

Project Update: April 2019

Our idea was to construct several small-scale fish passages, making a connection between upstream and downstream parts of small earth-based dams. They have to be safe corridors for fishes passing from downstream to upstream. These fish passages include small scale migration routes, where full hydraulic head for migrating fish will be provided.

As a project site we took four dams located in northern part of Azerbaijan, where streams directly flow from mountain areas into the Caspian Sea. So far two fish passages were designed and constructed. The sites are taken in areas, where hydraulic heads are not high. In order to provide passages, we had long negotiations with local irrigation departments and got approval from them. We have also involved a team from the Local Water Users Associations, which will oversee controlling over passages. We had one day workshop with local farmers talking about the importance of the problem. Currently we continue our work.

From March 19-22, 2019 I participated in a Rufford Conference in Kazakhstan, where I shared my findings with other grant recipients.

It should be noted that construction of fish ladders is a first effort not only in Azerbaijan, but also in all Caspian countries.



Before excavation



After excavation



Natural passage