

## 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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Guler Isayeva
<b>Project title</b>	Conservation of Egyptian Vulture in Lesser Caucasus within the territory of Azerbaijan
<b>RSG reference</b>	10755-1
<b>Reporting period</b>	February 2012- December 2012
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5994
<b>Your email address</b>	<a href="mailto:gulerisayeva@mail.ru">gulerisayeva@mail.ru</a>
<b>Date of this report</b>	12 February, 2013

**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
Collection of data on breeding population of Egyptian vulture in Lesser Caucasus and development of data base			x	Field surveys during the project implementation allowed the project team to collect comprehensive and very valuable data on current population of Egyptian vulture in Lesser Caucasus. Data was included into the database of AOS and combined with previous data collected for the other parts of the country.
Improve the conservation of species at local and national level			x	This objective has been achieved with establishment of two Species Support Groups have been established at the project sites. Each group consists of 3-5 people. These people participated in field research together with project team and they received basic training on species identification, monitoring of birds, breeding success and threats. As well collected data was sent to Institute of Zoology and Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources for their further planning. Egyptian vulture is included into the new edition of Red Book of Azerbaijan which also supports its conservation at national level.
Increase awareness about "project species" and its importance			x	PA materials have been prepared and printed. All materials have been distributed at project sites. Meetings were organised with different stakeholders at local and national level. Regular contact with media and press releases also supported the distribution of information about species at national level.

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

N/A

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

1. Database about Egyptian vulture in Lesser Caucasus which created on the base of field surveys. This database combined with previous database established for the other parts of the country. Database includes the map of distribution, coordinates of nests in Lesser Caucasus, population size and threats for Egyptian vulture.
2. Establishment of Species Support Groups (SSG) from representatives of local communities. This will ensure the long term monitoring of project species as the member of SSGs trained and provided with necessary equipment.
3. Informational poster about Egyptian vulture. Poster includes some important information about Egyptian Vulture. It helps to initial for the conservation of this species.

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

N/A

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Currently project team is working on new proposals to find the funding for further research on the project species in the unstudied parts of the country. Besides for the funding which will allow us to prepare the Species Action Plan at national level which will be main document for planning the protection and conservation activities of Egyptian vulture in Azerbaijan. As well regular contact with local Species Support Groups will be kept on for supporting them and to keep the motivated as they are main people who will monitor the breeding areas and who will report back the condition of sites and possible threats. As they are part of the network which was established by AOS project team will invite them to training and meetings where it is possible to develop their further skills and to share the experience.

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

Database of AOS is open for all research institutions and for all relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations (with some restrictions, such as the exact coordinates of nests will not be shared to ensure the safety of birds). Besides the data that have already been shared with laboratory of Ornithology of Institute of Zoology of Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan and with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. As well scientific article on results will be prepared and published soon in national and international scientific magazines.

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

Team members had experience on similar projects before therefore the time planning was done quite accurately. Because of that there were not any serious delays or time restrictions during the project implementation period.

**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
Logging and Accommodation	1300	1462.82	-162.82	All additional expenses were covered at the expense of Azerbaijan Ornithological Society
Car rent	1800	1892.32	-92.32	
Field equipment	850	882.57	-32.57	
Print of awareness Materials (poster)	1500	1560.34	-60.34	
Post-project expenses	450	442.91	+7.09	
Bank service (1.60%)	94.40	100.72	-6.32	
<b>Total</b>	5994.4	<b>6341.68</b>	-347.28	

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

We think that team members managed to collect quite important and useful data on project species. Considering the Egyptian vulture's international importance these activities should be continued for the other parts of the country and it must be systemised and it must be more sustainable. Team members did first steps with establishment of Species Support Groups. But project time was quite short to train them as good and independent specialists. They are able to do basic monitoring but still there is need to work and support them. Besides it was very obvious that currently there are many existing and potential threats for the birds and their habitats at the project sites. It includes lack of awareness, unplanned construction works, urban development and so on. Again the team members addressed some of these issues but there are still many things to do. Considering all the points above these problems and needs should be addressed via different projects as a next step.

**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?**

Informative poster about Egyptian vulture has been produced and distributed during field visits and meetings.