



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

27th March 2013

Letter of support – Institute of Hydrobiology & Ecology, Almaty, Kazakhstan

To whom it may concern,

I am happy to provide a statement in support of the ecological consultancy/research organisation known as the Institute of Hydrobiology and Ecology (IHE), led by Dr Mirgaliy Baimukanov. The School of Biology at the University of Leeds, UK, has worked with Dr Baimukanov since 2004 on research, training, policy and public science communication projects relating to Caspian seals in Kazakhstan.

Dr Baimukanov and IHE have been a very effective partner, and we would not have been successful without their highly professional logistical support and contributions to the research. At the start of the work in 2004 the IHE team had no experience of marine mammal research techniques, but through collaborating with our international research group, they have now gained a very good level of competence in several aspects of seal research including aerial population surveys and non-lethal methods for capturing and handling seals necessary for health studies and deploying satellite telemetry tags used in migration studies.

Our research studies together have been very effective in generating much new scientific knowledge on Caspian seals which has been presented at international research conferences, contributed to several current and planned peer reviewed research papers, plus reports for oil companies and other Caspian stakeholders. IHE also participated in the development of Caspian-wide and Kazakh national conservation policy development for Caspian seals through the UNDP Caspian Environment Programme, and in reporting directly to the Kazakh government.

All aspects of IHE business conduct are highly professional, including financial management, logistical support, personnel conduct, and delivery of reports.

I would be happy to provide any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. J. Goodman'.

Dr Simon Goodman

Lecturer in Evolutionary Biology
Tel: +44-(0)113-3432561, Fax: +44-(0)113-3432835
Skype: simon.j.goodman, Email: s.j.goodman@leeds.ac.uk
<http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk>