

## The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford 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**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Marina Chirikova
<b>Project title</b>	Development of measures for the conservation of the Desert Monitor in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
<b>RSG reference</b>	19111-2
<b>Reporting period</b>	January 2016 – November 2016
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£5000
<b>Your email address</b>	m.chirikova@mail.ru
<b>Date of this report</b>	21/12/2016

**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
Expeditionary trips for the studying of the distribution, population density of desert monitor in different parts of the KyzylKum desert on the territory of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan				All planned trips were performed
Examination of previously monitored and new populations of monitor				
Active promotion of information about these species involving media, zoos, and schools to reduce negative attitudes towards desert monitor				We have published two articles in popular magazines, held seven lectures at schools, universities, zoos, and stations for young naturalists. Only distant villages in the monitor habitat in Kazakhstan were unreachable (during the field work, when we were in these areas, schools were on holidays). In Uzbekistan, it was impossible to hold lectures in schools, as access to schools to outsiders strictly prohibited.
The purposeful distribution of posters and calendars with the original photos of desert monitor published in the first project, also the brochures about the desert monitor and other representatives of the				

desert fauna will be published. The information about the continuation and progress of the project will be placed on the web site "Herpetofauna of Kazakhstan" and other zoological and environmental websites.				
Determination of the status of the desert monitor on the IUCN criteria				
According to the results of the research, recommendations will be provided to the official organizations of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan				

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

Difficulties have arisen with carrying out in Uzbekistan schools lectures or drawing competition. Organisation of lectures in schools in Uzbekistan could not be held due to the necessity to obtain a special permission to organise thematic lectures and gathering of people in a certain place. It didn't work due to absence of supporting organisations.

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

1) It was clarified the northern border of distribution of desert monitor in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. New places of its habitat in southern Kazakhstan were defined. We have received information about habitat, density of population, as well as the key habitats of desert monitor of the Kyzyl-Kum desert (in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan). We analyzed demographic dynamics of *Varanus griseus* in Kazakhstan on the basis of comparative data 1980, 2012, 2015, and 2016. We have confirmed the decrease in the number of desert monitor.

2) Recent data on the status of the gray monitor lizard in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, we presented at the workshop by IUCN. In the beginning of 2017, the status of this species will be determined. Recommendations on conservation of *V. griseus* were submitted in the relevant reports to the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan. In Uzbekistan, the recommendations were included in the new edition of the Red Book of Uzbekistan. In 2017, it will be printed and handed over to the authorities "Strategy of conservation of desert monitor in Kazakhstan ". We held a round table conference with representatives of the environmental authorities and NGOs in order to determine the most effective methods to save the desert monitor. Shymkent Zoo received our recommendation on the keeping of the desert monitor in semi-free conditions.

3) Propaganda of knowledge about the gray monitor and necessity of its conservation among the population was held (lectures, competitions, published brochures and calendars)

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

The following organisations have contributed to the project: Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan, Young naturalists' station in Almaty, Shymkent and Almaty Zoo, Kazakh National Al-Farabi University, ON Ohotzooptom, NGO "Wildlife of Kazakhstan", Gylym ordasy –Museum of nature, Schools of Almaty, Shymkent, and Panfilov cities, employees of anti-plague stations and border troops. Children had an opportunity to familiarise with the unique shape of reptiles, were awarded with prizes and certificates, additionally, teachers received handouts for further research. Interaction between scientists, NGOs and zoos was strengthened. Shymkent Zoo received our recommendations on the keeping of the desert monitor in semi-free conditions. We got some interesting data from camera traps, which will be used to improve keeping of desert monitor in captivity. Inspector of NO "Ohotzooptom" received brochures about the desert monitor and additional information on its habitats in Kazakhstan. We hope they use it for better organisation of conservation of this species. The results of propaganda among the local population were obtained: people in several areas have reported themselves about observations of the grey monitor, and reported that the killed in 2016 not a single grey monitor lizard.

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

In 2017, we hope to get funding from the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan to continue the study of the grey desert monitor. We will

continue to monitor the implementation of our recommendations for the creation of protected areas and the expansion of existing protected areas.

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

Our results are published on the websites of Herpetofauna of Kazakhstan, ACBK, Museum of Nature Gylm Ordasy, the Institute of Zoology and NGO «Dront» (Russia). 3 scientific articles and two articles in popular magazines of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were published. The results of the work were presented at two scientific conferences: «Modern problems of conservation of rare, endangered and insufficiently studied animals in Uzbekistan» and «Problems of biodiversity conservation in Kazakhstan and adjacent territories in nature and collections». Preparation of a scientific publication on the results of the project is in process of completion.

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

The project was completed in accordance with the work plan, which was cited in the application

**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.**

Exchange rate of pound sterling was being changed in the course of the project. In January 2016 it was about 523 tenge, in August 2016 - 447 tenge

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Travel expenses Per Diems (4 person x 60 days) = 960£ Rent car = 2700£ (1600 – Uzbekistan и 1100 – Kazakhstan) the Consultant's trips to regions = 800£ Travel Almaty-Tashkent	4860	4860	+941	We received additional funding of the Ministry of Education and Science RK for two more trips to Kazakhstan

and back =235£ Gasoline = 200£				
Publication expenses Edition of posters into Uzbek – 500 copies Publication of brochure about the desert monitor in three languages – 1000 copies = 140£	140	140	+141	due to the contribution of local government offices and NGOs – by appointment) = 100£ Text translation into Kazakh and Uzbek (aid of volunteers) = 41£
Visit the IUCN workshop on the definition of the IUCN criteria for the desert monitor and other reptiles		600	+600	Paid at the expense of the IUCN
Equipment Satellite transmitters		480	+480	The Ministry of Education and Science RK paid for the purchase of two satellite transmitters to label desert monitor
Awards for the drawing competition		71	+71	due to the contribution of NGOs
To conduct a modeling of ecological niche of monitor lizard		570	+570	The Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan paid for work on GIS modeling of ecological niches of desert monitor
Round table conference "Problems of conservation of rare and endangered species on the example of the desert monitor"		35	+35	The costs of the round table conference was paid by the Kazakh State Al-Farabi University
Construction of aviary on the basis of the Shymkent zoo for semi-free maintenance and further breeding of grey monitor lizard		200	+200	Paid by Shymkent zoo
<b>Total</b>	5000	8038	3038	

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

It is important to continue the promotion of the protection of the grey monitor lizard, between people from the school age. We have established relationships with several NGOs which agreed to help with it and we will continue this work. We must try to implement this project in Uzbekistan.

It is important to submit strategies of conservation of grey monitor lizard to Kazakhstan authorities, and then to try to lobby for its implementation. The same is true for our recommendations for the creation of protected areas

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

We used Rufford Foundation Logo in brochures, posters, during a slide show at the seminars and lectures, during the round table conference and events programmes. Also we have indicated the name of the fund in the published articles.

**11. Any other comments?**

With support of Rufford Foundation in 2012 we started work on the study and conservation of the grey monitor lizard in Kazakhstan. In 2016, we continued this work not only in Kazakhstan, but also in Uzbekistan. We hope that the Uzbek colleagues, as well as we, are able to draw the government's attention to the problem of this kind

We thank Rufford Foundation for their support in our project and look forward to continue cooperation in the future!

