

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	Jasmin Pasic
Project title	Study of bat fauna within protected area of National park Kozara
RSG reference	23263-2
Reporting period	06.03.2018 – 15.03.2019
Amount of grant	£5,000
Your email address	pashic@gmail.com
Date of this report	23.03.2019

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
<p>Provide an update to the existing database with the list of species, the size of the population and roosting and nursery sites of the bats in the area which is delivered to management of National Park Kozara.</p>				<p>Database of the species within the park was updated. There were no new species, but we managed to find new locations for the species which were registered during the 1st year (1st grant). These locations are now identified as important sites for those species. In total, during the 2 years of the project, the list of species remains with registered 11 different species: <i>Barbastellus barbastellus</i>, <i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>, <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>, <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>, <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>, <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>, <i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>, <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>, <i>Myotis mystacinus</i>, <i>Myotis brandtii</i>, <i>Vespertilio murinus</i>..</p>
<p>Promotion of scientific research and its feasibility among students and younger population.</p>				<p>During our fieldwork in summer period, from 3rd to 6th August. 2018, we collaborated with students from Association of Biology Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On that occasion we presented the methodologies of bat research to younger generations which are now independent and already capable to perform the research by themselves.</p>
<p>Demonstration that with proper education and minimum funding, civil society-locals, and employees of National Park, can be actively involved in the promotion and management of protected areas and they could provide an invaluable contribution</p>				<p>As during the 1st grant, the help from the management and employees of National Park Kozara continued successfully. They provided us with logistical support during our summer, autumn, winter and spring fieldwork, but also necessary information about different sites inside of the national park which were potentially rich in bat fauna. Since we spent some time together on a field, during our communication, employees and</p>

<p>for field monitoring of bat population.</p>			<p>rangers got very much familiar with the bat conservation techniques in order to maintain sustainable and healthy bat population in National Park Kozara.</p>
<p>Better use of the habitat and creation of management plans for different bat species.</p>			<p>The workshop with the rangers and management of National park Kozara was organised on 6th March 2019. We prepared a presentation about results so far, news related to bat legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other interested facts on these animals. During our workshop with the employees of NP Kozara we have also discussed park management and how to take bats in consideration during the planning. As previously announced, a management plan for species of bats is planned after more detailed research is performed within the park, hopefully after Completion Grant.</p>
<p>With conduction of the research, through administration of National Park and local government, promoting and advocating for signing of the "Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe" (EUROBATS).</p>			<p>On 1st August 2018, the decision on the ratification of the European Bats Conservation Agreement (EUROBATS) was published by the Presidency of BiH. The constant promoting and advocating for the signing of this agreement, together with administration of National Park Kozara we believe contributed to such a decision.</p>
<p>Raise awareness of local population, youth, government and including scientific community on the ecological importance of bats and need for their protection.</p>			<p>Promotional material was created in order to make the project more visible within different interested parties such as local population, youth, government and scientific community. Updated brochure about Kozara bats is created with all the registered species so far. Also, two informative boards called "Bats of National Park Kozara" were created. These boards were installed as a part of educational pathways inside of the park's natural area. We designed and created t-shirts and cotton bags for the project. All the material has the</p>

				logo of Rufford Foundation and are given to administration of National Park Kozara for further distribution to their visitors and wider population.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

There were no unforeseen difficulties during the project.

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

1. Decision on the ratification of the European Bats Conservation Agreement (EUROBATS) published by the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Promoting and advocating for the signing of this agreement during this project, together with administration of National Park Kozara, we believe contributed to such a decision.
2. Including the younger population of students into our work is very important in a long term. Bosnia and Herzegovina is lacking of bat experts and there are still many more areas to cover with research. We believe that we helped in establishing of new generation who will contribute in research and conservation of bat fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
3. The cooperation with the management and employees of National Park Kozara continued to be very much successful, which was also the case during the 1st grant. We established trust and were provided with very big support and assistance by the rangers during especially during the fieldwork.

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

Several representatives of local community were present on the workshop we organised at the end of the project. They were very interested in the topic and asked many questions during and after the presentation. Also, the promotional material which we made will be distributed along the local visitors of the park and we believe that the information about Kozara bats will reach local, but also wider public.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Plan is that the project should last for 5 years in total, until the Completion Grant, as we stated in our first and second application.

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

We plan to publish the results of the project in a specialized magazine for bat fauna within the Balkan countries region "Hypsugo".

We will also to continue to share the information about the project on the websites and Facebook pages of National Park Kozara and in local media.

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 during the from 6th March 2018 till 15th March 2019, as it was predicted when project was approved.

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
Researcher fee	550	500	-50	
Workshop organisation	300	228	-72	
Brochure (design and printing cost)	300	300		
Promotional materials: T-shirts and bags (design and making cost)	200	200		
Promotional boards x 2 (making and installation cost)	500	500		
Tablets compatible with Bat Echo Meter x 2	300	304	+4	
Bat Echo Meter x 2	600	734	+134	Bat Echo Meter price was higher than planned, but we managed to reduce the costs in another items in order to purchase important equipment for work on a field. We had additional delivery fee cost of £14.
Books/Identification Keys/Expert Literature	150	180	+30	
Fuel expenses for the fieldwork and meetings	900	924	+24	
Accommodation and food during the fieldwork	1200	1130	-70	

TOTAL	5000	5000		* Local unit exchange is: £1 = 2,277134 BAM
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9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

As stated during the report for the 1st Grant, this project is planned to last for 5 years (until the Completion Grant). Today, we are much more familiar with the important sites for bat fauna but it is very important to continue the inventory of species and to establish planned and systematic monitoring of bat species within the national park. During the last year of the project, plan is to make final analysis of the work and to create management plan for each species which will be found during the research. Idea is that management plan should be presented to the employees of National Park Kozara, for proper, sustainable management of bat species within the park.

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

Yes. The Rufford Foundation logo was used during the workshop and presentation of the project in the National Park Kozara and in all of the mentioned promotional material about bats of National Park Kozara. We also had media releases through the National Park Kozara website and local TV station. During these occasions, Rufford foundation was mentioned as the project donator. Links below:

<http://www.npkozara.com/v1/index.php/sr-yu/np-kozara/najnovije-vijesti/item/51-studija-faune-slijepih-miseva-nacionalnog-parka-kozara>

<http://prijedor24h.net/2018/09/02/nacionalni-park-kozara-staniste-za-osam-zasticenih-vrsta-slijepih-miseva-video/>

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

Ivan Napotnik is a team member from the beginning of the project. Sometimes there is very demanding fieldwork in a sense of carrying heavy equipment, setting up the mist nets etc. Ivan's help is always essential for performing all of the activities.

During the visit of Association of Biology Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we collaborated with several members of this association: **Maja Hodzic, Tarik Dervovic, Monika Safhauzer, Melisa Nicevic** and **Neira Babic**. They very much showed interest for the exploring the bat fauna in Bosnia and Herzegovina and learned a lot about different methodologies on the field.



