

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	Oleg Kashkarov
Project title	Interactive education program for Student Birdwatching Clubs – Building a new generation of conservationists in Uzbekistan
RSG reference	
Reporting period	February 2011 – March 2012
Amount of grant	£5,801
Your email address	oleg.kashkarov@iba.uz
Date of this report	July 2013

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
To set up project management			X	<p>Project management within UzSPB was successfully set up. In February 2011 Project leader conducted meeting of UzSPB staff and introduced everybody into new project. Project responsibilities were distributed among Alisher Atakhodjaev – Conservation Education Coordinator of UzSPB, Anna Ten – Important Bird Areas Program assistant of UzSPB and Akida Ismanova – accountant. Supervisors of five student birdwatching clubs of UzSPB were also informed and familiarised with project work plan. Work plan was approved and controlled by UzSPB CEO.</p> <p>Coordination with main partners of the project – National University of Uzbekistan, Bukhara, Samarkand, Karakalpak and Kokand State universities was ensured and based on memoranda of understanding. The project was also supported by Foundation for Support of NGOs and other Institutions of Civil Society at Parliament of Republic of Uzbekistan. Key information about project was published on UzSPB web page and in UzSPB quarterly Digest. 9 articles were published in such newspapers as “Molodiosh Uzbekistana”, “Zerkalo XXI”, “Pravda Vostoka” and others.</p>
To implement education programme			X	<p>Education kit including 24 interactive learning sessions on six CDs and how-to-use manual was developed, published and distributed. Sessions were structured in modules: “Computer skills”, “How to write a report”, “Biodiversity of Uzbekistan and its conservation”, “Cooperation with mass media and club development”, “Ornithology and birdwatching” and “Fundraising for NGOs and student clubs”. Starting the project we planned to develop 20 sessions but educational programme attracted much interest of students and we added four more sessions about preparing scientific report, leadership, fundraising for student clubs and conservation legislation.</p> <p>Six days training-of-trainers workshop at UzSPB office in Tashkent was organised in March 2011. We were succeeded in finding co-financing for this project. Foundation for Support of NGOs and other Institutions of Civil Society at Parliament of Republic of Uzbekistan</p>

			<p>interested in project idea and provided funds for first project workshop in February 2011. Training joined together supervisors and leaders of five student clubs. Twelve participants of training were prepared to act as trainers. After students studied five modules in their clubs UzSPB organised one more training in Tashkent. In June 2011 in Tashkent, in UzSPB office student training for 15 members of four clubs took place. The subject of the training was «Fundraising for NGOs and student clubs». In the end of the training UzSPB announced competition for two best student projects. After the training students studied module «Fundraising for NGOs and student clubs» in four UzSPB student clubs in regions and started preparing their own projects.</p> <p>On this stage of project, we lost some participants. Student birdwatching club at Kokand State university did not fulfill even two educational modules and we could not invite its members to fundraising workshop in Tashkent. Supervisor of Kokand club moved to another position and could not continue working with students. But this incident had no affect on project implementation. Starting the project, we planned to teach about 50 students from five clubs. But materials and methods of educational programme were successful enough to involve more than 80 students from 4 birdwatching clubs. Analysing the results of project UzSPB started looking for another supervisor for Kokand student club. Thanks to RSGF project Kokand club was equipped by computer set and UzSPB plans to develop this club in future.</p> <p>Implementation process at universities was regularly overlooked and supported by project leader, conservation education coordinator and heads of UzSPB branches. From November 15th-19th 2011 RSGF project leader together with conservation education coordinator of UzSPB and Important Bird Areas Program assistant visited four student clubs to overlook implementation process and provide support and assistance in preparing of student projects. During the visit UzSPB staff members participated in student trainings on fundraising module in each student club. Together with club members UzSPB staff analysed 13 project proposals prepared by students. Five most interesting and correct projects were chosen. We decided to award all of them because they contained small budget and very interesting ideas. Realisation of RSGF project had significant impact on student</p>
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			<p>birdwatching clubs network development. We noticed that thanks to the education programme project each club has its room, some office equipment, a lot of new members and support from teachers. Thanks to the training's clear structure of each club was formed. After the event grants for five student projects were awarded.</p> <p>Following projects were awarded by UzSPB/RSGF grants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. «Popularization of protection of birds in rural schools by means of nest boxes making and setting» (by «Phasianus» birdwatching club); 2. «Widening of «Phasianus» birdwatching club activity» (by «Phasianus» birdwatching club); 3. «Application of «Eco dates» manual to carrying out of International Bird Day actions» (by «Flamingo» birdwatching club); 4. «Researching of nesting birds' fauna in neighborhood of Akpetkiy lake system» (by «Otus» birdwatching club); 5. «Researching of ecology and terms of migration of waterbirds in lower part of Zarafshan River» (by «Ivolga» birdwatching club).
<p>To carry out monitoring and evaluation of project development</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>All training and meetings were evaluated by feedback questionnaires which shown really high level of interest to the programme from students. Materials of the programme were very interesting and new even for teachers of universities. Most of them had poor computer skills and knew nothing about fundraising before the project. The most interesting sessions for most of participants were about cooperation with mass media and fundraising for NGOs and student clubs.</p> <p>Student conference was the best way for students to demonstrate their new skills and knowledge to their colleagues and teachers. On February 25th, 2012 on the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Samarkand State University III Republican student conference took place. It joined together 46 students and teachers from universities of four regions of Uzbekistan. The programme of the conference consisted of four parts. In the first part Dean of Samarkand University and Chairman of Samarkand branch of UzSPB made a speech and noticed that the education programme fills up the gap in education process in universities. In the next part leaders of five student projects made presentations about idea, goal and objectives of each project. A good team for each project was formed.</p>

			<p>In the third part of the conference projects team members gave reports about first results of their projects. Ideas for some projects appeared on basis of previous field researches. Students told about results of expeditions in the framework of CLP/SOS Project «Survey of three potential Important Bird Areas in collaboration with students in Uzbekistan». Leader of «Otus» student birdwatching club demonstrated short movie about his club activities. In the fourth part of conference educational materials for «Bird of the Year» campaign was presented. All participants also got diplomas and mugs with RSGF and UzSPB logos. Finishing the conference club supervisors made a speech. They said that thanks to the education programme student clubs obtained significant results. They were shown in interesting student presentations. This objective is not fully achieved still because two student projects are in progress now. When we have final report of all five-student project evaluation of project will be more complete.</p>
<p>To publish results and disseminate best practice</p>		<p>X</p>	<p>Best-practice-guide with materials of six educational modules was published in Russian and Uzbek in 150 copies circulation. It was widely distributed among all UzSPB student clubs, universities, environmental NGOs and state conservation organizations. The issue was also financed by Foundation Supporting NGOs at Parliament of Uzbekistan. Students use it acting as trainers of their club members.</p> <p>Nine articles were published in such newspapers as “Molodiosh Uzbekistana”, “Zerkalo XXI”, “Pravda Vostoka”, and “Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan”. Students published articles about their work on the project in newspapers of National University of Uzbekistan and Karakalpak State University. Web-portal Econews was also one of informational partner of our project. Methods and results of realised project were published in three local and international scientific collected articles. Reports about results of the project were made on such scientific conferences as “Topical problems of biodiversity conservation” (Tashkent, 2011), “Topical problems of studying and conservation of fauna of Uzbekistan” (Tashkent, 2011) and “Biology of the Future: traditions and innovations” (Yekaterinburg, 2010).</p>

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

The most important difficulty which we faced during the project was cotton harvesting campaign. In Uzbekistan this campaign is organising twice a year and involves educational institutions. In autumn and spring all students and teachers from universities in regions must participate in cotton harvesting. Educational process practically stops for a long period. For example, in Nukus State University it takes about 4 months a year. It was not easy for chairman of UzSPB branches in regions to release some students from cotton in terms of training and educational sessions on the project. This difficulty was tackled by negotiations with administrations, rectors and deans of universities. MOUs signed between UzSPB and universities promoted this process. Our project had also very high priority and support of state administration on different levels. Because it was co-financed and supported by Foundation for Support of NGOs and other institutions of Civil Society at Parliament of Uzbekistan.

In student clubs in Samarkand, Bukhara and Nukus Universities there is no Internet access practically. The problem is not for clubs particularly but for universities and cities on the whole. Internet in regions is still limited and expensive enough. We tried to use telephone communication to cooperate with project participants regularly.

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

1. Realisation of RSGF project had significant impact on student birdwatching clubs network development. Student projects shown high level of motivation in nature conservation and gave them chance to use gained knowledge.
2. Realisation of the project matched educational process in universities in the field of nature conservation. Our methods were timely and were approved by students, teachers, deans and rectors of four universities. Education kit and best practice guide became the most complete guides for modern environmental education for Faculties of Natural and Biological Sciences in Uzbekistan.
3. Eighty young conservationists were prepared and now work in scientific, conservation organizations and universities. They increased the number of qualified employees in nature conservation organisations in Uzbekistan.

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

Our project was not aimed at local communities but student projects supporting and financing by UzSPB/RSGF had significant impact on local people in villages and regions. Project ideas were directed on species conservation and rising awareness.

In May 2012, six members of "Otus" student club at Karakalpak State University carried out surveys on Ashikul and Akshoky lakes in Karakalpakstan in the framework of project "Research of nesting birds in neighbourhood of Akpetkiy lake system". Basing on collected data participants of the project prepared ecological evaluation of rare and threatened bird species in Akpetkiy lake system and developed recommendations for their protection.

In Samarkand supervisor and members of "Flamingo" student birdwatching club realised project aimed at implementation of "Eco dates" manual. On April 1st, 2013 students organised celebration of International Bird Day on Faculties of History and Philology in Samarkand State University as well on University Avenue. Club members used different methods to celebrate this ecological date, described in manual: bird counting in town, interactive lessons in classroom, bird watching in "Date with nature" format. Variety of actions allowed attracting more than 60 students and grown-ups. Experience gained by participants of the project during this action was used on May 14th, 2013 to organise World Migratory Bird Day in Samarkand. Thanks to this event more than 40 students knew about difficulties which birds face flying over different countries.

Another student project which gave good results is realising by "Phasianus" student club. It's directed at popularisation of protection of birds in rural schools by means of nest boxes making and fixing. In the framework of project's first stage in Kumishkan village in Tashkent region educational activities for student of 7th and 8th years of school №13 were organised. More than 50 schoolchildren were involved in this action. Programme was divided into three parts. In first 2 days during lessons and discussions in classroom children knew a lot about birds, their living, migration and nests building. Toshmamatov Sherzod, member of project team told about different types of nest boxes. On the next day participants of the meeting knew about bird species dwelling in Uzbekistan and about rare and endangered birds included in the Red Data Book. Discussion was accompanied by active games. Members of "Phasianus" club together with schoolchildren constructed different types of nest boxes. On the third day they fixed them on trees in garden. Children also knew about white-winged Woodpecker, the species which was chosen as a central figure of Bird of the Year campaign in 2012. Presentation about this bird was shown to participants. After these children draw Woodpeckers and passed their drawings for participation in UzSPB contest. In October 2012 members of "Phasianus" club visited Hisorak village in Tashkent region and organized the same meeting with children of school №29.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Project of education programme has enough sustainability and its realisation is going on after official finishing. Thanks to the project we developed new approach of conservation education through student birdwatching clubs. Modules and sessions developed by UzSPB will be implementing in clubs year after year because new members enter clubs and old members can teach them. Moreover, we plan to develop new modules, for example about developing Action Plans for not protected territories. To continue the work on educational programme UzSPB will organize one more student conference which will take place in 2013 in Nukus State University. In October project leader together with conservation education coordinator of UzSPB plan to visit all student clubs to support education process. Education process in student club at Kokand State University will be recommenced. One more club at Namangan State University will be opened.

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

We shared results of the project with all 250 UzSPB members through reports, quarterly Digests, UzSPB web page and publications in press.

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 Rufford Foundation grant was used in its terms practically. It was started in February 2011 and finished in March 2012 according to funding agreement. We have implemented practically all activities mentioned in our project plan in terms. We also had some economy because Uzbek Parliamentary Foundation Supporting NGOs supported our education programme and financed publishing of best practice guide and training. UzSPB decided to use the rest of the money for organizing visiting centre in Tashkent Botanical garden. This work took much more time than we planned because our office had to move to another building.

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
Computer set for birdwatching clubs	400	436	36	It was more expensive because of rise in prices for computers
HP color printer	120	184	64	It was more expensive because of rise in prices for office equipment
White board	80	0	80	Funded by Foundation for Support NGOs and other Institutions of Civil Society at Parliament of Republic of Uzbekistan
Travel to 7 days training-of-trainers workshop in Tashkent	650	0	650	Funded by Foundation for Support NGOs and other Institutions of Civil Society at Parliament of Republic of Uzbekistan
Accommodation, coffee break for participants of 7 days training-of-trainers workshop in Tashkent	435	0	435	Funded by Foundation for Support NGOs and other Institutions of Civil Society at Parliament of Republic of Uzbekistan
Travel and subsistence of project coordinator and UzSPB conservation education coordinator to clubs with the purpose to support education process	750	461	289	More economical way of travelling by trains and taxis was chosen
Travel to 4-day interim meeting and fundraising workshop for trainers and most active students at UzSPB office in Tashkent	350	218	132	More economical way of travelling by trains and taxis was chosen
Accommodation, coffee break for participants of interim meeting and fundraising workshop in Tashkent	350	857	507	Accommodation was more expensive than we planned. But we could pay expenses thanks to economy on other items

Travel to final student conference in Bukhara	350	394	44	One more participant who was interested in opening student club at Namangan State University joined us
Accommodation, coffee break for participants of final student conference in Bukhara	100	473	373	Accommodation was more expensive than we planned. But we could pay expenses thanks to economy on other items
Education programme kit: CD + how-to-use manual and Best-practice-guide with materials of educational program (300 pages of A5 format)	625	0	625	Funded by Foundation for Support NGOs and other Institutions of Civil Society at Parliament of Republic of Uzbekistan
PR material: mugs, folders, notebooks, banner with project logo	675	431	244	Our partners from publishers made good discount for us
Grants for five best student projects	400	828	428	Having economy on other items and many real good project proposals from students we decided to support not two but five best student projects
Copies, paper, phone and internet costs, CD discs	240	184	56	We used paper and printing more sustainable than planned before
Bank charges (5% of total sum)	276	0	276	No bank charges because we got money in cash and through funding agreement with our partner - RSPB
Total	5801	4466	1335	We agreed to use these funds for establishing ecological path in Botanical garden in Tashkent

We had significant economy as a result. These funds are using now for establishing visiting centre in Tashkent Botanical garden. More detail budget on project with local currency exchange rate and items description can be found in attachment.

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

Achieving sustainability of effect from realised project should be the most important next step in this work. To do this we try to manage club supervisors and motivate club leaders to pass their knowledge gained thanks to project to new club members.

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 all PR materials produced during the project. We produced mugs, folders, notebooks, badges and certificates for all participants from students as well as from teachers. We also produced banner for conference. We didn't send these materials to Rufford but

you can see them on photo in attachment. All project activities were covered in four issues of UzSPB quarterly Digest which were distributed among all 250 UzSPB members.

11. Any other comments?

Thanks to the project of education programme we prepared large number of young conservationists which are ready to work as volunteers in our Society. Our office moved to Tashkent Botanical Garden now. It is a natural territory in the centre of city and has a big potential as a visitor centre. Hundreds of visitors, most of them are young people come to Botanical garden every day. But potential of this territory was not used still. Now we organise ecological path together with members of "Phasianus" birdwatching club there. For example we developed and placed first information board with description of future visitor centre, information about UzSPB and its activities, pictures and list of bird species dwelling in garden. Format of visitor centre was developed on base of examples from RSPB reserves. Administration of botanical garden supports our activities.