

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	Zhaskairat Nurmukhambetov
Project title	Creating of supplemental feeding sites for the conservation of vulture's population in Ustyurt State Nature Reserve, Kazakhstan
RSG reference	19250-1
Reporting period	March 2016- January 2017
Amount of grant	£ 5000
Your email address	zhaskairat-84@mail.ru
Date of this report	28 January 2017

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
Clarification regarding possible use of veterinary diclofenac for livestock treatment in Kazakhstan.				In our request to the Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture regarding the use of veterinary diclofenac, we received a positive response that this drug is not used for livestock treatment in Kazakhstan.
Supplying 2-3 supplementary feeding sites at the territory of the reserve with offal and other animal by-products. (April-October 2016).				In the period from April to November 2016 more than 600 kg of offal in total was distributed among three feeding sites each of which was visited during the course of 11 field trips. On average, every time at each site we left out about 20 kg of offal. Interval between the offal disposals was approximately 15-20 days.
Monitoring at feeding sites with the use of viewing hides and camera traps. Conducting a vulture nest counting survey at the territory of the reserve.				During our observations, we received some thousands of camera trap photos, most of which proved to be informative – these included images of mammals as well as birds. Among other species recorded, we obtained many photos of Egyptian vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) and some photos of black vulture

			<p>(<i>Aegypius monachus</i>) and griffon vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>). In May-June 2016, we conducted vulture/birds of prey nest counting survey. Gathered data allows us objectively to assess the population status of vulture species in the Reserve.</p>
Popularization of vultures among local people in Mangistau and Kazakhstan.			<p>A poster on vultures of the Ustyurt Reserve was published and currently is being distributed to environmental and educational organisations. Project information has been posted on website of Ustyurt State Nature Reserve. Two popular science articles were prepared for publishing.</p>
Finding partners to continue work on the study and conservation of vultures in Kazakhstan			<p>We started working on this issue with the Association for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK), which is also planning a similar project on vulture feeding in southern Kazakhstan. Also we informed Vulture Conservation Fund (http://www.4vultures.org/) about our project results.</p>

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

Unfortunately, we haven't managed to find partners among local tour companies to establish additional feeding sites for vultures outside the Ustyurt Reserve with the aim of attracting bird watchers to Mangistau region.

We also were unable to organise adequate monitoring of vultures from viewing hides, because in windy weather, the tents used as viewing hides made a noise and frightened the birds. In the future, we are planning to build stationary hides near vulture feeding sites.

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

- 1) Three supplementary feeding sites have been established at the project area. In the period from April to November 2016 more than 600 kg of offal in total was distributed among feeding sites. All disposed carrion has been successfully removed by scavengers (mammals and birds, including vultures).
- 2) Using camera traps at feeding sites, we received some thousands of photos, about 80% of which proved to be informative – these included images of mammals as well as birds. Among other species recorded, we obtained many photos of Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and some photos of black vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) and griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*).
- 3) As a result of our work on popularization of vultures in Kazakhstan: a poster on vultures of the Ustyurt Reserve was published and currently is being distributed to target groups, two articles were prepared for publishing, project information has been posted on website of the reserve. We began to establish initial contacts with nature conservation organizations in Kazakhstan and overseas to continue work on the study and conservation of vultures.

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

Two regional organizations showed an interest in our project: a company called "Tourist" which organizes ecological tours in Mangistau Region and management of Regional Nature Park "Kyzylsai", where vultures may also be occur. In addition, we have established a partnership with the Association for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK), which is also planning a similar project on vulture feeding in southern Kazakhstan.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

We are pleased with the results of this project and hope to continue this work in the coming years.

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

Project information has been posted on website of Ustyurt State Nature Reserve (<http://www.ustirt.kz/?lang=ru>).

Two popular science articles were prepared for publishing in the journal «Raptors Conservation» (<http://rrcn.ru/ru/zhurnal-pernatyie-hishhniki>) and ACBK online bulletin "Green World" (<http://www.acbk.kz/ru/pages/181.html>) the articles were submitted to the editorial office and will appear in the coming issues. A poster on vultures of the Ustyurt Reserve (500 copies of A2 format) was published and currently is being distributed to target groups (<https://cloud.mail.ru/public/6kbV/KJS3hw3NE>).

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

We used the Rufford Foundation grant over the period of March 2016 – December 2016, as it was initially planned.

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
Travel expenses	800	700	-100	
Per Diems	2100	2100	0	
Camera traps	810	810	0	
Offal/other animal by-products	260	630	+370	The initial calculation was based on the assumption that we would lay out about 10 kg of offal at each feeding site, On the first trip, we decided to increase a volume of disposed carrion up to 20 kg.
Fuel	520	470	-50	
Tents to arrange viewing hides	100	80	-20	
Containers to transport offal	100	40	-60	
Poster printing	200	130	-70	
Miscellaneous	110	40	-70	
Total	5000	5000	0	

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

We will continue informing the public about the results of our project and to find partners to continue work on the study and conservation of vultures in Kazakhstan.

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 the RSGF logo on our poster «Vultures of Ustyurt State Nature Reserve». During the course of our work, we have always mentioned RSGF as a project sponsor.

11. Any other comments?

Working with vultures and establishment of artificial feeding sites in the Ustyurt State Nature Reserve was something new for us and this work was done for the first time in Kazakhstan.

We are sincerely thankful to Rufford Small Grants Foundation for supporting our project and hope to continue our cooperation.