

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Ivan Zuban
Project Title	Assessment of the risks of red-breasted goose death from illegal hunting on migration routes in Kazakhstan and other countries.
Application ID	30458-B
Date of this Report	30.11.2022

1. 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
<p>Detour of famous places of migratory stops of Red-Breasted Goose.</p> <p>Production of hovels at promising places of capture.</p> <p>Feeding birds at the place of capture, installing photo traps, collecting information from photo traps about visiting birds of bait places.</p> <p>Installation of traps, catching and tagging of Red-Breasted Geese with satellite transmitters.</p>				<p>Work on the project was postponed to a later date due to quarantine measures in the region in connection with Covid-19. In spring, we managed to visit most of the previously known sites of red-breasted geese on the territory of the north Kazakhstan region. Environmental inspectors who shared information with us visited some of them. From April 26 to May 9, we also organised and carried out work on catching and tagging red-breasted geese using GPS\GSM trackers. Thanks to the attraction of additional funding, we were able to continue this work in the spring periods of 2021 and 2022, and in 3 years, we managed to tag more than 30 birds.</p>
<p>Processing and analysis of telemetry data obtained at the places of bird marking (North Kazakhstan region)</p> <p>Processing and analysis of telemetry data on migration routes from Northern Kazakhstan to nesting sites (Tundra of Russia).</p>				<p>Of the 12 birds tagged in 2020, data on movements to nesting sites were received from 11 - one transmitter stopped working at the beginning of migration. In 2021, out of 13 tagged birds, information about spring migration and movements at nesting sites was received from 10 and in 2022 from two birds.</p>
<p>Processing and analysis of data on the movement of birds at the sites of nesting and molting, as well as return migration to Northern Kazakhstan.</p>				
<p>Field monitoring of the number of red-breasted</p>				<p>Due to the restrictions associated with Covid 19, field monitoring was</p>

geese at the places of migration stops in the autumn period of 2020. Processing data on the movement of birds on the territory of Northern Kazakhstan in the autumn period, as well as to wintering sites.				partially carried out, however, in the autumn period of 2021, together with colleagues from the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, Bulgaria and Finland, it was possible to carry out full-scale monitoring of red-breasted geese within the entire north Kazakhstan migration stops.
Development of information stands. Work with the public, students and schoolchildren.				Several remote competitions and seminars were held with pupils and students. The results of the events are covered in regional and district media sources. The development of information stands was not carried out.
Placement of information stands in places of concentration of red-breasted geese. Field monitoring of the number of red-breasted geese in places of migration stops in the spring period.				Field spring monitoring was carried out in the spring periods of 2021-2022. Due to the restrictions related to Covid 19, field monitoring and placement of information stands was not carried out in 2020.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). We managed to catch and tag more than 30 red-breasted geese with satellite transmitters, as well as confirm the high level of bird deaths from poaching - about 13% of birds with transmitters were reliably killed by poachers, three were killed at wintering grounds in Romania, one at migration stops in Kazakhstan.

b). In autumn 2021, a comprehensive monitoring of the world population of red-breasted birds was carried out at migration stops in three regions of northern Kazakhstan.

c). Together with the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan and the Forestry and Hunting Committee, a national action plan for the conservation of red-breasted geese in Kazakhstan has been developed.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

The main difficulties we faced were related to restrictions on movement caused by the epidemiological situation of Covid 19. Of the planned works for the spring and autumn periods of 2020, we were only able to catch and tag red-breasted geese with satellite transmitters, because the field work permits received were limited to only one area of the region and we had no opportunity to visit other places.

In 2021, the restrictions were lifted, and we managed to conduct spring and autumn monitoring of the number of red-breasted geese throughout the north Kazakhstan migration stop.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

Pupils and students of the region were involved in the work on the project. As part of the improvement of environmental education, the working group held a remote drawing contest "Let's save the red-breasted goose" for pupils of the north Kazakhstan region (grades 1-11). Training seminars on the study and conservation of the red-breasted goose were also held for pupils of the Akkaiyn district of the north Kazakhstan region using handouts. The children were shown presentations, as well as photo and video materials. The issues of migration routes, the main threats of reducing the number of the species, as well as the results of catching and tagging red-breasted geese in 2020 in the territory of the north Kazakhstan region were discussed.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Of course, the next important stage in the conservation of red-breasted geese is the continuation of work on the national action plan:

- It is necessary to continue working with the public society to increase knowledge about red-breasted geese.
- To carry out a number of biotechnical measures to improve the quality of land at the sites of migration stops, equip them with places for bird watching for local communities, pupils and university students.
- Continue work on satellite telemetry, as well as monitoring the number of red-breasted geese at migration stops.

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

The results of our work are regularly published in the mass media. Currently a publication has been prepared a thesis for an international conference on the Geese of Northern Eurasia, and according to the results of many years of research, it is planned to publish an article in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

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

- Work with the society to increase knowledge about the red-breasted goose.
- Biotechnical measures to improve the quality of land at the places of migration stops.

- Equipment at places for observing red-breasted geese for local communities, pupils and students.
- Satellite telemetry in order to identify possible new wintering sites, - monitoring of the number of red-breasted geese on a permanent basis at migration stops.

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

The foundation's logo was used in the preparation of presentation material during seminars with pupils and students. The foundation and the name of the project were mentioned in all the media as well as in the materials of scientific theses.

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Ivan Zuban project manager.

The main contribution to the project is the organization of catching red-breasted goose, organization and participation in field expeditions to monitor the number of red-breasted geese during migrations, communication with the media, attracting additional funding to the project, processing scientific materials and preparing publications, discussion of the national action plan for the conservation of red-breasted goose in Kazakhstan, international cooperation.

Alexandr Remshov

An inspector in a hunting farm. The main contribution to the project is the organization of catching red-breasted goose, participation in field monitoring.

Vladimir Vilkov

Head of the Department of Biology, Candidate of Biological Sciences. The main contribution to the project is the organization of the catching of the red-breasted goose, the installation of satellite transmitters, participation in field observations and the preparation of scientific publications.

Mikhail Kalashnikov

He has been a biology teacher at the Tokush Gymnasium School since September 2019. The main contribution to the project is the organization of the capture of the red-breasted goose, the installation of satellite transmitters, participation in field observations, work with the public and the media.

Victoria Panchenko

He is a lecturer at the North Kazakhstan State University. The main contribution to the project is the processing of statistical data, work with the public and the media.

Konstantin Zhadan

Lecturer at the North Kazakhstan State University. The main contribution to the project is participation in field expeditions, statistical data processing, work with the public and the media.

Alexey Timoshenko

An ACBK specialist. Participated in field expeditions to catch and tag red-breasted geese with transmitters, participated in monitoring the number of red-breasted geese, participated in the discussion of the national action plan for the conservation of red-breasted goose in Kazakhstan.

10. Any other comments?

As the lead person, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the foundation for supporting the project. Thanks to your support, despite the epidemiological situation all over the world, we managed to implement almost all the tasks set. Also, on behalf of the working group, I would like to thank our colleagues from Bulgaria and Russia, Rosenfeld S., Petkov N., who have always been in touch with us, shared their experience and helped us in every possible way. I would like to express my special gratitude to the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, as well as to the North Kazakhstan Regional Territorial Inspectorate for the Protection of Wildlife, who supervised and supported us throughout the entire time of the project.

