

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	Marina Chirikova
Project title	Study and Conservation of the Desert Monitor (<i>Varanus griseus</i> (Daudin, 1803)) in Kazakhstan
RSG reference	10048-1
Reporting period	January-December 2012
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	m.chirikova@mail.ru
Date of this report	16.01.2012

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
the study of the literature in order to obtain currently existing information about desert monitor; the preparation of the cartographical material for the organising field studies			X	
the organisation of the interaction with the official nature protective structures and the mass media to further cooperation during the implementation of the project		X		Despite numerous attempts we have not been able to organize effective interaction with South Kazakhstan territorial environmental department; in the future we are going to continue this work through personal contacts.
the carrying of the expeditionary investigations with the purpose of obtaining information about actual spread, distribution and quantity of desert monitor lizard in two areas of Kazakhstan		X		The habitat of grey monitor lizard in the Kyzylkum desert is a quite far, large area, hard for research expeditions because there are few settlements and sources of fresh water. That's why in the first year of the project implementation we have not been able to visit all interesting for us areas. We're going to continue this work in the next years.
the questioning of the local inhabitants in order to determinate the habitat of desert monitor which are still unknown among the experts			X	
the preparation and the edition of the poster and pocket calendars			X	
the placing of the information on the site			X	
the preparation of the scientific publication in order to change negative attitude of the local inhabitants towards the monitor		X		The change of the negative attitude of the population to this species of reptiles is a long process that will take more than 1 year. We're going to

				continue this work in the nearest future.
the elaboration of the recommendations for the protection			X	
the carrying of the concluding conference of the project in order to take concrete measures for the conservation of desert monitor in Kazakhstan and the strengthening of cooperation between herpetologists and the officials of nature protective institutions		X		The round table wasn't attended by some representatives of public services of Kazakhstan who could really help in resolving issues of protection of this species.
lectures for students		X		We would like to reach more universities and schools. We hope to continue this work in the future.
competition for the best picture of the monitor			X	

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

We had only one difficulty, this is a connection with the local management of South Kazakhstan Environmental Department. In person the head of the department willingly comes in contact, gives consent to further collaboration. But then he doesn't respond to emails or calls. The solution to this difficulty would be held next year by personal visit to the management. At the moment the protection and dissemination of information in the region are solved with the help of other agencies – ON Ohotzoprom, Shymkent Zoo.

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

- 1) According to the results of field work and interviews with citizens distribution of grey monitor lizard in Kazakhstan is made more precise, the map of its distribution has been worked out in the GIS application, ArcMap. We've obtained the data by whose further confirmation the understanding of the boundaries of this species in Kazakhstan will be greatly enhanced. It has been found out that relative density of the grey monitor lizard decreased compared with the end of the 1980s (Brushko, 1995).
- 2) The work on the dissemination of information about the grey monitor lizard among the population has been done. Calendars and posters with information about the grey lizards and its image were distributed, the interviews with local shepherds have been conducted, the lectures for students (International Kazakh-Turkish Yassau University, Kazakh National Al-Farabi University) and for schoolchildren have been held, the contest for the best picture and photo of grey monitor lizard has been held.

- 3) Recommendations for protection of monitor lizard discussed on the International conference “Fauna of Kazakhstan and adjacent territories”, at the round table with the participation of NGOs, zoos, students and teachers, and also at the small workshop with zoologists from Uzbekistan have been developed. Currently, the recommendations are being prepared for transfer to the competent authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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

The project involved organisations such as Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan, young naturalists' station in Almaty, Shymkent and Almaty Zoo, International Kazakh-Turkish Yassau University, Kazakh National Al-Farabi University, ON Ohotzooptom, NGO "Wildlife" and NGO “Secret of nature”. The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan has helped in the dissemination of information about the grey monitor lizards and in competitions, young naturalists' station, Almaty Zoo and NGO “Secret of nature” have helped to attract students to the problem of this Red Book species, and in their turn have received detailed information about the grey monitor lizards, have led an interesting event, have received the literature, have signed an agreement on further cooperation with scientists from the Institute of Zoology as well. International Kazakh-Turkish Yassau University and Kazakh National Al-Farabi University have held lectures for students, teachers and students have received literature and other information materials. NGO "Wildlife" has worked with us to participate in the expedition trips. ON Ohotzooptom has also participated in expeditions and through joint mission they have received information about a venue of grey monitor lizard, its numbers, what is necessary for the inspectors of this organization to conduct further monitoring of protected areas located in the Kyzyl Kum desert.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

At present, it is being worked on the application to the Committee of Science, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for further research of grey monitor lizard in Kazakhstan, as well as the study of its isolated populations.

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

Information about the project is available on the websites: “Herpetofauna of Kazakhstan” (<http://kazakhstan.herpeto-volga.ru>), “Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan” (<http://www.acbk.kz/ru>), “Young naturalists' station” (<http://unnat.moy.su>), is covered in the media, at the conference and in publications of "Fauna of Kazakhstan and adjacent areas", at the round table. Information about the successful implementation of the project with support from the Rufford Small Grants has been referred to the Committee of Science, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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

The project was completed in accordance with the work plan, which was cited in the application

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
Travel expenses: the Consultant's trips to regions 500 rent of transport (38 days) 1560 per diem (38 days for 4 people) 1100 benzine 400	3600	3560	40	Expedition lasted slightly less than planned
Equipment GPS navigator 325 portable laptop 767	1000	1092	92	Equipment was more expensive that it was expected
Salary for the Team	500	500	0	
Publication expenses Posters (1150) 277 pocket calendars (2200) 500	800	777	23	Publish calendars and posters was cheaper to order a large amount of products that it was expected
Telephone/fax/postage	50	50	50	
Expendable materials	50	50	50	
Призы для конкурса		50	50	Prizes were purchased on the savings of the project and with the support of the Institute of Zoology of the Republic of Kazakhstan
TOTAL	6000	6079		

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

Get support from the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for further research. Obtain from the regional environmental services support in the implementation of measures to protect the gray monitor lizard. Continue the promotion of knowledge about the gray monitor and other species of reptiles.

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?

We have used the logo on posters and calendars, featuring grey monitor lizard, on the website: "Herpetofauna of Kazakhstan".

11. Any other comments?

We thank the Rufford Small Grants for the support of our project and we hope to continue joint activities