

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	Maksim Mitropolskiy
Project title	Ecological adaptation of species to environmental conditions, the study on the example of two sets of mammals species
RSG reference	ID: 17432-1
Reporting period	June 2015 – July 2016
Amount of grant	4969
Your email address	max_raptors@list.ru
Date of this report	14/07/2016

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
1. To study the complex habitat conditions listed species within the Asian region range (Karnabchul steppe, Uzbekistan) to assess the successful adaptation to environmental conditions in the territories of the expansion of the range to the north (Tyumen region, Russian Federation).			+	During the Project we have had two expeditions in Asian region (in August 2015 in Kazakhstan and in October in Uzbekistan) three expeditions in Tyumen region (in July 2015, in September 2015 and in may 2016). Therefore, we got new information about present status of these mammal's species. All these materials will used for preparing new edition of Red Book of Tyumen Region in 2016 and as a basis for preparing agenda for new PAs the South of Tyumen Region.
2. To conduct a comparative analysis of species adapt to conditions of American Mink cohabitation with Marten in Western Siberia and with Stone Marten in Uzbekistan.		+		The work has not done in full for several reasons described below. However, obtained of humerus from hunters: Pine Marten - 42, Stone Marten - 12, American Mink - 6 in the Tyumen region and 4 in Uzbekistan. Basing of the collected material it was able to show the sex and age structure of the population of Pine Marten in the Tyumen region.

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

There was no virtually difficulties in the first part of the Project. Only timeframe, including obtaining a permit for work in the border zone with the Republic of Kazakhstan, limited active full-scale action. However, the problem has made in our opinion.

It was more noticeable the limiting fact in the second part of the Project. Collection bones material of mammals hampered reduction in the volume of their catch in case of weather conditions. The long and snowy winter 2015-2016 reduced volume of collection, compared with 2014-2015 year. In addition, changes in legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, has reduced the number of hunters, which also led to a reduction in collection. Thus, to collect a representative sample sufficient for one

calendar year turned out to be a number of reasons difficult. Thus, this part of the work has not done in full. Therefore, we finished this part yourself in March 2017.

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

We obtain interesting and new information on the distribution, biology and the number of endangered species of Asian fauna mammals in Western Siberia – Corsak Fox, Steppe Polecat, Pygmy Souslik, Great Jerboa, Mole Vole.

We held the territories analysis for the planning of protected areas in 2017 - The Year Protecting Areas in Russia.

We designed the technique of collecting humerus from hunters. It was able to show the sex and age structure of the population of Pine Marten in the Tyumen region.

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

As part of the project, the local people were engaged only in an advisory capacity to clarify the status and some number of studied species. In addition, local hunters provided on a voluntary basis humerus of martens and American mink (which is important for not pushing for the special production of the animal). It planned to involve the local population to protect and promote environmental action in the future, when protected areas have create and Action Plan for conservation of Asian steppe complex mammals in forest-steppe of Western Siberia has implement.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We plan to continue the study of this work. The proposals for new protected areas in the South of the Tyumen region and Action Plan for conservation of Asian steppe complex mammals in forest-steppe of Western Siberia have the potential to be implement in 2017-2018 in the framework of Year "Protected areas in the Russian Federation." We have collected good information to justify the appropriateness of continuing this work. The materials will be use preparing the Red Book of the Tyumen region. Held in the framework of field visits work to identify the Asian species of birds on the wetlands of the steppe zone of the Tyumen region. This area is included in the list of Ramsar Sites, therefore, to extend the monitoring of birds, mammals, invertebrates and probably will keep the whole structure of this complex. That is why we hope for your continued cooperation and support.

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

The results of our work in the framework of the project were present at the Russian and International conferences in Tyumen, Kurgan and Moscow. Informational announcements of project results were present on web site of the Tyumen State University. These materials included in the essays on Corsak Fox, Great Jerboa and Mole Vole in the Red Book of the Tyumen region. Proposals for the creation of

protected areas with the biological rationale for the territory submitted to the Department of Natural Resources of the Tyumen region.

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

We start our Project in the end of June 2015 (pass one month for bank operation problems). During the project, we adhere to the schedule, but as we have some money for third expedition in Tyumen Region, we ask to continue the project for one month more until July 2016.

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
Salaries: project leader 1 man/12months	720	720	0	Lists №№ 6, 13, 15, 16, 19
Salaries: researcher 2 mans/10 months	800	800	0	Lists №№ 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19
Income tax	304	304	0	Bank commission payment – 54 GBP Receipt from 25-27.06.2015 – 250 GBP
Field trips in Tyumen Region: petrol	150	150	0	Lists №№ 2, 3, 8, 9, 17, 20
Field trips in Tyumen Region: accommodations for 3 persons	60	60	0	Lists №№ 1, 7, 18
Field trips in Tyumen Region: meals for 3 persons	240	240	0	Lists №№ 1, 7, 18
Field trips in Uzbekistan: petrol	430	430	0	Lists №№ 5, 11, 12
Field trips in Uzbekistan: accommodations for 1 person	60	60	0	List № 25
Field trips in Uzbekistan: meals for 3 and 2 persons	215	215	0	Lists №№ 4, 10
Field trips in Uzbekistan: train ticket Tyumen-Tashkent-Tyumen	1250	1250	0	Lists №№ 21,22, 23, 24
Field equipment: Camera traps Bushnell	400	400	0	Receipt from 25.06.2015
Field equipment: Batteries and Chargers	140	140	0	Receipt from 30.06.2015
Field equipment: field tent - 1 pcs	80	80	0	Receipt from 25.06.2015
Field equipment: sleeping bags - 3 pcs	120	120	0	Receipt from 25.06.2015
TOTAL	4969	4969	0	

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

The next step, the implementation of our Proposals and Action Plan for the conservation of Asian complex species in the forest-steppe zone of the Tyumen region. To this end, we are planning to get support from the Department of Natural Resources of the Tyumen region. Also expanding our research in the field of mammals, birds and even invertebrates continue these themes on the forest-steppe zone and Asian species of fauna in the framework of the Rufford Small Grant Foundation support.

We complete the work on the interrelation of martens and American mink and report to the Rufford Foundation by March 2017 yourself.

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?

We used RSGF logo in presentations of our work on the Russian and International conferences; also, we made T-shirts with the RSGF logo for the project team. The printed product was not foresee in the project.

11. Any other comments?

Many thanks to the RSGF staff for the approval, understanding and support in the implementation of the project. We apologize for the delay, and some changes in the framework of the project. At the same time, we got a lot of experience of project management and look forward to continued cooperation.

