

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants 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	James A. Eleazer
Project title	Gorgany Mountain Range Eco trails
RSG reference	8868-1
Reporting period	January 2011 – June 2012
Amount of grant	£5,922
Your email address	james.eleazer79@gmail.com
Date of this report	May 29, 2012

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
Presentation of the project via mass-media			X	The project was printed, televised and posted on-line. Weekly updates were provided to newspapers, Facebook, and "Carpathian Paths" website.
Investigate location of new trails			X	We started May 1st 2011 but ran into knee deep snow. Work was then concentrated in the lower elevations and still completed by the end of June as planned.
Trail cleaning and marking			X	We started earlier than planned in the low elevations due to snow impeding investigation of the higher elevations. Marking finished in August 2011. We achieved 42 km rather than 40 km.
Prepare, deliver and install signs			X	Completed in October 2011.
Moloda hut			X	Completed in August 2011. We hoped for 30 people to volunteer and 60 came.
Kin hut			X	Completed in May 2012. We hoped for 20 people to volunteer and 40 came.

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

Snow in the higher elevations at the beginning of the project forced us to delay some trail investigation so we redirected our efforts to the lower elevations and started on the trail cleaning earlier than planned. The biggest difficulty of this project was in getting the mountain hut refurbishment materials, i.e. wooden planks, roofing metal sheets, windows, wood burning stove, and stove pipe, to the huts themselves. We solved this problem by working cooperatively with the local forestry office which provided trucks for road transport and tracked vehicles for forest transport.

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

- I. This project succeeded in substantially enhancing the constituent base through involvement and engagement. This newly expanded constituency will advocate for the changes in current natural resources management practices necessary to preserve endangered plants and animals of the Gorgany. Replications of our partnership will have the ability to preserve environmental and ecological resources on other lands within Ukraine into the future.

- II. Responsibly designed tourism into protected areas can provide communities in a region with a sustainable source of economic and social benefits while retaining wilderness values. Sustainable development is development that meets the present needs of society without comprising the ability of the environment to meet the needs of future generations.
- III. Our public education and environmental campaigning stimulated and informed people about specific flora, fauna, nature conservation and recycling, thereby creating greater environmental awareness and stewardship, and a more robust wilderness consciousness and ethic.

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

Local residents provided staging areas for volunteers and transportation of volunteers including the personal gear necessary for the volunteers to live in the mountains for 3-5 days at a time. The local forestry office provided road and off-road transportation of mountain hut refurbishment materials. Local volunteers hiked 6-7 hours into the project locations and worked alongside volunteers from other communities. Personal benefits derived include enhanced awareness and increased knowledge of ecology, the environment, and the need to haul trash out of the mountains for proper disposal. Community wide benefits include the new and refurbished ecotourism assets. Additionally, the new tourism brochure will result in greater awareness of the wilderness resource and will drive tourism traffic to the site/s.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, the following firms and organisations will be providing volunteers to “Carpathian Paths” for similar public service projects in 2012 and beyond: PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC; Alumni of US Embassy Future Leaders Exchange Program; Peace Corps Ukraine; and the PreCarpathian Forestry College. Having heard about the Rufford project 3-5 international visitors contacted Jim Eleazer asking about volunteering during 2012.

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

This project has been shared in print media, on Voice of America television, a 2012 calendar and postings to several websites. It stimulated an idea in another community that heard about the project. Activists in that community networked to form a coalition, prepared a plan, sought and won funding from the Embassies of the Netherlands and USA. That project will be realized during 2012.

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

This project was implemented from January 2011 to June 2012. All goals were achieved in an 18 month period of time. However, we started earlier and finished earlier than proposed.

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.

The budget was prepared at 0.082 while the spending occurred over an 18-month period when the exchange rate averaged 0.077.

The cost overrun in cleaning supplies (chainsaw operations) was caused by two factors: 1. the price of fuel and oil rose by about 25% during the project period; and 2. I purchased a spare bar for the chainsaw in case it got stuck in a log, which it did. It was fortunate I had the spare bar.

The cost overrun on the Kin hut was because the wood burning stove needed to be replaced.

I completely forgot to budget for bank withdrawal fees. I printed 1000 maps rather than 2000 to make up 2/3 of that.

Item	Budget	Expenditures	Balance
Cleaning work	1804	1779	25
Cleaning supplies	44	61	-17
Marking work	1246	1229	17
Marking supplies	35	26	9
Signing supplies	271	264	7
Kin hut	410	458	-48
Moloda hut	369	356	13
Volunteers transportation & food	1190	1200	-10
NGO vehicle fuel	192	195	-3
NGO vehicle parts & service	82	75	7
Office supplies	148	142	6
Printing maps	131	90	41
Bank funds withdrawal fee of 1%	0	60	-60
Total	5922	5935	-13

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

The most important next step is to maintain and build upon the enthusiastic public participation created during the summer of 2011. By continuing to network with new groups of volunteers and enhance communication with current volunteer groups the base of civic and environmental activist's will continue to increase.

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

Yes to both questions. The RSGF logo is on all trail navigation signs and all ecological information boards placed in the mountains. The RSGF logo is on both sides of the 1000 copies of the two-sided tourism brochure. We used the RSGF name in all our media efforts.

11. Any other comments?

The support and name of RSGF is recognised in our locality and region. "Carpathian Paths" volunteers will maintain the RSGF investment during the coming years. Thank you very much for your interest and support to our nature conservation effort in Ukraine.