

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	Leylya Belyalova
Project title	Important Bird Area Conservation – Monitoring carried out by specially trained students in Uzbekistan
RSG reference	06.12.07
Reporting period	28.02.2008 – 15.10.2009
Amount of grant	£ 4,969
Your email address	<u>Leylya_bird@rambler.ru</u>
Date of this report	30.10.2009

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
Effective project management in place				
Set up project management within IBA project group at Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds (UzSPB)			✓	
Ensure coordination with other relevant projects and activities			✓	Coordination with following projects, funds and institutions has taken place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBA program in Uzbekistan • UNDP/GEF Project "Conservation of Tugay forests and strengthening protected area system at the delta of Amurdarya river in Karakalpakstan" • UNEP/GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project "Wings Over Wetlands" • International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) • Fund "Soglom Avlod Uchun" • Tashkent regional administration • State Committee on Nature Protection • Ucham-Chatkal National Park administration • Chatkal Biosphere Reserve administration
Keep regular (1 meeting per term) with Regional Conservation Education Coordinator based at Central Asian IBA Project			✓	Meetings with the Regional Conservation Education Coordinator have taken place at the beginning of the project (March 2008) for detailed project planning, at the training (May 2008) and the conference (March 2009) for organisational support and the end of the project (October 2009) for support in project report production. Expenses for travel have been covered partly by the RSGF and partly by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
Publish new and key project information in press and other relevant media			✓	Articles of project activities have been published in following print media: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newspaper "National Word" № 148, 26.07.2008 2. Newspaper "Tashkent Truth" № 59,

				<p>30.07.2008</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Newspaper "Youth of Uzbekistan", 31.07.2008 4. Newspaper "Tashkent Evening" № 149, 04.08.2008 5. Journal "Ecological Bulletin of Uzbekistan" № 5, 2009 6. Tashkent National University Article collection of ongoing programmes in Biology and Chemistry 7. Abstract book of the International Conference "Aral Sea 2009", St. Petersburg 12.-15.10.2009 <p>Internet articles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://www.iba.uz/rufford.html 2. http://www.uzspb.uz/clubs.html 3. http://uza.uz/ru/society/3463/ - 24.07.2008 4. http://caresd.net/site.html?en=0&iid=14560 - 24.07.2008 5. http://www.ut.uz/rus/kultura/k_taynam_visokogorya.mgr - 31.07.2008 6. http://econews.uz/econews/rus/news/jule/K%20taynam.html 7. http://ecoforum.uz/index.php?page=6 8. http://www.tugai.uz/110 <p>If you are interested, we can send all publications on request!</p>
Training and capacity building programme set up				
Design a project logo and print it on T-shirts, caps, badges and stickers			✓	<p>A logo for the student club network has been designed, which will be continued to be used after project end.</p> <p>Due to high prices, only T-shirts (print run: 85) and badges (print run: 100) have been printed.</p> <p>Please find photos of PR material attached.</p>
Identify 1 candidate for conservation research training from Uzbekistan Universities or scientific institutions			✓	<p>For the implementation of the student training "Introduction to survey & census methods for IBA monitoring", Geoff Welch from RSPB, the BirdLife Partner in the UK, has been invited. The UzSPB has covered expenses. Geoff Welch was chosen, because of his excellent experience in student training all over the world and IBA work experience in the country.</p>

National project leader and international advisor conduct research field work with trainees teaching students ecological survey, monitoring and ornithological field skills			✓	As Bird watching Club advisors, out of lecturer personnel of universities, also participated in the student training, they were able to systematically provide additional training and overlooked the IBA monitoring and other project activities of students.
Edit and print BirdLife's methodical handbook "Expedition field techniques bird surveys" as Russian version (translation already available)		✓		Due to specific nature conditions in Uzbekistan and very poor knowledge of students, the planned manual was not printed. Instead of it, another manual, worked out by the Turkish BirdLife partner Doga Dernegi "How to watch birds or how to be a good birdwatcher" has been published in Uzbek and Russian language. Print run Uzbek version: 300 copies Print run Russian version: 200 copies Please find a photo of the manual front covers attached. If you are interested, we can send both manuals as electronic versions or by post!
Hold one theoretical and one practical training for 2 students per club (leader of club and most active student) with focus on basic methods of bird surveys, field techniques and monitoring as well as data input and statistical analysis			✓	In order to be more cost effective and to have the opportunity to invite more students, as well as due to educational reasons, theoretical and practical training have been organised at the same time. Geoff Welch from the RSPB together with UzSPB staff held the 5-days training "Introduction to survey & census methods for IBA monitoring", where 20 students and 4 Bird watching Club advisors participated. Please find photos of the training attached!
Activity and research programme implemented				
Every participating Bird watching club organises the Bird of the Year			✓	At the Bird of the Year Day (1 st April) every Bird watching Club organised presentations about project activities at their universities, which helped to find more enthusiasts and interested students

Day at their university				for their Clubs. Please find a photo of Bird of the Year Day activities at Samarkand university attached!
Students of Bird watching clubs carry out basic regular monitoring of one IBA nearby local universities			✓	Students of Bird watching Clubs carried out monitoring from 18.04.2008 to 15.10.2009 on IBAs close to their universities. In course of the project 11 IBAs have been monitored, this equates to 11% of all IBAs in Uzbekistan. Please find photos of IBA monitoring attached. If you are interested, we can send a translation of the IBA monitoring by request!
Organise final network conference and camp with all club members and participants for project information, experience and know-how exchange			✓	At the conference, which was organised one year after project start, 36 students, professors and UzSPB staff participated in. Talks were given in 4 sessions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports on IBA monitoring through Rufford funding (12 talks) 2. Talks on individual scientific work (10 talks) 3. Talks of UzSPB and Bird watching Club advisors (10 talks) Please find photos of the conference attached.
Publish results in IBA project newsletter and pass scientific results to Uzbekistan IBA Project			✓	All monitoring data has been passed onto Uzbekistan IBA programme and included into AviCA database (www.avica.uz).

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

Some minor problems in communication with Bird watching Clubs at the beginning of the project were handled after the network conference, which showed Club's enthusiasm and high quality work.

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

- I. The Training "Introduction to survey & census methods for IBA monitoring" and Conference "Monitoring of IBA through student Clubs" were excellent ways to build capacity of students and Bird watching Club advisors (lecturers of universities).
Through the interactive training students and advisors received up-to-date knowledge in modern survey techniques. For the first time all Clubs were brought together and thus gave them a feeling of the network they belong to.

The participation in the conference, giving a scientific talk gave students more self-confidence, showed their commitment to the project and how well the Club network develops. Clubs had the opportunity to exchange experiences, which gave important stimulation and raised new ideas.

- II. The participation of students in all practical project activities (monitoring and awareness raising) was an excellent opportunity for students to apply their skills in the field. As universities in Uzbekistan are mainly theory-based, excursions or practical lessons in the field are very rare because of lack of money. This project greatly contributed to the practical training of 50+ students. Six students, which have been in their last BSc year, started to continue with MSc studies.
- III. The project helped to spread information on student Clubs and the IBA programme in general on many levels.
Through active promotion in local and national press and at universities the idea of the student club network got widely spread out. This helped to raise the image of Clubs as groups of young and committed scientists. As a result of the project, a new student Club in Kokkand Pedagogical Institute has been organised, initiative for which came from students of this educational institution.

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

Involvement of local communities was not initially planned in this project, but it became clear that further IBA monitoring and conservation work cannot be sustainable without the awareness and collaboration of local communities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The successful implementation of this project and its results showed how important it is to further support the student Club network as pool of young enthusiasts, the new generation of nature conservationists in Uzbekistan. To increase students' enthusiasm in nature conservation work, it is planned to develop and implement an education programme for Clubs as special secondary education besides theory-focused university education, which will enable students to regularly participate in UzSPB's and other nature conservation activities in-situ. This will help to develop and increase the capacity of the students and improve Uzbekistan's nature conservation efforts.

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

- a) **On the national level:** The IBA monitoring report will be published in the next issue of the IBA bulletin of Uzbekistan's IBA programme. The project report will be available online on www.uzspb.uz and will be distributed among interested institutions, as well as nature conservation and youth organizations throughout Uzbekistan.
- b) **On the regional level:** Student Bird watching Clubs have been established not only in Uzbekistan, but as an initiative of the Important Bird Area programme also in other Central Asian countries. The overall network consists of 14 Clubs in Uzbekistan (4), Kazakhstan (7) and Turkmenistan (3). Knowledge and working experience is shared regularly through monthly newsletters and the Regional Coordinator for Conservation Education. In Turkmenistan IBA monitoring through student Clubs has not been organised yet. Our project will especially share its good working experience with the partner in this country.

- c) **On the international level:** In many countries of Eastern Europe or Asia University education has a rigid school-like system and is lacking efficiency on many levels. Quick economic growth that enjoys a much higher priority in political decisions than environmental and nature conservation concerns as well as low salaries and low motivation result in a “brain-drain” and lack of young experts. The network of student Bird watching Clubs in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan is a good example of rising a new generation of nature conservationists. The network is an interesting and effective “tool” of involving students into active nature conservation and will be communicated to other countries and BirdLife partners.

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

The RSG was used over 20 months instead of proposed 12 months, due to efficient expenditure and raise of U\$ in course of the project.

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
Equipment				
Methodical hand book "Expedition field techniques bird surveys" (editing)	100,00	51,07	+ 48,93	Translation and edition of "How to be a good birdwatcher or how to watch birds" manual
1Methodical hand book "Expedition field techniques bird surveys" (print run 100)	170,00	224,34	- 54,34	Print of "How to be a good birdwatcher or how to watch birds" as Uzbek and Russian version. Print run: Uzbek version 300 copies, Russian version 200 copies
T-shirts, caps, badges and stickers with project logo (print run 100)	379,00	376,43	+ 2,57	Print of badges (print run 100 copies), T-Shirts (print run 85 copies), stickers for notebooks at training on own printer and badges for conference
National travel				
Travel for students to theoretical and practical training and conference (students coming from remote regions in Uzbekistan)	550,00	594,94	-44,94	Travel costs (train and bus tickets) for á 5 students from 4 Clubs to Ecocenter „Dzhejran“ (venue of training) in May 2008 and Conference in Samarkand city in March 2009
Accommodation for students at 4-days theoretical training (students coming from remote regions in	150,00	128,05	21,95	Food for practical training (5 days – 25 people). Theoretical training took place in combination with practical training, where

Uzbekistan)				Ecocentre "Dzhejran" offered accommodation for trainers and tents for students have been set up on the territory.
Accommodation for students at 2-days conference (students coming from remote regions in Uzbekistan)	230,00	256,34	-26,34	Accommodation for 15 students and Club advisors from remote regions, Samarkand students slept at home. Accommodation for 4 UzSPB staff and Regional Conservation Education coordinator. Subsistence for all conference participants for 1,5 days.
Travel to nearby IBAs for students (once a Month, Month 6 to Month 12)	1.600,00	1675,11	- 75,11	38 times travel of student Clubs to nearby IBAs
Travel related to project management (meetings at main office with relevant partners)	100,00	77,18	+ 22,82	2 trips Samarkand to Tashkent main UzSPB office and back 1 trip Tashkent – Samarkand – Bukhara – Tashkent
Food during field work in project sites for students	900,00	888,18	+ 11,82	
Travel international				
Travel of project advisor from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan once per term	610,00	561,10	+ 48,90	Travel to Kick-off meeting and training (travel, accommodation, subsistence), conference (only national travel, accommodation, subsistence)
Accommodation for project advisor	-	-	-	Please see expenses for accommodation and subsistence summarized under 3.1.
Consumables				
Copies, paper, print outs, phone and internet costs	180,00	136,37	43,63	
TOTAL	4.969,00	4.969,11	- 0,11	Exchange rate £ sterling to U\$ was 1, 95 by receipt of funding. As U\$ to Uzbek Sum rate fluctuated in course of 20 months from 1.200 to 1.900, we were able to spend the RSG to a greater extend than expected. All original receipts are filed at UzSPB office in Tashkent. We are ready to send them on request.

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

The most important next steps are:

1. Development and implementation of a special education programme for Bird watching Clubs, which will be an opportunity for students to gain more knowledge (especially practice) in nature conservation besides theory-focused university education.
2. Systematic training, workshops and camps for students on the basis of the education programme.
3. Involvement of students into various projects of UzSPB and other scientific programmes or internships.
4. Support of scientific research and conservation activities of Bird watching Clubs on IBA in collaboration with local communities.

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?

The RSGF logo has been used on all published PR material (T-Shirts, manual, notebooks for training, and badges for conference) and published articles.

11. Any other comments?

We would like to thank the Rufford Small Grants Foundation for giving us the chance to activate nature conservation work of youth in Uzbekistan. We will distribute the results of our project on many levels, which will hopefully contribute to a raise of young nature conservationists in whole Central Asia.