

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	Georgiy Shakula
Project title	Menzbir Marmot (<i>Marmota menzbieri</i>) Survey and Conservation
RSG reference	13144-1
Reporting period	May 2013 – May 2014
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	2005_shakula@mail.ru; georgiy.shakula@mail.ru
Date of this report	2014-05-31

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
1. Scientific data collection			+	I am very happy collecting enough scientific data as I planned: I did confirm west and south-west borders of Kazakhstan's Menzbir marmot population.
2. Mapping and zones division			+	I drew on a map almost all the Marmot area and have got much more knowledge about population density.
3. Practical efforts to prevent illegal hunting		+		Together with a group of Marmot's friends we had a lot of disputes with local shepherds trying to explain then why it is necessary to protect wildlife. Half-nomadic people are travelling and are not the same in Marmots habitats from year to year, so I am not sure we completely stop illegal hunting in Sayram-Ugam National Park.

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

In a few words the main problems I was faced to during my project are:

- a) Hard access to the highlands territory and following from that short time for a field work.
- b) Lack of some equipment as camera-traps to learn more about Marmot's private life.
- c) Misunderstanding with local corrupted authorities.

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

- a) Scientific database I have got now shows a stable marmot population size. This is a great thing to know.
- b) The work to prevent illegal hunting on marmots did bring the first results already and should be continued with collaboration with Sayram-Ugam National Park rangers.
- c) Because of your funding great possibility I have proved my position as a Menzbir marmot specialist number one in Kazakhstan. This is a big honour to me but a huge responsibility as well.

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

As I told before I have done a lot of job with local community in Kaskasu village. As a result now I have a group of locals, supporting me in my research and conservation efforts. They have not benefitted too much on the first stage of the project – just young people have got Menzbir marmot

protection leaflets (about 50 copies were distributed via local school). Two locals assist me during my field work and I did hire two horses from them. They are happy to get extra money for that, they know I am working with Rufford Small Grants Foundation support.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

For sure this work should be continued. Just at the moment I am about to leave to the big scale field Marmot expedition. I am a leader of this expedition, I did invite two marmot specialists from Kharkov State University / Ukraine – Andrew Atemasov and Victor Tokarskiy. This 2014 year expedition is funded by National Geographic.

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

I have wrote a scientific article on the base of all the scientific data known about Menzbier marmot at the moment and published this one in the Works of International Conference Materials. The title of the Conference is “Crimea Protected Areas. Biodiversity and Nature Protection in Azov-Black Sea Region”, held on Simferopol 24-25 2013. The article is in Russian, sorry, but I am doing the English translation at the moment and seeking for international magazines to share my results with. The title of my article is “Menzbier Marmot Population Current Status in Kazakhstan (Sayram-Ugam National Park”. It is about 4 pages.

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

I did spend the Small Grant money during the financial 2013 year. This is a good idea to plan activities and spends annually. I think 1 year is the best and proper length for such king of the projects including field research, conservation actions and data processing.

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
Field camp equipment and food	300	600	-300	All the prices jumped up, estimated sum wasn't enough
Tent	300	300	0	I did buy not so good quality as I expect
Sleeping bag	300	300	0	I did buy not so good quality as I expect
Spy glass	700	0	+700	I did hire spy glass from ACBK as a part of my other project
Camera	800	1500	-700	I did buy the best Nikon camera using my savings from the previous item
Lens	800	800	0	as it was planned
GPS	250	0	+250	I did hire GPS from ACBK as a part of my other project

Petrol	100	350	-250	I need more petrol then I expected
Office goods	100	100	0	As it was planned
Park entrance fee	120	120	0	As it was planned
Park research and filming license	200	200	0	As it was planned
Netbook	100	100	0	As it was planned
Laptop	400	400	0	As it was planned
Booklet publishing	300	300	0	As it was planned
Travel costs	330	330	0	As it was planned
Bank exchange commission-5%	300	300	0	As it was planned
Inflation rate 10%	600	600	0	As it was planned
TOTAL	6000	6000		

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

I have work out the marmot survey and protection programme. At least I have got a clear plan for 2015 field research and conservation efforts. I am going to apply for RSGF for continuation grant in late 2014. The next tasks are actual for 2015:

- a. To map the south border of Menzbier marmot population in Kazakhstan. Are there any bridges (existing or former) connecting Kazakh area with the main Menzbir marmot population in Kazakhstan?
- b. Behaviour survey via camera-traps.
- c. Monitoring and Menzbier marmot protection in collaboration with Sayram-Ugam rangers.
- d. My scientific article "Menzbier Marmot Population Current Status in Kazakhstan (Sayram-Ugam National Park)" translating into English and publishing.
- e. Design, verifying and defence of PhD Dissertation in Kharkov State University / Ukraine. Supervisor – PhD Victor Tokarskiy.

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?

I did use the RSGF logo in designed by me illustrated and informative booklet for illegal hunting prevent. This booklet was disseminated in Kaskasu village via local school during the introduction meeting with locals for seeking some initiative young people who can be the fellowship members assisting in Menzbir marmot conservation. Also I have used the RSGF logo in my interactive Menzbir marmot PowerPoint presentation in Shymkent State University on Biology faculty. I have told the Sayram-Ugam Park administration, Park's rangers and local shepherds I am working with ideology and financial support of Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation Programme.

11. Any other comments?

I really enjoyed the work with RSGF funding and will be happy to continue next year. I am looking for other sources as well and use my own savings and my private jeep.