



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. 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. 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	Saving small streams for sturgeons
RSG reference	16927-2
Reporting period	2015-09-01, 2016-08-25
Amount of grant	£4950
Your email address	Abbasov@hotmail.com
Date of this report	2016-08-25

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
Creation of school curricula materials for secondary schools			● <input type="checkbox"/>	Two lesson plans was created and introduced to the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan. These lesson plans has already been applied in two pilot schools
Increase stakeholders' knowledge about the current issues around sturgeons			● <input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Several meeting were held with upstream stakeholders. Local farmers at withdrawal points, foresters, and schoolchildren were informed about the current problems of sturgeons. Meetings were held with water supply and irrigation companies.</p> <p>A stakeholder workshop was held at the upstream regions of small streams, where sturgeons migrate to the very reaches of small streams. Totally 50 farmers have participated in the workshop. 25 farmers are agreed to install sturgeon protection devices at their own costs. This can be considered a great success for the project.</p>
Wide implementation of sturgeon protection devices			● <input type="checkbox"/>	Sturgeon protection devices that protect young sturgeons from being sucked into water withdrawal pipes were introduced to the farmers and water supply companies. In upstream regions, several farmers expressed their interests to use these kind of devices. 25 protection devices have been installed in withdrawal points. Also, during the meeting in the Ministry of Environment, we raised a question concerning

				<p>enforced use of protection devices. Ministry officials says that there is no production of these devices in Azerbaijan. Therefore, at this stage would be difficult to assign enforced use. However, Ministry of Environment recently working on a programme that would support wide implementation of protection devices.</p>
Promotion for future activities			<p>● <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Together with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, We will try to develop a mechanism to implement enforced use of sturgeon protection devices</p> <p>Together with Azeru and Amelioraiton Companies (these companies are main water users) and local communities We will try to launch water saving technologies at household level. Also, water saving technologies can be used in agriculture. Both ways will reduce water withdrawals.</p>

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

There were no unforeseen problems. At the initial stage we had some problems with bank. But, later this problem was quickly solved.

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

1. Development of curricula materials that currently use by two pilot schools. These curriculum materials will forever increase knowledge of schoolchildren about sturgeons
2. Considerable advancement in wide use of sturgeon protection devices. 25 protection devices were installed at water withdrawal points. In addition, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan started to work on the mechanism that

will enable enforced use of protection devices. This advancement promises important changes around sturgeon protection in the future.

3. A small scale stakeholder workshop was held at the areas, where sturgeons migrate to high reaches of small streams. Totally 50 farmers and 10 school teachers have participated in the workshop. 25 farmers are agreed to install sturgeon protection devices at their own costs. This can be considered a great success for the project. Local department representatives of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources attended the workshop.

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

1. As a result of intensive meeting with upstream communities, 25 small scale protection devices were installed at water withdrawal points. This enable to protect more than 2500 young sturgeons at every withdrawal point annually. Developed curricula materials were introduced to two pilot schools and currently used to increase knowledge of local children about sturgeons.

2. The protection of sturgeons and small streams in upstream regions will increase esthetical values of the region that will in turn promote ecological tourism in the region.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We are going to conduct intensive activities in the future as well. Water withdrawals are the main danger for sturgeons. Firstly, any withdrawal reduces available water in the river, secondly sturgeons are being sucked into the withdrawal pipes. Existing irrigation methods as well as water use technics are the main causes of big scale water withdrawals. In addition, local people have no enough incentive to reduce withdrawn water through water savings at household level. We are going to conduct large-scale activities that would help communities to reduce water withdrawals. Water saving technologies, reduction of unnecessary water withdrawals, implementation of drip irrigation in agriculture are the main ways to reduce future water withdrawals.

In addition, together with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural resources, we are going to work on the procedure to make possible enforced use of protection devices. Also, we want to improve these devices and give them to large-scale production.

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

Our work results shared with country's general public. Several times local newspapers published materials about the project. In addition, results of the work were shared with the community and governmental institutions. Rovshan Abbasov in September of 2016 will visit Caucasus Mountain Conference, where He will have a presentation about Ecosystem Values of small streams that support sturgeon migration. In that conference, Rovshan Abbasov will give an extensive information about the project as well.

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

The project started in September 1st 2015 and finished in August 25th 2016. One year was enough to conduct activities that aimed to reach project objectives. Anticipated and actual lengths of the project are almost the same.

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
Leaflets	600	500	+100	
Travels	1500	1600	0	
Workshop	950	1000	-50	
Gasoline	250	200	+50	Reduced gasoline prices
Field costs	500	550	-50	Unexpected increase in costs
Salaries	1200	1150	+50	
TOTAL	5000	5000	0	

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

1. Wide implementation of sturgeon protection devices through enforced use of protection devices.
2. Reduction of water withdrawals through effective water use at household level and implementation of water saving technologies in agriculture.



**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?**

In All materials and works RSGF logo has been used

11. Any other comments?

Thank you for your collaboration and we are looking to hearing your comments regarding our project results.