

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-061
Project Title	Important Bird Area conservation and capacity building in Central Asia
Country(ies)	Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
UK Organisation	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK
Collaborator(s)	Kazakhstan: The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) Uzbekistan: The Uzbekistan Zoological Society (UZS) Turkmenistan: Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan / Turkmenistan Society for Nature Conservation
Report date	31.10.2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1 (project start was 1st November 2005)</i>
Project website	www.iba.uz for Uzbekistan and soon (late autumn 2006) www.acbk.kz

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

In the past 6 months the project continued to develop as planned and almost all activities have been implemented according to the baseline timetable for the project.

- An “IBA criteria and methods application manual” has been compiled in Russian and English, printed and disseminated to project collaborators
- The first 18 IBA data sets have been sent for approval to the BirdLife Secretariat in Cambridge.
- About 40 Percent (106 sites) of candidate sites (216 sites) are already confirmed as IBA’s, the IBA data sheets are currently translated into English and will be inserted in new (online based) version of the BirdLife IBA database in December 06 and January 07
- 50 students are part of a regular training programme and 20 of them already take part in professional fieldwork (2 as part of the Sociable Lapwing Darwin Project on various trips and expeditions. The Uzbekistan partner produced a film to attract students to field work training and conducted a number of information and training events to inform about IBA work at university level. As part of the IBA project already two ornithological student groups emerged in Uzbekistan at Samarkand and Tashkent university.
- Large-scale fieldwork has been conducted throughout all seasons of 2006 to complete gaps of knowledge on IBA candidate sites delivering high-quality new data
- The Kazakhstani part of the IBA project was officially presented (together with the Sociable Lapwing Darwin Project) as part of the Queen’s birthday celebrations at an highly official event organised by the British Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan. The event was attended by key project staff. At the event the British Ambassador, Paul Brummell, supported the project by taking part in an official press conference at an ACBK reception in Almaty.

