mayor when the Protected Area Act comes into force that we will take a big part in the management of the fish populations in this part of the Una River.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

We think that it is of great importance that we continue this work. We think that it would be bad to stop now since we started from nothing few years ago and now we accomplished a lot for our community. We did just the basis and we need to continue, research, gathering data, influencing general public and working with the government to ensure a bright future for not just Danube salmon but all the species that live in the Una River.

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

Our results were shared with general public through our lectures. The data that we gather through our field work will be published as scientific papers in the future because we think maybe a 5-year research project and gathering of data can give to the scientific community a lot more pragmatic and influential results. Even though the data are not published as a scientific paper it will be able to download in the ministry for protection for cultural, historical and natural heritage but with the

copyright to the researchers who did it. In that way we are able to share our knowledge with other researchers in our country and Europe about the trends with the main goal of protection of the species.

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

We finished everything in the timescale of 12 months. The fishing expeditions were done through out of the year and lectures and conservation part was conducted in the other half of the project timetable.

**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
Leader of the project	1300	1285	15	We transferred some of the money from the leader of the project fee to be added for the fuel for two more field expeditions.
Info table	250	224	26	We managed to get the wood construction a bit cheaper than the actual amount we asked. We used the rest of the funds to go out for two more field expeditions.
Leaflets and t- shirts with logo of the project	350	350	0	Fully spent
Volunteers	100	100	0	Fully spent
Expert fishermen	1000	1000	0	Fully spent
Workshop, lectures for general public and media	300	300	0	Fully spent
Fuel	800	841	-41	Since we decided to go for 2 more field trip we needed to spend a bit more money for the fuel. We transferred the funds that were left from the info table and from leader of the project fee to buy fuel for two more field expeditions.
Rent a boat	868	868	0	Fully spent
<b>Total</b>	<b>4968</b>	<b>4968</b>	<b>0</b>	

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

We think that most important step now is to continue our work and not to give up. We still have a lot to do to in order to improve the situation and we think that we need to continue our work but not just to the research area that we did in the first two projects but for the whole river. It is important to get trend population in the whole river in order to protect the species and also we could be able to fish in the special area of the Una River where we have 2.5 km of the river where all fishes are just catch and release. That data that we would gather would help us to have a basis for healthy population and we could use that data for better management in the other parts of the river.

**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?**

We used RF logos on t-shirts and flayers and we shared them during our lectures. In the other part, a lot of newspapers and portals were writing about our projects and our work.

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

**Jan Jakovich** and **Zdravko Davidov**: Both of the experts were with me on every expedition and field work. Their knowledge about species and this river is amazing. When you are with them on the field you can actually learn a lot. How they "read the water". Without them we would not be able to catch this number of fishes for sure.

**12. Any other comments?**

We would like to send a big appreciation for sponsoring this project and for helping us to change the world for the better. Thank you very much!



One of the specimens with most of the black spots on the head by far.