

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.

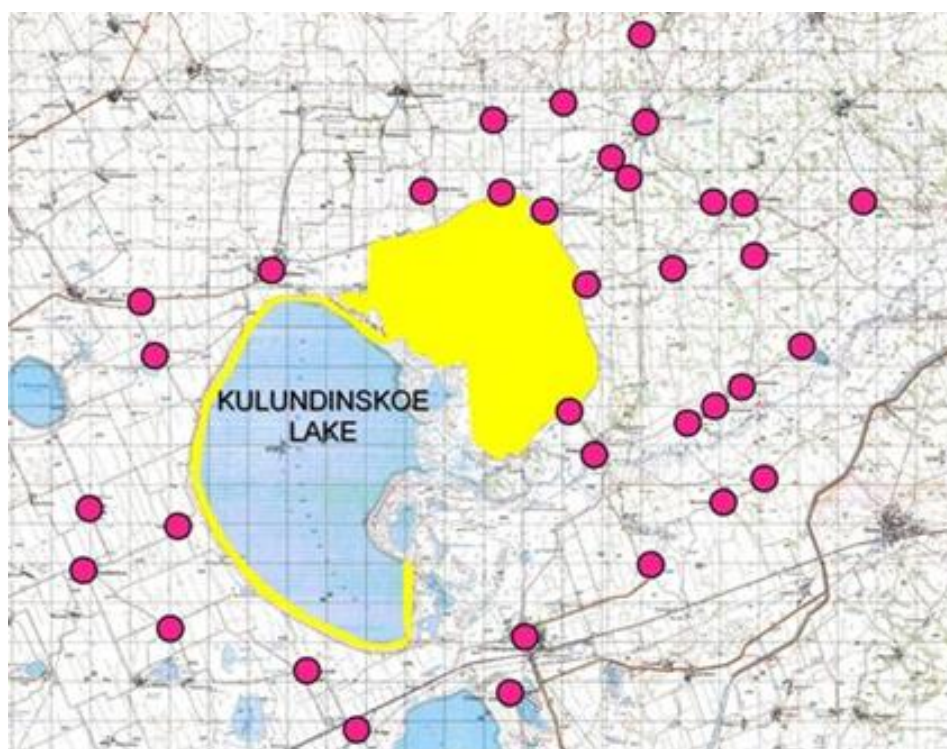
Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Andrey Bazdyrev
Project title	Kulunda lake – a pearl of Siberia!
RSG reference	Johannes Kamp, Moskvitin Sergey, Zubakina Elena
Reporting period	1st January – 31st December 2011
Amount of grant	£5795
Your email address	valerich@sibmail.com
Date of this report	05.04.2012

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 overall goal of project – restoration of a favourable status of Lake Kulunda and its biodiversity.			×	Draft plan for expansion of borders of the protected area, agreed with the local authorities, users of natural resources and local people has been prepared.
Aim 1. Realisation of educational campaign among the local population.			×	Information campaign covered 60% of residents from 35 settlements surrounding Kulunda Lake and 100% of schools, located on this territory.
Aim 2. To involve local population to preparation of the plan of expanding the two existing nature reserves on Kulunda lake.			×	2280 of signatures of local population have been collected to support expansion of protected area borders The plan of borders expansion has been agreed upon with the representatives of local administrations and sent to the regional government.



Picture 1 – Map of the territory of «Kulunda lake – a pearl of Siberia!» project.

- – settlements covered by the information campaign;
- territory of the two existing nature reserves.

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

Did not manage to obtain the information on the owners of 40% of the area of land plots located within the borders of the designed expanding the two existing nature reserves, and to agree upon the draft plan for expansion of nature reserves with them. Currently, the work is continued to obtain the information on the basis of data of local and regional land committees, personal meetings with local authorities.



Picture 2 – Information campaign in Znamenka village.

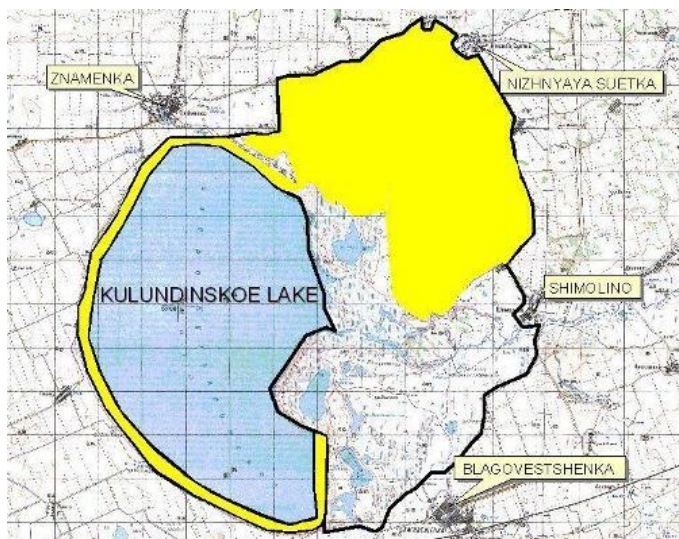
3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. Information campaign covered 60% of residents from 35 settlements surrounding Kulunda Lake, users of natural resources of 60% of the land within the boundaries of the designed nature reserves, and schoolchildren of 100% of schools (53 schools), located on the project territory. For this there were conducted 500 meetings with stakeholders, and distributed 5000 brochures (picture 3) containing the information on the importance of conservation of Kulunda Lake expanding the two existing nature reserves and the benefits it will bring to the local population. 1000 DVD-discs with the film about Kulunda Lake were distributed among schools.



Picture 3 – Informational brochure for local residents.

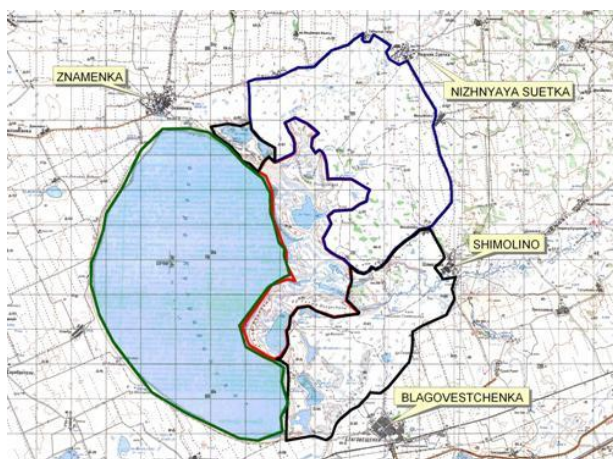
2. Together with the NGO «Geblerovskoye Conservation Society» and National Research Tomsk State University prepared a draft plan of expanding the two existing nature reserves (picture 4) and protection mode of these territories taking into account the opinion of local residents, authorities, users of natural resources and owners of land plots. It was established that local residents support not only expanding the two existing nature reserves, but also optimisation of the protection mode – identification of several functional zones – reserve, agricultural, recreation and hunting. Prepared materials have been sent to the regional department of the RF Ministry of Environmental Resources.



Picture 4 – Project for expanding the two existing nature reserves in the outskirts of Kulunda Lake.



- territory of two existing nature reserves;
- proposed borders of expanded territory of nature reserves



Picture 5 – Project of zoning of expanding the two existing nature reserves in the surroundings of Kulunda Lake.



- Proposed borders of the reserve zone** – reserve status of protection
- Proposed borders of the agricultural zone with recreation elements** – agricultural activity (organized cattle grazing, haying), collection of medical plants, mushrooms and berries, recreation of people in the established places,

organized ecological tourism is permitted.

Proposed borders of the recreation zone - recreation of people in the established places, organised ecological tourism is permitted.

Proposed borders of the hunting zone – autumn hunting during specified period is permitted.

3. Main events of the project have been covered in the local and regional mass media – 2 reports on the local TV and radio, 4 publications in newspapers and 3 publications on the Internet.

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

Over 5000 people could express their relation and wishes to the conservation of the Kulunda Lake and optimisation of the protection mode – identifying several functional zones. Identifying several zones with different mode of usage allows to optimize economic use of the protected territory so that to ensure efficient protection of ecosystems on the one hand and retain economic activity (cattle grazing, haying, hunting) on specially allocated areas on the other hand, this activity being the source of benefit for local residents. Also, the mode of these zones proposes regulation and development of tourism in specially allocated recreation areas. Tourism development will allow attracting additional funds for development of settlements, and increasing the number of work places thus improving welfare of local residents.

Due to distribution of DVD-discs with the film among 100% of schools on the project territory, school children and teachers raised their knowledge on conservation of the Kulunda Lake, received methodical and information materials which will allow them to implement the environmental activity. This circumstance is a very important one since rural schools are poorly provided with methodical and informational materials.

Coverage of the work in mass media enabled to attract local residents who are not the direct target groups of the project to the problem of conservation of the Kulunda Lake.

The issue on sending official letters on expansion of the protected area from local administrations to the regional government has been agreed upon.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The ecological center Strizh plans to continue the work on education of the local population and complete the expansion of borders and optimisation of protection mode of the two existing nature reserves.

In March, 2012 we started the work on inclusion of expanding the two existing nature reserves into official development scheme of the protected area of Altay region, approved at a level of regional government. We will continue the work on preparing the documents required for expansion of nature reserves.

Also, the interaction with the local educational institutions and authorities will be strengthened for broad involvement of school children into practical activity for nature protection, research activity, development of projects and schemes of management of the rare species populations and their

habitats, carrying out ornithological excursions, lectures, school scientific and practical conferences etc.

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

1. It is planned to distribute the informational report on implementation among the project partners and stakeholders.
2. The project experience was covered on the 25th International Congress for Conservation Biology (5th – 9th December 2011, Auckland, New Zealand).
3. Results were covered in the local and regional mass media – two reports were issued on local TV and radio, four publications in the newspapers and three publications on the Internet.
4. Information on the events carried out can be found on the web site of the ecological centre Strizh (<http://strizh.tsu.ru/>).
5. The method of holding the informational campaign for the local population is included into the final report of the project "White-headed duck in Russia" (under financial support of the Conservation Leadership Programme) for distribution among stakeholders.
6. Interregional conference «Prospect of making national parks in Siberian region" (March 26, 2012, Novosibirsk).

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 implemented for 12 months (January – December 2011), which completely complied with the work schedule elaborated. However, due to organisational difficulties and unfavourable climate conditions, some particular events were held with deviations from the elaborated schedule. But it did not affect general success.

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
Transportation expenses	1530£	1531.4£	+1.4£	See the section A (Table of Financial Report) Expenses increased due to price changes on fuel.
Travel allowances	1575£	1601£	+26£	See the section B (Table of Financial Report) Expenses increased due to funds from the article «Stationery» and of their own money Conservation centre "Strizh" to cover the cost of volunteers for meals 2 people for 4 additional days of field work.
Media expenses	2300£	2301£	+1£	See the section C (Table of Financial Report) Expenses increased due to price changes in the information material.

Post expenses	40£	37.7£	-2.3£	See the section D (Table of Financial Report) Costs are reduced because of the material was distributed during the personal meetings (without the cost of mail service). Unspent funds are included in the article «Travel allowances».
Stationery	350£	327.8£	-22,2£	See the section E (Table of Financial Report) Costs are reduced by attracting sponsorship in the form of donations of office supplies. Unspent funds are included in the article «Travel allowances», «Transportation expenses» and «Media expenses».
Total	5795£	5798.9£	+3,9£	Expenditures in excess of the grant paid out of Conservation centre "Strizh" money.

1£ = 45 RUR

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

1. Preparing documents for expansion of borders as per the Russian law in 2012-2013.
2. Agreement upon the borders and mode of the territory usage with all owners of land. It is planned to expand cooperation with NGO, local and regional authorities for this work.
3. Holding a large-scale informational and educational campaign "Let's save them!" in 2012-2014 with the purpose of increasing conservation literacy of school children and teachers. Within the frames of the campaign, methodical and informational materials (Red List of Altay region for children, protected areas of Altay region, Ranger of birds of Altai region for school children and teachers etc.) were distributed and theoretical and practical seminars, lectures, excursions and contests were conducted.
4. In 2012 the development of the ecological tourism system will be started (including international tourism) on the south of western Siberia, including the territory of Kulunda Lake. Already in May-June of 2012, the development of touristic infrastructure (road network, hotels, meal stations, etc.) will be clarified and cooperation with local committees for tourism development will be established.
5. In order to nail down and develop the project results in 2012-2013, the local group "Keepers of Kulunda Lake" will be formed. The group will consist of representatives of local authorities, users of natural resources, conservation NGO and leaders of local communities, revealed in the current project.

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?

Logo RSGF was used in the following materials: brochures, DVD-disks, posters for reports, information letters and presentation for the conference. Besides, the acknowledgements for the financial support provided were indicated in the mass media messages.

11. Any other comments?

The project team would like to thank the Administration of Blagoveshchensk and Suetsk localities of Altai region for the informational and organisational support, Children's environmental club "Kovylyok" for participation in the informational campaign, Geblerovskoye Conservation Society for participation in holding informational campaign and preparation of the project expanding the two existing nature reserves, National Research Tomsk State University for assistance in preparing of the project expanding the two existing nature reserves, and also all local residents who took part in discussion of zoning of the protected area territory, including those who supported our initiative in writing.