

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	Rovshan Abbasov
Project title	Improving Habitat for Caspian Sturgeons
RSG reference	
Reporting period	Final
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	abbasov@hotmail.com
Date of this report	October 18, 2012

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
Improving habitat conditions for sturgeons in the target region			+	In the target region this target has been achieved fully. Farmers and local communities are very pleased for created conditions that protect young sturgeons from death. However, Kura is a very big river and We were not able to launch fish protecting devices everywhere.
Awareness activities			+	We have conducted nearly 10 seminars for local communities where we talked about importance of sturgeons. Local people well understand situation around this valuable fish.
Socialisation of the problem			+	There were several short articles in the newspapers, where we have talked about the problem. This kind of activities helps to publicise the problem.
Innovation			+	It was completely innovative project for the region. We believe many people, who work in the fishing field will be very interested to make similar projects in other parts of the Kura river.
Creating government motivation		+		Government may make mandatory for farmers to launch similar devices. This problem was publicised at the national level. We have met several local and national government officials and talked about the problem. We do not doubt that these activities will give some results in the future.

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

In the first stage there was no much interest of some farmers to launch fish protecting devices. After explaining importance of these equipments, we were able to convince these people.

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

1. The most important outcome was introducing newly developed devices to farmers and officers of the Irrigation Departments. Irrigation Departments were much interested to produce these devices extensively and implement in all the inlets of withdrawal sites.

2. Farmers understood how withdrawal sites may impact life of young sturgeons. Therefore, all the farmers where we have constructed devices will keep them forever. Additionally, it is a good lesson for other farmers, who may use these devices by their own expenses.
3. It is one of the main ways to improve habitats of sturgeons in the future. Therefore, we suggest that local communities will be much interested to use devices expensively, since it may protect one of the main food sources of the community.

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

Farmers and other members of local communities are much interested to protect habitats of young sturgeons, because it enables to protect one of the food sources in the future. Hundreds of years, sturgeons and black caviar were the main income of local communities. Therefore, every community member was very interested to keep this device working. In the first stage some people we

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We have established devices only in several places. However, one may construct these devices along the whole river. Therefore, we have future plans to continue our activity and establish new devices. Also, in the future we will try to make projects with bigger scales to introduce our activity to government and national representatives.

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

I have introduced a paper into peer reviewed international journal, where result of the project will be published. Another technical report in native language was introduced to the Fish Department of the Ministry of Environment. Additionally, all the methods will be available in the Rufford Foundation website, as well as in the web site of my organisation.

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

One year was rather enough to implement this project. We could length time up to 18 month as well. I suggest 18 month would be a better period to analyse results.

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
Net boxes for gathering sucked fish into devices	1500	1500	0	
Fish preventing devices	1700	1600	100	We were able to get discount
Seminar costs	700	750	50	Seminar costs were higher that it was expected
Gasoline	*1100	1100	0	

Salaries	1000	1000	0	
Total	6000			*(800 pound from RSGF)

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

The most important activity may be extensive production and instalment of devices in all the withdrawal sites, where young fish are getting influenced by negative water withdrawals. Also, we want to share our experiences with other country researches where similar problems exist.

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 have used RSGF logo on the devices and seminars we have conducted. RSGF get publicity during the initial stages of the project, when we have installed fish protecting devices into inlets of withdrawal sites.

11. Any other comments?

This project may be implemented in other streams as well.