

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.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Evgeniy Murzakhanov
Project title	School bird protector clubs (bird watching clubs) for nature protection, Russian Federation
RSG reference	27.08.2009
Reporting period	March - April
Amount of grant	£5,719
Your email address	strizh@mail.tsu.ru
Date of this report	30.04.2011

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
Purpose – attraction of local population (schoolchildren and teachers) into the process of the white-headed duck conservation by means of establishment of children's clubs of bird keepers.			×	Three extensively acting school environmental clubs were founded.
Task 1 – Determine two most suitable schools for the project realisation, and establish bird protection clubs in each of them.			×	Seven educational institutions were selected in three of which the bird watching clubs were established.
Task 2 – Provide the clubs with the required knowledge, so that they could carry out work on bird conservation in future on their own.			×	The seminar for teachers was conducted. Methodological manual were produced and distributed. Consulting meetings with three school clubs of conservation of birds were conducted.
Task 3 – Provide the clubs with equipment (binoculars, telescopes) for the observation of birds.			×	Two environmental clubs received the equipment for the observation of birds at the expense of the RSG grant funds.

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

1. The complexity of selecting a school to establish the club – in the process of the primary selection of suitable schools, seven institutions were chosen that were suitable by the main criteria of selection (experience of environmental work and active competent teachers). As the project resources were limited, we had to elaborate and apply additional criteria of assessment (the number of conducted events, number of school children, the scale of involvement of the local population, the number of publications/reports in the mass media etc.). As a result, three institutions were selected (corresponding to the criteria to the fullest extent) on the basis of which the children's clubs of protection of birds were founded.

2. Bad weather conditions during the ornithological excursion for school children – during the excursion for one of the schools the weather suddenly changed (strong wind, bad light). It did not allow us to conduct observations in the initially planned place. Nevertheless, the excursion was successfully fulfilled as we visited another wetland, where the bad weather effect was not so notable and allowed to watch the birds well.

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

1. Three children's clubs of the bird watching clubs were founded in three administrative regions of Novosibirsk oblast and Altai region. Each club received the equipment for observation and definition of birds, informational and methodical support. Ornithological excursions were conducted for each club. Currently, the established clubs actively work conducting their own environmental events (excursions, scientific investigations, actions of direct action etc.).

The active work of CC Strizh in the frameworks of this project and the project "Conservation of the white-headed duck in Russia" (at financial support of the Conservation Leadership Programme) as well as the energetic activity of school clubs allowed to achieve that 86% of the population are informed about the necessity of conservation of the white-headed duck and its habitats. In some places (Karasuk) this indicator approaches 100%.

2. The educational seminar covered all schools of the specified regions – the total number of the present was 56 people from 54 educational institutions. All of them received various informational and methodical manuals (350 discs with the film about the white-headed duck, 3000 informational books for the school children and teachers about the rare species of birds, their habitats and conservation methods, 250 DVD discs with the methodical directions regarding the specific mechanisms of the environmental work and how to find the funds to realise it). Thus, 100% of educational institutions on the project territory were covered where all the pupils and teachers got a free access to the distributed materials. The distribution of the film about the white-headed duck should be separately noted as an essential mechanism of attracting the school children to solving the problem of conservation of the rare species of birds and their habitats. The material is presented in the form clear for children that provides a complete understanding and sufficiently improves the perception of the problem and the ways of solution.

3. The primary project events (the seminar for teachers, excursions and contests for the school children) were covered in the local and regional mass media – 3 reports on TV and radio and 2 publications in the newspapers and on the video channel of CC Strizh (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ECStrizh/>).

References to some publication and video materials:

- <http://www.ria-sibir.ru/viewnews/40100.html>
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/ECStrizh#p/u/5/00Taaz9UYyY>
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/ECStrizh#p/u/7/3uLv6w8pc4E>

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

The project enabled to involve the local communities into the environmental activity directly.

1. In the course of the conducted educational seminar, 56 teachers from 54 educational institutions raised their level of knowledge regarding the specific mechanisms of the environmental work (as well as about the search for resources to organise it), that will allow them to realize the practical activity on nature protection in their region more successfully. 100% of educational institutions in the project territory were covered. Thus, the local residents (school children and teachers) improved their knowledge, and partly the practical experience on conservation of the rare species and their habitats, received methodological and information manuals that will enable them to realize the

environmental activity successfully. This circumstance is very important as the village schools are poorly provided with methodological and informational materials.

2. The large scale of distributed methodological and informational manuals (brochures, textbooks, discs with a film) enabled to cover 100% of school children and teachers in all schools of the project region. That is the local residents that did not attend the seminar also received the information required for the efficient environmental work.

3. Three ornithological excursions were conducted to acquaint the school children with the birds of the native region. One hundred school children and six teachers from three school clubs took part in the excursions. They learned about the importance of conservation of birds and their habitats. Besides, the teachers got acquainted in practice with the method of conducting ornithological excursions.

4. The coverage of work in the mass media enabled to attract the local residents who were not the direct target groups of the project to the problem of conservation of the rare species of birds and their habitats.

5. The established school clubs involve into their activity the local population (school children, parents, teachers) not covered by the project directly. The established school clubs became a stable basis for the development of the environmental work on the local level and will contribute to the formation of ecological thinking by the population.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

The Conservation centre “Strizh” intends to continue the work on the conservation education of the local population. We render regular methodical and informational support to the established school clubs. For example, in May 2011 there will be conducted two excursions for 30 school children of the Novosibirsk oblast on the wetlands with the purpose of acquainting them with the flora and fauna. In the summer of 2011 we will conduct the meetings with the local population to attract them to the establishment of protected areas. Already a second festival “The Day of the white-headed duck” is planned in Karasuk with participation of school children of the club of conservation of birds at financial support of the Conservation Leadership Programme.

Besides, we are planning to strengthen the interaction with the local educational institutions and authorities for the broad involvement of the school children to the practical activity on the nature protection through their participation in the research activity, elaboration of projects and schemes of management of populations of the rare species and their habitats, realisation of ornithological excursions, lectures, school workshop conferences and environmental contests.

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

1. The information report about the project realization was distributed among the project partners and stakeholders.

2. The project experience was covered in two conferences: III Interregional Workshop Conference “Continuous conservation education: problems, experience, prospects” and the Workshop Conference “Problems and prospects of the Biodiversity Conservation in Novosibirsk Oblast and Neighbouring Regions”. The representatives of local and regional authorities, educational, scientific and public organisations from eight regions of Russia took part in these conferences. The project

results were published in the Proceedings of the Conference “Continuous conservation education: problems, experience, prospects”.

3. The primary project events (seminar for teachers, excursions for school children) were covered in the local and regional mass media – three reports on TV and radio and two publications in the newspapers.

4. You can find the information regarding the conducted events on the web-site of the Conservation Centre “Strizh” (<http://strizh.tsu.ru/>) and other Internet-resources (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ECStrizh/>; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ecological-centr-Strizh/>).

5. The method of conducting the work on establishment of children’s environmental clubs and work with the educational institutions will be included into the collaborative monograph “The white-headed duck in Russia” (at financial support of the Conservation Leadership Programme) for distribution among the wide circles (authorities, science, public).

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

The project has been realised for 14 months (January 2010 – February 2011), which fully corresponded to the elaborated time schedule. However, due to the organisational difficulties and specific character of work with the school children and teachers, some events deviated from the elaborated time-schedule. It did not influence the general success of the project.

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.

Курс валют составил £1/45,5rub

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Transportation expenses	£870	£783,02	≥£86,98	The total distance of all trips did not exceed 8000 km. In this connection less petrol was spent than it was planned (Financial report, letter J, I). The market price of petrol when it was bought was higher than that planned in the project (Financial report, letter J, I)
Stationery	£95	£84,75	≥£10,25	The project budget was made on the basis of the market prices of Tomsk. All the goods were bought in Karasuk town (Financial report, letter C).
Shooting and issuing the video movie	£1630	£1683,52	≤£53,52	Due to bad weather conditions it took more days to shoot the video materials (Financial report, letters A, K, B).
Issue of the methodological manual for the bird protector clubs	£930	£934,6	≤£4,6	Instead of the planned 200 manuals, 3000 were issued. It was thanks to the manuals size reduction (without the reduction of its meaning content) and to the sponsor support of the

				printing company "Milon" (Financial report, letter D).
Provision the clubs of bird keepers with the equipment for observation of birds in nature	£2040	£2054,9	≤£14,94	The market price of the telescopes for the moment of purchase was higher than it was planned in the project (Financial report, letters G, H).
Consumables	£154	£171,4	≤£17,4	In connection with the price growth, the size of the daily allowance per one person a day was increased by 9% (Financial report, letters E, F).
Total	£5719	£5712,19	≤£6,81	

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

1. Conducting a large-scale informational-educational campaign "Let's Save Them!" in the next 2-3 years with the purpose of raising the environmental competence of the local population. The programme will be directed first of all at the school children and local nature users of the three key habitats of the globally rare species of birds. The distribution of methodical and informational manuals, conducting theoretical and practical seminars, lectures, excursions and contests are planned in the frameworks of the campaign. The programme should cover not less than 100% of school children living near these territories and not less than 60% of the active nature users (hunters, fishers etc.) – not less than 30-40,000 people in the total.

2. In 3-4 years it is required to establish the public environmental council at the Administration of the Novosibirsk oblast on the basis of local school clubs, non-governmental environmental organizations, representatives of science and education and develop the institute of civil society in the Altai region. On the quarterly meetings of the council there will be solved the most important environmental problems of the region (first of all, conservation of the rare species of birds and their habitats). The activity of the Council will allow first of all to optimise the interaction with the local and regional authorities, secondly, it will assist the strengthening of coordination between the society, science, education and simple residents, and thirdly, it will form an active civil position regarding the issues of nature protection.

3. A separate point should be dedicated to an exceptionally important work on increasing the area of the existing protected areas on the key places of reproduction of the globally rare species of birds and strengthening of their protective status, which will allow to conserve not only separate species, but the whole ecosystem at the same time. Taking into account the complexity of establishment of protected areas in the Russian reality, 2 protected areas are planned to be established on the territory of 2 regions of Russia.

4. In the near 2-4 years a system of ecological tourism should be launched on the south western Siberia. The territory possesses huge and so far little used touristic resources. The active development of ecotourism will firstly raise the life level of local residents which will be an incentive to conserve nature as a touristic brand, bringing benefit; secondly, it will influence the reduction of dependence of the local residents on the animal resources (fish, game) as a source of income – that is the impact of hunting and fishing on the ecosystem will be lowered; and thirdly, it will further growth of financing of the projects at the expense of sponsors and strengthening of the international co-operation.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any material produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

The logo RSGF was used in the following informational and methodical manuals, brochures, textbooks and the film about the white-headed duck. Besides, the gratitude for the financial support rendered was indicated in the reports in the mass media, informational reports about the project, at the conference.

11. Any other comments?

The reference to the brochure issued in the Framework of the project:

http://strizh.tsu.ru/upload/publications/strizh_brochure_file_11_1_6924.pdf