

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	Renata Ališić Vujčić
Project title	Evaluation and promotion of endangered and vulnerable plant species of Vrbas canyon through research excursions
RSG reference	25672-1
Reporting period	August 2018-August 2019
Amount of grant	£4,990
Your email address	renatalisic@gmail.com
Date of this report	30.08.2019.

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
Terrain research				Our plan was to visit terrain four times (16 days), since winter was very warm we decided to visit terrain five times (17 days)
Promotional material (Leaflets, posters, caps, t-shirts)				Caps were not planned promotional material at the very beginning, but we realised that it is good and not too expensive propaganda material
Presentation in high schools, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and rafting clubs				
Info boards				Since we planned to put info boards on places which are city property, we need permission of our government and we are still dealing with paperwork, as soon as we get green light we will place them
Media promotion				Promotion through TV shows, newspaper, web sites and Facebook

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

Weather is the most unpredictable component we depend on and we had some unexpected situations: first some too hot days in winter and floods in spring period. We overcome this situations going on terrain in the beginning of March which was not planned, and we visited terrain one day before floods. Unforeseen difficulties also appeared when we decided to put info boards. All paperwork took more time that we expected and even some money for taxes.

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

First, the new results and estimation of present endangered and vulnerable plant species in Vrbas canyon, comparison with literature data.

Second, education in schools, promotion of plant conservation and raising ecological awareness among local community and students.

Third, our research could contribute on incentive to design the feasibility study for the designation of Vrbas canyon as a place with high biodiversity.

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

Local community was involved in various stages of project. Accent was on pupils, students and rafting skippers who were introduced with our work through presentations. After media promotion of our project many citizens were surprised with our results and grateful for getting some information about subject.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

It would be pleasure to continue this work. Since we have made some connections with local people, we have discovered some new areas to research. We could reach some caves near Vrbas or climb some rocks. Through this project we got a conformation that local community is interested in this issue which is a big motivation for further actions. Vrbas canyon is inexhaustible place for many researches.

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

Results are available on different portals and on Facebook. We shared our results also in newspaper and in television shows.

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

Proposed timescale was from August 2018 till August 2019 which fits to the actual length of the project.

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
Leaflets, brochures, posters (designing and printing)	600	600		Designer agreed to design all promotional material including info boards and to arrange printing for this cost
T shirts (50 pieces x 8GBT)	400	382	-18	T-shirts were lot cheaper than we expected so we made 100 pieces instead of 50 and 20 caps

Wooden info boards (4 pieces x 100GBT)	400	320	-80	As we did 4 info tables we got a discount
Botanical supplies (paper for plant herbarium, herbarium presses)	50	38	-12	
Daily allowance for presentations in schools, rafting clubs and faculty of sciences (2 persons x 5 x 30GBT)	300	300		
Professional digital camera (CANON EOS 1200D DSLR)	500	494	-6	
Rafting tour (2 persons x 50GBT)	100	64	-36	We did not have to organize boat just for two of us, as we went in arranged tour price was lower
Fuel expenses (16 days x 50GBT)	800	773	+27	
Car rental (16 days x 25GBT)	400	440	+40	Since we went on terrain one day in March we had to pay rent a car, we paid it with money that we had left from rafting
Daily allowance for field research (for food, drink, etc.)	1,440	1,560	+120	Allowance for one day terrain in March for three persons and participation in workshop Dani Vrbasa were paid with money left from fuel, T-shirts and botanical supplies
Total	4,990	4,971	-19	

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

We hope that our work will encourage young scientists to make a study of protection of Vrbasa canyon. This would be the best way to protect all biodiversity of Vrbasa canyon from extinction in future. Since this area has big potential for nature research we think it would be good to spend some more time exploring this area.

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, we used Rufford logo on leaflets, on t-shirts, on caps, in presentations, on posters and on info boards. The Rufford Foundation has certainly received publicity during our project through presentations in high schools, faculty, rafting clubs, through TV

shows, newspaper, Facebook, web sites and promotion we did when ERC Rafting championship was held.

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

Tanja Marić had big role in project. She supported all phases of project such are: field research (including rafting tour), plant determination, making presentation for project and presentation of project. She also helped me in media promotion.

Boris Obradović was present in all field research.

12. Any other comments?

We want to thank Rufford Foundation for giving us opportunity to do something we learned about, that we love and which is useful for nature and local community. Our country has low ecological awareness and projects like this are great opportunity to improve situation.