

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Maksatbek Anarbaev
Project Title	Habitat conservation of endangered species in the Inner Tien-Shan Mountains
Application ID	fa5895-2
Grant Amount	£ 5,580
Email Address	maskony@gmail.com
Date of this Report	15.02.2022

1. 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
Awareness creation among local population				Presentations with distribution materials were provided at the two village schools and at the Naryn State University for the students of biology and geography departments. We have contributed to produce BBC Kyrgyz Service to produce documentary about wildlife conservation in the Naryn region https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEmu5oMrqss
Training of rangers to maintain the sensor cameras				All 30 rangers can maintain cameras.
Installation of sensor cameras in the territory of the Naryn State Nature Reserve				At this stage 20 sensor cameras are in use within the reserve.
Field survey				Despite the pandemic restrictions we were able to implement our field works in time.
Data update on brown bear distribution				In addition, with help of camera traps, it was possible to identify extent of wildlife distribution.
Data update on snow leopard distribution				Camera trap records showed us a snow leopard presence inside of forest and at lower altitudes. Together with our partner OSI Panthera we are working on identification of snow leopard individuals based on their pelage patterns.
Contribution for development of the bear conservation plan in the country				Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, public presentation about the development of the bear conservation plan in Kyrgyzstan is postponed. However, there is a good understanding between key local stakeholders about necessity and importance.
Decrease of poaching cases				Nowadays, sensor cameras play as a good poaching prevention tool, as well

				as information desks and signs at the entrance of nature reserve.
Collect photo-video materials on distribution of nationally endangered wildlife species				It was possible to record several wildlife species. For the first time, nationally endangered lynx was caught on cameras. By now we have a good collection of snow leopard, brown bear, red deer, ibex and argali images.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions made some corrections to our plan. We have postponed our meetings and Wildlife Day event which considered a participation of many people. However, thanks to in time purchase of necessary equipment and tools such camera traps we were able to start our field works as planned.

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

- The use of sensor cameras provided a better understanding of wildlife distribution in the Naryn State Nature Reserve.
- Demonstration of collected photo-video materials were an effective tool and source for engaging local population especially a youth to better understand a wildlife species, their habitat, inspiring them for nature protection.
- Mapping of key zones for better protection, installation of information desks and signs within perimeter of the reserve.

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

Local people from the neighbouring villagers actively participated during the meetings and Wildlife Day events, as well as during so called "March of the Parks". Local pastoralists received brochures about threatened wild species, their protection status, became aware about increased penalties in case of poaching.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We will continue this work, especially in terms of food habitat and seasonal movement of brown bear. As well as dissemination of collected materials with the local community, to organise Wildlife Days with the school children with the involvement of students.

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

We have made presentations at the Naryn State University and University of Central Asia in Naryn city. There was also annual hearing of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry, where our work received a high assessment.

The Steering Committee of the State Agency requested us to implement such project in other protected areas as well. We work together with our local partners.

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

The grant was used in time, at first, we purchased sensor cameras, portable solar panel, and radio set for communication in the mountains (in 2019-2020). However, some activities with the involvement of many people we have postponed and implemented after weakening of pandemic restrictions (in 2021). Nevertheless, we were trying to implement our planned works at first chance.

8. Budget: 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. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Management overheads	100	100		
Communication	180	180		
Distribution materials	470	470		
Radio set and solar panel	580	580		
Sensor cameras, 15x	1500	1500		
Food and provision	600	800	+200	The actual field costs were higher than budgeted because of extension of fieldwork days
Transportation	750	750		
Subsistence payments	1400	1200	-200	Due to pandemic, one member could not participate in the fieldwork, we used this for food and provision accordingly
Total	5,580	5,580		

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

- It is important to finalise the national concept of brown bear conservation action plan in Kyrgyzstan.
- Regular observations and data collection of wildlife distribution should go further.

- School children and students from the Naryn State University expressed a great interest for a Summer School about nature protection, environmental law, and ecosystem services. We hope in the next steps, project can contribute more inputs to the environmental education in the region.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes, we used The Rufford Foundation logo in our presentations and during our trainings. The logo is also used in dissemination materials.

11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.

Prof.Dr. Shigeyuki Izumiya – international scientific advisor

Dr. Askar Davletbakov – national scientific advisor

Mr. Joldoshbek Kyrbashev – field manager, communication with the local community

Mr. Taalaibek Duisheev – ranger, responsible for sensor camera maintenance

Mr. Ardak Toktobekov - ranger, responsible for sensor camera maintenance

Mr. Mairambek Sharshembiev - ranger, responsible for sensor camera maintenance

12. Any other comments?

We made a publication Anarbaev et al. (2019) Kaiberen Wildlife Research and Conservation Project: Brown Bear Tracking in the Kyrgyz Republic. IBA Newsletter Fall, pp17-18 and currently working on publication about large mammal distribution in the Naryn State Nature Reserve with the acknowledgement to The Rufford Foundation