

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. 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. 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	Dzhamirzoev Gadzhibek
Project title	«Preserve islands for birds» - study and conservation water birds and their habitats in Caspian Sea islands
RSG reference	
Reporting period	April, 2008 - March, 2009
Amount of grant	£4737
Your email address	dzhamir@mail.ru
Date of this report	20 February, 2009

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
Development actions plan for conservation water-birds in small islands in Caspian Sea			+	The Bird Conservation Plan for Tyuleny Island has been compiled and is in the press (published).
Determine status "Important bird Area" for this islands			+	Factsheets for IBAs of 'Tyuleny Island' and 'Chechen Island' have been compiled jointly with Russian Bird Conservation Union. These IBAs were included in the world database of Birdlife International and in the list of the Northern Caucasus IBAs of international importance (Moscow, 2009).
Preparation ornithological substantiations for later creation new protected area in Caspian Sea islands			+	Basing on project researches, it was developed a detailed ecological rationale that foresees to include Tyuleny Island in 'Daghestansky' Nature Reserve.
education and training in bird conservation techniques local communities		+		<p>A full-colour poster was prepared and published, dedicated to islands and issues of protection of birds and their habitats on them.</p> <p>Together with the local people, working on these islands, video material was collected for a movie about islands' nature.</p> <p>Bird identification guides and binoculars were disseminated.</p> <p>Colourful stands with posters, photos, illustrations, etc. were developed and mounted, dedicated to islands' nature and issues of study and protection of birds and their habitats.</p> <p>We did not manage to organize excursions for schoolchildren, because schools do not work on islands anymore. Field trainings on teaching local people to identify birds in nature and methods of their conservation were provided only on Tyuleny Island.</p>

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

- impossible to put to sea in planned periods because of bad weather (heavy sea roughness, storm, ice in winter period), and, as a result, losses of time and finances;
- high risk of using motor-boats for island surveys. After two sea voyages by motor-boats we had to rent a small research vessel supplied with all necessary work and life saving equipment;
- high renting price of research vessels. We had to coordinate timing of our surveys with other investigators of the Caspian Sea to rent the ship in cooperation.

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

- For the first time over the last 50 years on islands Tyuleny and Chechen there were carried out ornithological and ecological-geographical studies, involving many scientific and nature conservation organization of Russia ('Daghestansky' Reserve, Russian Bird Conservation Union, Scientific Research Institute of Biogeography and Landscape Ecology of Daghestan State Pedagogical University, Daghestan Geographical Society, etc.
- Islands Tyuleny and Chechen acquired a status of IBAs of international importance. It means that conditions of bird population and habitats will be controlled by scientists and environmentalists, including those of Russian Bird Conservation Union.
- Ecological rationale to include Tyuleny Island in 'Dagestansky' Reserve was supported by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). In cooperation with WWF it is planned for 2009-2010 to develop a pack of all necessary documents to give the island a status of a strictly protected nature area.

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

One of the most successful parts of our project is that we have managed to establish good contacts with local people such as fishermen, shepherds, meteorological station workers, etc. They were lively interested in problems of birds and their habitats protection. Some of them agreed to be IBAs caretakers. It means they will continue bird observations and undertake some measures for their protection.

We made some presents to the most active and interested persons: binoculars, a video camera, bird identification guides, posters, etc. We stay in contact with them, and they know that their activity in study and protection of birds is really needed and important. It gives us hope that influence of ecological awareness of our project will be long-term.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Russian Bird Conservation Union will carry out regular monitoring of bird populations and conditions of their habitats on such important bird areas as 'Tyuleny Island' and 'Chechen Island' with engagement of IBAs caretakers from local people.

Surveys of islands of the Caspian Sea are included in the programme of scientific studies of the Scientific Research Institute of Biogeography and Landscape Ecology of Daghestan State Pedagogical University. It will continue works on study of birds and their habitats, and landscape dynamics in connection with climatic changes and anthropogenic influence.

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

Results of our investigations have been already published in the Transactions of 'Daghestansky' Reserve and are about to be published in the Transactions of Daghestan Geographical Society. We presented results of the project activities at the scientific-and-practical workshop, which covered problems of study and protection of birds in reserves and national parks (Kochubei, 2008, Daghestan), at the session of the Central Council of Russian Bird Conservation Union (Moscow, 2009), etc. Action plan on these areas conservation was disseminated among scientists, local authorities and nature conservation organizations of the region.

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

Finances granted by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation were used during all project period.

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
Motor boat rental including fuel	1040 £ (41600 RUR)	1970£ (78 800)	930£ (37200RUR)	Because of numerous delays due to bad weather conditions and forced renting of a research vessel
Educational booklets	500£ (20000 RUR)	-	500£ (20000RUR)	In the project there was used a booklet for the Northern Caucasus IBAs caretakers, prepared and published by Russian Bird Conservation Union. Saved finances were spent to rent a research vessel.
10 % contingency	431£ (16520 RUR)	-	431£ (16520RUR)	All funds from insurance were spent for renting a research vessel
TOTAL				Saved from two budget lines - £931. Spent more than planned according to one budget line £930 Total, all expenses were within the budget sum

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

Main future goal is to establish the reserve on Tyuleny Island. In cooperation with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) it is planned for 2009-2010 to develop a pack of all necessary documents to include the island in 'Daghestanskij' Reserve.

Important objectives:

- to organize monitoring of bird populations and their habitats engaging local people (IBAs caretakers);
- to carry out new biological and geographical studies on islands for revealing dynamics of biodiversity and landscapes in connection with anthropogenic influence and climatic changes.

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?

The RSGF logo was used on the full-colour poster, colourful stands mounted in different places on the islands and surrounding areas. It is mentioned in all publications that researches were done due to the RSGF support. The RSGF logo will be also used in a video film which we are preparing in cooperation with Daghestan Geographical Society.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to thank RSGF for the project support!

And hope for further fruitful cooperation in the field of study and conservation of biological diversity!