

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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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](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Rovshan Abbasov
Project title	Developing fish passages in outlet parts of small mountain streams
RSG reference	24738-B
Reporting period	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2018-20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
Amount of grant	£10,000
Your email address	<a href="mailto:abbasov@hotmail.com">abbasov@hotmail.com</a>
Date of this report	September 23, 2019

**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
Provision of reliable routes for fishes to enter from the sea into the rivers				The target area was checked as to the possibilities to construct fish ladders between upstream and downstream.
Construction of small fish passages				Four small scale fish ladders on water withdrawal dams that block fish migration routes were built. These fish ladders provide high water tables allowing fish move to the streams and upstream.
Further promotion of fish protecting devices				Fish protection devices were installed to several withdrawal sites. The Ministry of Ecology and natural Resources approved implementation of these devices.
Active involvement of local communities				Four community workshops have been conducted in regions close to reservoirs, where fish ladders built.

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

There were not unforeseen difficulties during the project. We planned everything according to the project programs. Although there are minor difficulties in organisational matters, we have been able to overcome them successfully.

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

Our idea included construction of small-scale fish ladders that make connections between downstream and upstream part of dams. The idea was fully implemented. Four small-scale ladders (two of them were earth-based ladders) were constructed between upstream and downstream that make it easy for fish to pass from downstream to upstream. Currently, all the passages are in good shape and provide the perfect conditions for the unrestricted movement of fish from downstream to upstream and back.

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

Simultaneously we planned to conduct wide scale awareness activities among local communities to construct similar passages or update their water channel that serves as irrigation channels. As a result, 10 communities accepted our idea, providing

necessary updates in their water withdrawal points of their channels. In addition, we have involved school children to awareness activities and conducted additional event in schools.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

In the future We want to involve local schoolchildren to the process of protection sturgeons. This idea combines both the conservation of fish and the implementation of large-scale educational activities.

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

N/A

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

N/A

**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
Workshops	1400	1450	+50	Some expenses related to the transport were higher than expected. External amounts are not included.
Site visits	1000	1050	+50	Some expenses related to the transport were higher than expected. External amounts are not included.
Salaries	1600	1500	-100	We reduced salaries and increased external amounts, because transport expenses were higher than expected.
Fish ladder materials	6000	6000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>		

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

The next steps should cover wider activities. This should include extensive work with communities, school students and local governments. We want the local communities to better understand the importance of the species. We want the community not to regard fish as a lucrative activity and realise its natural importance.

We also want to involve school students in the conservation of sturgeon. We also plan to set up small aquariums for small fish in schools.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did The Rufford Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

In all the stages of the project we have used Rufford logos. The Rufford Foundation was mentioned in all the meetings we have conducted at local level.

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

**Rovshan Abbasov**, PhD. Rovshan Abbasov oversaw all activities within this project. He planned all activities, which were implemented under his close supervision.

**Elkhan Bayramov**. He managed field activities and oversaw construction of passages.

**Gulnur Salmanova** and **Mehriban Kazimova** communicated with local communities and involved women to the project activities. They both closely worked with local women and schoolchildren.

**12. Any other comments?**

Although the project finished, the activities are continuing, and We believe that there will be long-term improvements in sturgeon migration routes.

Pictures:

During construction; Upstream-downstream passage; Adjusted withdrawal point and Pond in the outhead of the passage.



