

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	Sevinj Sarukhanova
Project title	Conservation of Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) in Azerbaijan
RSG reference	9397-1
Reporting period	February 2011- December 2011
Amount of grant	£5,950
Your email address	sevinj_sarukhanova@aos.az
Date of this report	14 March 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
Establishing of project coordination.	-	-	+	During February-April 2011 project team was established. This team included Sevinj Sarukhanova (coordinator), Tahir Kerimov, Sevinj Mirzoyeva, Sevinj Humbatova, Elchin Sultanov and Arzu Mammadov (field researchers, two last persons participated voluntarily).
Purchasing the necessary equipment	-	-	+	Necessary equipment: one telescope for conducting of field work was purchased.
Conducting of field surveys	-	-	+	Finding of nests of Egyptian Vulture (EV) was conducted mainly between April and June 2011. For finding of nesting places we used questionnaire and literature data about preferable habitats for nesting of EV. In general 51 field days were spent for this project. Monitoring of breeding success was conducted during July just before nestlings leave the nests (as rule in beginning or middle of August) and some new nests were found too.
Analysing of obtained data which gathered during of field surveys	-	-	+	Our research show that not less than 51 pairs of Egyptian vulture breed in Azerbaijan. Their distribution is as follows: Gobustan - 10 pairs (20%), Agdash-Goychay 23 (45%), Ajonohur 3(5%) and Nakhchivan 15 (30%). Taking in account that high density of birds in some areas (Agdash-Goychay area, for example) where up to 7-9 nests can be located around just one village (Savalan, Beyli etc.), we can estimate real number of nesting pairs is 4-5 times more, up to 200-500 pairs.
Creation of map of distribution of species on the base of collected data with help of GIS programmes.	-	-	+	Using programme Google Earth, the maps of EV nest distribution with exact coordinates were prepared

Preparation and publication of informational leaflet about key species and its habitat	-	-	+	1500 examples of informational leaflet on Egyptian Vulture were prepared and printed. Leaflet includes world distribution map of Egyptian Vulture, pictures of old and young birds, typical nest in caves and description of main features of plumage, size, migratory status, breeding (nesting time, size of clutch, hatching and nestling time duration), food and feeding details, conservation status etc.
Distribution of informational leaflet	-	-	+	Distribution of informational leaflet was conducted during all expeditions everywhere we had searching for Egyptian Vulture nests. Besides special expedition for distribution of leaflet to Shirvan town and Hajigabul district around this town was conducted in December 2012 because this town locate quite close to nest Gobustan-10 in Hajigabul district.
Work with Mass Media - Conducting of press releases and press conference about project success.	-	-	+	During all project work regular contacts with representatives of mass media occurred. As a result, three articles in newspaper Zerkalo were published about main tasks of project and results of different expeditions. Finally, press conference for representatives of mass media was organised in office of Azerbaijan Ornithological Society in Baku 14 October 2011. Results of project were reflected in newspapers "Zerkalo", "Azerbaijanskiye Izvestiya", informational website: www.salamnews.az etc.
Prepare and send the financial and activity report	-	-	+	This activity report is finished 14 March 2012 and sent to Rufford Foundation together with financial report with scanned copies of all receipts.

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

We had not unforeseen difficulties.

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

- Informational leaflet about Egyptian Vulture - leaflet includes some important information about Egyptian Vulture. It helps to initial for the conservation of this species.
- Database about Egyptian Vulture – it was created on the base of field surveys. Database includes distribution exactly, coordinates of nests, population size and threats for Egyptian Vulture.
- Project Report - which included all activities.

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

Representatives of local communities were involved in conservation work for Egyptian Vulture. Their representatives participated in field study stages and helped to find nests and conduct monitoring in all sites and regions where survey was conducted. Discussion about importance of conservation of threatened species were organised during the field work and in local schools, leaflet on EV was distributed (1500 examples).

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, our team plan continues conservation work for Egyptian Vulture on areas not covered by project (Lesser Caucasus, high mountains of Greater Caucasus, Talish mountains etc.).

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

Main results of project are reflected in brochure: [E.H. Sultanov, T.A Kerimov, A.F. Mammadov, A.S. Samadov, Sh. A. Isayev, and G.N. Gabrayilli. 2011. Imperial Eagle, Egyptian Vulture and Lesser Kestrel in Azerbaijan, Nakhchivan, Tusi, 78, p., ISBN 978-9952-8037-1-6 (in Azerbaijani)]. Brochure was distributed in all main libraries of Azerbaijan and relevant organisations; besides we plan preparation of scientific article in English for publication in some international ornithological journal.

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

Project was implemented in planned time and all results were ready to October 2012. Final report was prepared in time in limits of 6 months after finishing of all work.

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
Expeditions	3150	3258,76	-108,76	Small overexpenses occurred connected with unpredictability exact number of days for necessary field work (weather conditions, etc. Can influence on

				duration of work).
Equipment	1000	1000,08	-0,8	-
Print of media (leaflet)	1500	1511,93	-11,93	-
Post-project expenses (preparation of report)	300	299,24	+0,76	
-	-	-	-	All overexpenses were covered at the expense of Azerbaijan ornithological Society
Total	5950	6070,01	-120,01	

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

Firstly, we need finish work for number and distribution of EV in Azerbaijan and then create site support groups from local communities on all most important sites for conservation of this species.

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?

RSGF logo was used on printed leaflet on EV and was distributed in 1500 examples.

11. Any other comments?

This project was quite helpful for initiating of conservation work for Egyptian Vulture in Azerbaijan and had given excellent base for estimation total number of EV and main threats for this species in Azerbaijan.