

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Mitropolskiy Maksim
Project title	Implementation of Action Plan for the conservation of Asian steppe species of mammals and birds in the forest-steppe zone of the Western Siberia
RSG reference	21126-2
Reporting period	30 th January 2018
Amount of grant	4985
Your email address	max_raptors@list.ru
Date of this report	23 ^d January 2018

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
Conduct the winter censuses of mammals in the project area				<p>In late March - early April 2017, we conducted winter censuses of mammals by footprints in the snow and the spring arrival of waterfowl in the forest-steppe zone of Tyumen region.</p> <p>As a result, new data were received on the distribution of Corsac fox in Berdyujskiy (near Okunevo village) and Armizonskiy (near Kolmakskiye village) districts. Number of roe deer was calculated to be 2.3 animals/km² and red fox was calculated to be 5.6 animals/km².</p> <p>In ornithological aspect, data were obtained on the spring arrival of great cormorant, Dalmatian pelican, swans and great egret. For the first time a pair of ruddy shelduck was photographed (08/04/2017, Lake Kaynak) in Tyumen region.</p>
Select experts to write "Management Plan" of protected areas (hydrologist, sociologist, botanist, and entomologist). Submit documents for review in the subsoil department of the Tyumen region				<p>We marked "Partially achieved" because during the short project time (1 year) we could hold field work by the botany and entomology research only in two from four districts. The main reason is the late spring in 2017. But our specialist could find some rare species for complete necessary document for the creation of protected areas. So all materials were pass to the subsoil department of the Tyumen region and used for reservation of the land for future Protected Area (Resolution of the Government of the Tyumen Region No. 735-P from 30.12.2014 with the current version).</p>
Organize the monitoring field visit to the project				<p>In June-July 2017, the project team organised expeditions to the forest-</p>

<p>area with the assistance of the botanist and entomologist.</p>			<p>steppe zone of the Tyumen region with botanists and entomologists. The flora of the northern forest-steppe zone is represented, according to our data, by 420 species, subspecies and plant hybrids belonging to 64 families and 227 genera, which is less than half of the species richness of the entire forest-steppe zone of the Tyumen region. It is characterised by significant participation of species located at the limit of their natural range: here are the southern boundaries of the distribution of at least 170 species of the non-moral-boreal complex and about 200-steppe complex. Within the framework of the study of invertebrate fauna, 267 species of insects and arachnids of nine orders were identified. The general ecological and zoogeographic characteristics of the invertebrate fauna are given of investigated region. The invertebrate fauna of the forest-steppe is mainly represented by polyzonal meadow species that occur in other natural zones, but reach the maximum abundance here. The proportion of steppe, southern species is small and amounts to about 20%.</p>
<p>Provide interim report in Rufford Fond</p>			<p>We provided interim reports for the website of Rufford Foundation in April, August and December 2017.</p>
<p>Final work of experts and members of the project team working on writing "Management Plan" of created protected areas, preparation of a detailed description of the territory.</p>			<p>We have summarised information on the biodiversity of the project area, including birds and mammals. These data were included in the new edition of the Red Data Book of the Tyumen Region (2019), including the addition of new species found within the framework of the two Rufford Foundation projects. The full review is presented in the monograph "Biodiversity of the forest-steppe zone of the Tyumen region", which is being reviewed by the printing house of the</p>

				<p>Tyumen State University and should be published in the first months of 2019. All materials served as a basis for the justification of the creation of Integrated Protected Area in the forest-steppe zone of the Tyumen region. At present, we are waiting for response to our request from the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation to amend the regulatory and legal documents of the environmental legislation of the Tyumen region to create an Integrated Protected Area.</p>
<p>Organize third field visit to the project area with the assistance of the botanist and entomologist</p>				<p>In August 2017, we conducted studies in adjacent territories to establish the boundaries of habitat for steppe species of birds and mammals. New data were obtained on the distribution of the mole vole and great jerboa, and for the first time a new species of bird was found for the Tyumen region – European bee-eater. Works on botany and entomology were also supplemented with materials, the results of which are presented above.</p>
<p>Writing and publishing of publications, brochures, posters and calendar</p>				<p>All materials were prepared, most of them have already published. We start distribution of our materials in Tyumen region. But most of them we plan to distribute in March-May 2019 during our activities with local community of project areas like as ornithological observation “Spring alive”, “Big Year in Tyumen Region” and during lectures in school “Biodiversity of forest-steppe zone of the Tyumen region” with frame work of Zoological Museum of Tyumen State University.</p>
<p>Hold the presentation of the project activities with the involvement of stakeholders: environmental organizations, environmental NGOs</p>				<p>During project time we hold two presentation of the project activities in regional environmental conferences in Tyumen and Tobolsk in which took part main environmental organisations, environmental NGOs and eco-tourism companies of our</p>

<p>and eco-tourism companies, in order to attract the public and third-party financing activity created protected areas, as well as obtaining ideological comments</p>				<p>region Also in Village Kolmakscoe we found partners who built a guest house and are ready to cooperate on the project within the framework of the protected territory. Ecological seminars with schoolchildren are held in August 2017 on the basis of the guest house. We plan to use this guest house in future when working with the local people using it as a visit centre for protected area.</p>
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

The most unforeseen difficulties in the framework of the project are related to the expectation of responses from agency organisations. The documents prepared by us for the creation of new protected area are considered not only in the regional department, but also coordinated in the ministry. This takes much more time than 1 year of project implementation, so we have to limit ourselves to reporting in some cases only regulatory decisions.

We also faced a long waiting period in the printing house, connected with the review of our scientific publication. There seems to be delay in the delivery of materials to the printing house, but late spring in the region affected late field work and preparation of materials.

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

1. For the first time we summarised all information available in archives and which we had in monograph "Biodiversity of forest-steppe zone of the Tyumen region".
2. New species of bird (European bee-eater) and mammal (southern birch mouse) have been found for the Tyumen region as part of the project, modern status of rare species have been identified, which have become an integral part of the texts of the Red Data Book of the Tyumen Region.
3. We received good support from the local community in the project area, which helped to determine not only the boundaries of the proposed protected area, but also to carry out pro-construction work with us in the future and offer to equip the guest house as a visitor centre of the protected area.

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

Within the framework of our project, close cooperation with the local communities on issues of education and enlightenment. As mentioned earlier, we found people who built guest house on the project area and they are ready to use it as a visit-centre. Together with these people, we plan to expand educational work, both with schoolchildren, and with local hunters on the protection and rational use of biodiversity. For future work, we have support resources in the form of printed materials for the current project.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In plans for the future, we want to continue studying the biodiversity of adjacent areas of the forest-steppe zone in the Tyumen region (birds, mammals, invertebrates, plants); to receive an opportunity of support in the organization on the basis of the guest house of the visitor centre of the future protected area. Within the framework of the activity of the visitor centre, organise regular sessions with schoolchildren and local people on the issues of protection and rational use of biodiversity in the region.

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

During the project activity, we constantly talked about our results at local meetings of persons interested in conservation work, in local media, including the internet, at scientific and practical conferences. All handouts contain the Rufford Foundation logo, which underlines the importance of the project. We will continue to disseminate this information in the future.

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 time of the project implementation coincided with the calendar year. To make decisions on a number of issues in the subsoil department, it turned out to be better to apply at the end of the calendar year, so that by the middle of the next one there will be a result. This affected the administrative part of the project. However, we hope that everything will be resolved and with the continuation of the work, these items will form an integral part of the future project. In any case, we believe that the main work on this project is completed on time.

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	600	600	0	We used some part of this item to take part in local conferences.
Salaries: researcher 2 mans/4 months	400	400	0	We used some part of this item to take part in local conferences and as a salary to our driver
Salaries: hydrologis, sociologist 2 mans/1 month	100	100	0	Completely used to the item
Salaries: botanist, entomologist 2 mans/2 months	200	200	0	Completely used to the item
Field trips: vehicle depreciation 30 days	300	300	0	Completely used to the item
Field trips: petrol	400	400	0	Completely used to the item
Field trips: rent a snowmobile 5 days	200	200	0	Completely used to the item
Field trips: meals for 3 persons for 30 days and 2 persons for 10 days	1100	1100	0	Completely used to the item
Field trips: accommodation for 3 persons in March	135	135	0	Completely used to the item
Printed products: design and layout	150	150	0	Completely used to the item
Printed products: book printing - 100 pcs	600	600	0	Completely used to the item
Printed products: booklet printing - 100 pcs	100	100	0	Completely used to the item
Printed products: posler printing - 100 pcs	300	300	0	Completely used to the item
Printed products: calendar printing - 50 pcs	400	400	0	Completely used to the item
Total	4985	4985	0	

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

Sociology: conducting a questionnaire of the local population on the use of objects of animal and plant life.

Visit centre and environmental education: the technical basis of the visitor centre with multimedia equipment, standard lab equipment for practical classes with schoolchildren, support of the local community for environmental education - t-shirts, caps, diplomas of participants and more.

Continue work on publish of visual materials - the poster "Mammals of the forest-steppe zone", "Plants of the forest zone", issue of calendar for 2019 - a very good prize for participation in environmental events.

Conducting field expeditions to study the biodiversity of contiguous territories and monitoring key points in the project area.

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 the Rufford Foundation logo in all presentations at conferences and meetings with decision-makers in the region, on poster, calendar and cover of the monograph also used a logo. This makes advertising for the foundation and supports a warm attitude to the financial support of our ideas at the local government level.

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

Maksim Mitroposkiy	project leader, organizational work on project activities;
Luiza Mardonova	researcher, theriologist, photographer, designer;
Ildar Sharafutdinov	researcher, theriologist, driver;
Vitaliy Stolbov	entomologist, take part in two field expedition, prepare own part of the report;
Nataliya Hozyaynova	botanist, take part in field expedition, prepare own part of the report;
Vladimir Popov	hydrologist, prepare own part of the report;
Lyudmila Zinovkina	sociologist, prepare own part of the report;
Tatyana Lihovidova	specialist of the Department of Protected Areas in subsoil Department of the Tyumen region, our governmental free consultant;
Sergey Gashev	head of the department of zoology in Institute of biology of Tyumen State University, our scientific free consultant.

12. Any other comments?

On behalf of the project team, we would like to express our gratitude to the foundation's employees and to the employers who supporting our idea! We hope that our project report will not receive a negative evaluation and we will be able to continue our studies in the forest-steppe zone of the Tyumen region.



Entomologist, Botanist with her driver and the Zoologist.



Left: Present our calendar to one of the winner in action Big Year in Tyumen region.
Right: Our calendars Birds of forest-steppe zone of Tyumen region.