Project Update: February 2012

From 16th -20th June 2011 in Tashkent, in the office of Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds (UzSPB), the student training took place. Fifteen students, the members of UzSPB student bird watching clubs from Samarkand, Bukhara, Kokand, Nukus and Tashkent, took part in the training. The subject of the training was "Fundraising for NGOs and student clubs". At the end of the training, UzSPB announced a competition for the two best student projects. After the training students studied the education kit "Fundraising for NGOs and student clubs" in four UzSPB student clubs in regions.

In August 2011, a best practice guide with materials of six educational modules was published in Russian and Uzbek with 150 copies circulation. It was widely distributed among all UzSPB student clubs. The issue was also financed by foundation supporting NGOs at the Parliament of Uzbekistan. Students used this in acting as trainers of their club members.

From 15th - 19th November 2011 the project leader together with conservation education coordinator of UzSPB and Important Bird Areas Program assistant visited four student clubs to overlook implementation process and provide support and assistance in preparing of student projects. During the visit UzSPB staff members participated in student trainings on fundraising module in each student club. Together with club members, UzSPB staff analysed 13 project proposals prepared by students. We have chosen the five most interesting and correct projects. We decided to award all of them because they contained small budget and very interesting ideas. We also noticed that thanks to the education programme project each club has its room, some office equipment, a lot of new members and support from teachers. Thanks to the training, a clear structure of each club was formed. After the event grants for five student projects were awarded:
- "Popularization of protection of birds in rural schools by means of nest boxes making and setting" (by "Phasianus" birdwatching club);
- "Widening of "Phasianus" birdwatching club activity" (by "Phasianus" birdwatching club);
- "Application of "Eco dates" manual to carrying out of International Bird Day actions" (by "Flamingo" birdwatching club);
- "Researching of nesting birds' fauna in neighborhood of Akpetkiy lake system" (by "Otus" birdwatching club);
- "Researching of ecology and terms of migration of waterbirds in lower part of Zarafshan river" (by "Ivolga" birdwatching club).

In 25th February 2012 at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Samarkand State University III Republican student conference took place. It was carried out in the framework of Rufford Small Grant Foundation Project and included 46 students and teachers from universities of four regions of Uzbekistan. The programme of the conference consisted of four parts. In the first part Dean of Samarkand University and Chairman of Samarkand branch of UzSPB made a speech and noticed that the education programme fills up the gap in education process in universities. In the next part leaders of five student projects made presentations about idea, goal and objectives of each project.

A good team for each project was formed. In the 3rd part of the conference projects team members gave reports about first results of the projects. Ideas for some projects appeared on basis of previous field researches. Students told about results of expeditions in the framework of CLP/SOS Project "Survey of three potential Important Bird Areas in collaboration with students in Uzbekistan". Leader of "Otus" student birdwatching club demonstrated short movie about his club activities. In the 4th part of conference educational materials for "Bird of the Year" campaign were presented. All participants also got diplomas and mugs with RSGF and UzSPB logos. Finishing the conference club supervisors made a speech. They said that thanks to the education programme student clubs obtained significant results. They were shown in interesting student presentations.