



2019  
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## **Snow leopard in Tian Shan**

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## A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5411
GEF ID	6958
Title	Conservation of globally important biodiversity and association land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain ecosystems and support to sustainable livelihoods.
Country(ies)	Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyzstan
UNDP-GEF Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Project Implementing Partner	KGZ10 (Kyrgyzstan)
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size

Project Description
<p>The project is focused on biodiversity, land and forest resources in Western Tian Shan in Kyrgyzstan. Aim of the project on key biodiversity areas is establishing new formal PAs for underrepresented globally significant species and strengthening the key existing PAs, with special focus on Western Tian. The project will build capacities of the SAEPP Department of Protected Areas.</p> <p>It will ensure continuity and congruence between KBAs and use of land and forest resources in wider productive landscapes. The project creates new and strengthens PAs at a total area of 226,621 ha (which includes 25,000 of High Conservation Value Forests) and creates wildlife corridors and buffer zones at a total area of 50,000 ha. The direct effect thus is 0.28 mln ha.</p> <p>The project will further support work on improvement and sustainable use of pastures. The total area of pastures in the region exceeds 0.6 mln ha; the project aims to restore at least 65,000 ha of degraded pastures in Toktogul and Togustorous districts.</p>

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**B. Overall Ratings**

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate

## C. Development Progress

Description					
Objective					
To promote a landscape approach to protection of internationally important biodiversity, and land and forest resources in the Western Tian Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2018	Cumulative progress since project start
<p>1. Trend in population levels of globally significant fauna (Red List, ecosystem indicator or keystone species) in Jalal-Abad province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>)</li> <li>- Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>)</li> <li>- Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</li> <li>- Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Negative trend over the past 25 years of individuals that are present at least sometime during the year in Jalal-Abad province. Number of individuals and annual rate of change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 49;</li> <li>- Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 4116;</li> <li>- Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 31;</li> <li>- Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>): 197;</li> </ul>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>Population trend is at least stable over a rolling five-year period. Number of individuals and annual rate of change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 49; &gt;0%</li> <li>- Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 4839; &gt;3%</li> <li>- Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 40; &gt;1%</li> <li>- Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>): 256; &gt;5%</li> </ul>	<p>Key activities in the reporting period included:</p> <p>1. Series of meetings and consultations with the key partners and government counterparts resulted in agreeing on types of methodologies to be used and applied during monitoring of Snow leopard. The project supported the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry to develop a Snow leopard conservation plan for 2018-2021, which became now a part of the National Biodiversity Conservation Plan for 2018-2023.</p> <p>2. An inventory of Ibex, Golden eagle and Tian-Shan white clawed bear is in process in partnership with the State</p>	<p>Results of the 2018 inventory exercise of globally significant fauna in Jalal-Abad province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 40;</li> <li>- Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 3,124;</li> <li>- Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 0;</li> <li>- Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>): 164</li> </ul> <p>Results of the 2019 monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 31;</li> <li>- Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 3,050;</li> <li>- Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 0;</li> <li>- Tian Shan white clawed bear</li> </ul>

				<p>Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) .By the next PIR project will be able to provide data on this indicator.</p>	<p>(Ursus arctos isabellinus): 234</p> <p>Source of data: Please indicate</p> <p>The Western Tien Shan region remains poorly studied and, unfortunately, the data is fragmented. This results from the recent restructuring of the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry. Biodiversity Conservation and PAs Department is still hiring employees, etc. and at the moment not all of the results of the survey activities are correctly reflected in the final inventory.</p> <p>The methodology of accounting ungulates requires improvements, as one of the methods is a visual inspection. According to the specialists of the Wildlife animals monitoring department of the State Agency, for example, there are golden eagles in the project's pilot area, but at the time of survey no individuals of golden eagle were noted. Previously, the inventory was also performed by hunting concessions. But starting from 2016, a moratorium on hunting has been declared on the territory of Jalal-Abad region, resulting in the</p>
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					<p>closure of hunting areas in the region.</p> <p>With the support of the project a new methodology was developed with project support for flora and fauna inventory and zoning that was approved by the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. №01-9/180 dd June 28, 2018.</p> <p>Based on the new methodology, inventory and zoning of protected areas “Alatai” and “Kan - Achuu” were completed in 2018. The first and second technical meetings were held in October 2018 and February 2019 to approve projects of “Alatai” and “Kan-Achuu” State Natural Parks which allowed for planning of further management activities and conducting more effective monitoring activities within the territory of protected areas.</p> <p>Using the new methodology, experts of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic completed the inventory of flora and fauna as well as the revision of forest management in the two state</p>
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					<p>natural parks (SNPs) "Kan-Achuu" and "Alatai" in the Jalal-Abad region.</p> <p>In particular, the following changes were introduced in the SNP "Alatay":</p> <p>the Park was divided into 162 sections or quarters for monitoring purposes, broken further down to 3,263 units covering an area of 56,826.4 hectares. Of these, in the conservation zone - 438 units per 13,891.8 hectares, in the zone of ecological stabilization 374 units on 1,963.4 hectares, in the zone of tourist and recreation activities - 140 units on 1,384.6 hectares, in the zone of limited economic activity – 2,311 units on 39,586.6 hectares.</p> <p>On SNP Kan-Achuu:</p> <p>The external and internal boundaries of SNP Kan-Achuu were determined over a length of 240 km, 1,065 units were rated, 71 quarters on 30,496.5 ha.</p> <p>Of these, in the conservation zone - 395 units on 10,761.9 ha, in the zone of ecological stabilization 184 units on 4,383.6 ha, in the zone of tourist and recreation activities - 122 units on 3,053.2 ha, in the</p>
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					zone of limited economic activity - 364 units on 12,297.8 ha.
<p>2. Status of globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semenov's fir (<i>Abies Semenovii</i>)</li> <li>- Juniper (<i>Juniperus sp.</i>)</li> <li>- Relict spruce (<i>Picea schrenkiana</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Index of area and forest quality of globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts (ha):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semenov's fir (<i>Abies Semenovii</i>) – Total = 4,281.8 ha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ha - Category 1: 2,025.1 (47%)</li> <li>Ha – Category 2: 1,728.3 (40%)</li> <li>Ha – Category 3: 528.4 (12%)</li> <li>Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Juniper (<i>Juniperus sp.</i>) – Total = 6,847.3 ha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ha - Category 1: 694.4 (10%)</li> <li>Ha – Category 2: 4,254.9 (62%)</li> <li>Ha – Category 3: 1,898 (28%)</li> <li>Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Index of area and forest quality of globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semenov's fir (<i>Abies Semenovii</i>) – Total = 4,281.8 ha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ha - Category 1: 2,225.1</li> <li>Ha – Category 2: 1,956.3</li> <li>Ha – Category 3: 100.4</li> <li>Ha – Category 4: 0</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Juniper (<i>Juniperus sp.</i>) – Total = 7,171.8 ha: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ha - Category 1: 1289.1</li> <li>Ha – Category 2: 4,701.7</li> <li>Ha – Category 3: 1,181.0</li> <li>Ha – Category 4: 0</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Relict spruce (<i>Picea schrenkiana</i>) – Total = 4,202.6 ha:</li> </ul>	<p>An inventory of significant flora of the two target districts is in process. Results of the inventory are expected by the end of 2018.</p> <p>All key stakeholders are involved in the inventory, including the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, Institute of Forestry of the Academy of Science, PA counterparts.</p> <p>One of the key results of the capacity building workshop on METT assessment held by the Project is the knowledge transfer to rangers of all seven protected areas in the Western Tian-Shan, including two pilot Pas--the State National Park “Alatai” and the State National Park “Kan - Achu” and their capacity building per se for primary data collection and recording to enable proper monitoring of flora in the future. This contributes to addressing one of the risks/assumptions on weak capacity under this</p>	<p>Semenov's fir (<i>Abies Semenovii</i>) – 4,930.5 Ha</p> <p>Juniper (<i>Juniperus sp.</i>) - 9,204.6 Ha</p> <p>-Relict spruce (<i>Picea schrenkiana</i>) – 4,322.2 Ha</p> <p>According to the data of the State Institution “Kyrgyz Forestry and Hunting Management”, the following inventory data was reported and all the key stakeholders in the Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts were regularly involved in the inventory of globally significant flow, including the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, Institute of Forestry of the National Academy of Science, PA counterparts.</p>

	<p>- Relict spruce (<i>Picea schrenkiana</i>) – Total = 2,125.5 ha:</p> <p>Ha - Category 1: 850.6 (40%)</p> <p>Ha – Category 2: 1,048.8 (49%)</p> <p>Ha – Category 3: 226.1 (11%)</p> <p>Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%)</p>		<p>Ha - Category 1: 1,745.7</p> <p>Ha – Category 2: 2,456.9</p> <p>Ha – Category 3: 0</p> <p>Ha – Category 4: 0</p>	<p>indicator.</p> <p>The project agreed the list of the monitoring equipment needed for the target PAs and the procurement is in process.</p>	
<p>3. Area of degraded pastureland in four target A/As in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts</p> <p>- Cholpon-Ata</p> <p>- Kyzyl-Ozgorush</p> <p>- Kok-Irim</p> <p>- Atai</p>	<p>65,361 ha (estimated based on relevant available data)</p>	<p>(<i>not set or not applicable</i>)</p>	<p>0 ha (decrease of 65,361 ha)</p>	<p>65,361 ha</p> <p>Key results in the reporting period include:</p> <p>1.The project has established strong links with all involved partners working on pastures at all levels including ARIS, Association of pasture committees “Kyrgyz Jaiyty”.</p> <p>2. The project is building its work on the key result of another UNDP-GEF project “Demonstrating the Sustainable Management of Mountains Pastures in the Suusamyr Valley” by upgrading the</p>	<p>65,111 ha</p> <p>Key results in the reporting period include:</p> <p>1. The project continues collaborating and coordinating with the partners working on pastures: ARIS, Association of pasture committees “Kyrgyz Jaiyty” and Pasture department under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>2. The information system “Electronic Pasture Management” is being upgraded with the support of the Project.</p>

				<p>information system “Electronic Pasture Management”. This system is accepted by all involved parties and will be introduced in four (4) pasture committees established before project; and include results of economic, geobotanic assessment and mapping, which is underway. The review of the existing pasture management plans of the target pasture committees is in process.</p> <p>3.The project started setting up four (4) demonstration sites (0.3 ha in total) to conduct a monitoring of degraded pastures.</p>	<p>3. Induction seminars to introduce the system conducted in four (4) pasture committees. Results of the economic, geobotanic assessment and mapping, which is underway will be uploaded during the next reporting period.</p> <p>4. Review of the existing pasture management plans of the target pasture committees is in process and the development of the integrated management plans is ongoing.</p> <p>5. The project set up four (4) demonstration plots (0.6 ha in total) to conduct a monitoring of pasture degradation processes.</p> <p>Jointly with the Kok Yrim local self-government in Toguz Toro district, the Project supported restoration of 244 ha of degraded pastures by providing sainfoin seeds.</p> <p>Work is being carried out with Pasture committees in the pilot local self-government, the plans for the development of residential areas are being revised so that the plans take into account the issues of buffer zones and migration</p>
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					corridors of wild animals.
4. Landscape area under directly improved conservation management	<p>Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be directly influenced by project results:</p> <p>- 0 ha</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be directly influenced by project results:</p> <p>- 472,635 ha (SFM in 34,382 ha of forest (the forested area under management by Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhoz), restoration of degraded forest in 4,886 ha, implementation of SLM in 147,268 ha of pasturelands (65,361 ha of which is degraded pasturelands). In addition, 286,099 ha of protected areas, of which 87,322 ha are the two new PAs in the primary target districts.)</p>	<p>0 ha</p> <p>The project started implementation of activities in close partnership with the key partners as FAO, Camp Ala Too and World Bank project on Forestry sector, local NGOs.</p> <p>By the end of 2018, the project plans to restore up to 400 ha of degraded forest area in the Jalal-Abad province under Toktogul and Toguz Toro leskhoz. To achieve this plan, the initial steps to restore are being implemented (soil loosening, planting trees, fencing the forest, etc.)</p>	<p>The area of the two new PAs "Alatai" and "Kan - Achu" in the primary target districts: 88,985 ha plus extra 1,663 ha of Lake area</p> <p>The project has taken a number of activities to achieve this indicator.</p> <p>Jointly with the World Bank Project, support is being provided to develop an integrated management plan for Toktogul Leskhoz covering 72,324 ha.</p> <p>The project provided fencing materials and transport to support and promote natural regeneration on ca 7,200 ha, and new plantings of about 250 ha.</p> <p>In the territory of the SNP Alatai, the disputed areas and the area around the Lake Kara-Suu of 1,662.8 ha were transferred to the natural park (order of the SAEPF dated 01.01.2019 No. 01-9/10). As such, the project increased the territory of SNP "Alatai" by 1,663</p>

					<p>Ha creating opportunities for SNP to develop ecotourism in the lake area.</p> <p>With project support appropriate working conditions for rangers of the two new PAs (covering over 88,985 ha plus extra 1,663 ha of Lake area) were created for effective nature conservation and management. The PAs total area is now under good protection and effective management.</p> <p>But the Project managed to exclude the Lake Kara-Suu from the list of fisheries agreed by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>The project procured computers, laptops, walkie-talkies, cameras, trail cameras, hand-held GPS, binoculars and telescopes to improve the effectiveness and accuracy of flora and fauna survey, and to effectively combat poaching in the two new PAs, the Alatai and Kan-Achuu SNPs.</p> <p>To improve the effectiveness of the field work, riding horses with sets of horse equipment, tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, ground pads and lanterns were provided to the</p>
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					<p>rangers of both PAs “Alatai” and “”. Kan-Achuu</p> <p>With project support appropriate working conditions for rangers of the two new PAs (covering over 88,985 ha plus extra 1,663 ha of Lake area) were created for effective nature conservation and management. The PAs total area is now under good protection and effective management.</p>
5. Landscape area under indirectly improved conservation management	<p>Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be indirectly influenced by project results:</p> <p>- 0 ha</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be indirectly influenced by project results:</p> <p>- 944,317 ha (Area of two target districts, less the area of the PAs (87,322 ha), SFM land (34,382 ha), afforested area (4,886 ha), and SLM land (147,268 ha) covered in these districts under direct coverage above.)</p>	<p>0 ha</p> <p>Key progress under this indicator includes the well-established links with all involved partners at all levels as rayon, province administrations and local NGOs, public communities as women, youth censers, pasture committees to review the existing Development Strategies of the target districts and Management Plans of the institutions (forestries, protected area plans, pasture committees and province administrations) working on sustainable land management with the goal to integrate Biodiversity Conservation and Joint Sustainable Land Management aspects.</p>	<p>Total area of the two natural parks (88,985 ha), SFM land (34,382 ha), afforested area (7,450 ha), and SLM land (147,268 ha).</p> <p>Project continued work on building strong partnerships with the key partners at all levels as district, province administrations and local CSOs, public communities as women, youth centers, pasture committees to review the existing Development Strategies of the target districts and Management Plans of the institutions (Toktogul and Toguz Toro forestries, protected area plans, pasture committees and province administrations) working on sustainable land management with the goal to integrate Biodiversity Conservation and Joint</p>

					Sustainable Land Management aspects.
6. Population of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts that have derived indirect livelihood benefits from project results (disaggregated by gender)	<p>Toktogul District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 0 women</li> <li>- 0 men</li> </ul> <p>Toguz-Toro District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 0 women</li> <li>- 0 men</li> </ul> <p>Baseline: 2015</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Toktogul District communities of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 8,979 women</li> <li>- 9,328 men</li> </ul> <p>Toguz-Toro District communities of Kok-Irim and Atai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2,723 women</li> <li>- 2,909 men</li> </ul>	<p>The project conducted broad stakeholder consultations in the target areas about the opportunities for community initiatives to gain livelihood benefits, with the gender aspects considered. In general, from four aiyl okmotu 1,822 people participated, of which 896 were women. Key results of this meetings: community members were informed about project goals, main activities, expressed their interest to participate in the microgrant component of the project.</p> <p>The project conducted an initial needs assessment to identify the types of such initiatives and further detailed assessment is to be conducted by a company. The results are expected to be available in October 2018 and reported in the next PIR.</p>	<p>The project is not required to report on the number of populations indirectly benefiting from the project livelihood activities at midpoint in its implementation. The below numbers represent the project's estimate of potential beneficiaries of the project's alternative livelihoods program as well as beneficiaries that indirectly benefited from the project by participating in capacity building trainings, information campaigns and learning more about biodiversity in target landscapes.</p> <p>Toktogul District, people of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush villages total – 20,166</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9,879 women</li> <li>- 10,287 men</li> </ul> <p>Toguz-Toro District, people of Kok-Irim and Atai villages total - 5836</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2,864 women</li> <li>- 2,972 men</li> </ul> <p>The Project has implemented a number of activities for local</p>

					<p>communities: (i) various information campaigns calling upon nature conservation and respect for biodiversity, and (ii) a number of workshops to strengthen their capacity on how to benefit from the nature. All world environmental dates were celebrated by various public events.</p> <p>In total, about 5,770 people took part in various project activities, 42% of which were women.</p> <p>The Project conducted an initial needs assessment to identify the types and potential of potential community-based initiatives. A detailed assessment of needs was originally planned for October last year but rescheduled to this year with results to be reported in the next PIR.</p> <p>The draft concept of the microgrant program was developed and in July 2019 it will be launched in the pilot local communities. It is expected that 100K USD will be distributed in 2019 for implementation of the microgrant program to support local communities with alternative livelihoods.</p>
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					In July 2018, a study tour was organized to the SNP Khan-Teniri, Issyk-Kul province, with participation of 30 representatives of the Steering Board of Alatai and Kan-Achuu SNPs. The purpose of the trip was to study the results of the completed UNDP-GEF project “Improving the coverage and management effectiveness of PAs in the Central Tian Shan Mountains” and activities of the SNP Khan Teniri, including the results of the alternative livelihood program, which was supported by the UNDP-GEF Project.
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The progress of the objective can be described as: **On track**

**Outcome 1**  
**Conservation and sustainable management of Key Biodiversity Areas within landscape**

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2018	Cumulative progress since project start
7. Management effectiveness of key alpine protected areas in Jalal-Abad province covering 286,099 ha	METT Score: - Alatai SNP (new PA): 17 - Kan-Achuu SNP (new PA): 16 - Sary-Chelek SBR: 59	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	METT Score: - Alatai NP (new PA): >50 - Kan-Achuu NP (new PA): >50 - Sary-Chelek SNR: >65	METT scores for target PAs will be updated by the next PIR The project supports the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, in partnership with the UNDP BIOFIN project, to improve program budgeting in line with the recent changes. The project	METT Score: - Alatai SNP (new PA): 23 - Kan-Achuu SNP (new PA): 21 - Sary-Chelek SBR: 59 - Padysh-Ata SNR: 46 - Besh Aral SNR: 47

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Padysh-Ata SNR: 45</li> <li>- Besh Aral SNR: 43</li> <li>- Saimaluu-Tash SNP: 29</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Padysh-Ata SNR: &gt;50</li> <li>- Besh Aral SNR: &gt;50</li> <li>- Saimaluu-Tash SNP: &gt;40</li> </ul>	<p>assists with development of methodological instructions on program budgeting to strengthen environment related contributions through the budget. This will help to achieve the required budget on time.</p> <p>A model business plan that contains new sustainable financial mechanisms for PAs is being developed in partnership with the BIOFIN project.</p> <p>METT training on management effectiveness of key alpine PAs was conducted in April 2018 and the assessment of PAs management effectiveness of PAs is planned for the second half of August.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saimaluu-Tash SNP: 40</li> <li>- Dashman SNR: 44 (additionally included as requested by the National Partners as it is located in the Western Tian Shan landscape).</li> </ul> <p>Jointly with the WWF Kyrgyzstan and the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and PAs, the project supported the development of the METT assessment guide. The methodology was approved by the order of the SAEPPF on May 22, 2018, No. 01-9/148.</p> <p>METT trainings for all Western Tian Shan PAs were conducted. The METT training methodology was designed to engage in the assessment participants (relevant PA staff) of the training to gain the first-hand experience.</p> <p>The methodological instructions on program budgeting for the PAs level developed with support of project and tested on the two pilot PAs and additionally 3 PAs in the Djalal-Abad oblast. The managers of PAs strengthened the capacity on strategizing, planning and budgeting oriented on the results for short and long terms considering the limited budget and</p>
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					<p>legal revenues produced by PAs. Clear targets and expected results have already been identified and will be integrated in the budget documents of 2 pilot PAs “Alatai” and “Kanachuu”. The next step to scape up the adoption of performance programme based budgeting in PAs in country (to be provided by Western Tian Shan project)</p> <p>The project assists with development of methodological instructions on program budgeting to strengthen environment related contributions through the budget.</p> <p>A model business plan that contains new sustainable financial mechanisms for PAs is being developed in partnership with the BIOFIN project.</p> <p>The potential sources of revenues and options for financial mechanisms were identified together with local stakeholders in pilot PAs and proposed to be included into draft business plans for Kanachuu and Alatay. The revision of entrance fee considering the costs of maintenance and development of touristic infrastructure, charity boxes. revenues from the PAs</p>
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					brands using, beekeeping, tourism, birdwatching, selling of seedlings and PAs produced products were proposed as financial solutions. The drafted business plans will be discussed with key stakeholders in September
8. Status of HCVF management approach legal and regulatory framework	HCVF management approach not legally recognized, and consequently not regulated	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	HCVF management approach has legal basis, and relevant regulations are produced,	The first initial review of the legal and regulatory framework was carried out. The review concluded that the HCVF management approaches are not reflected in existing legal framework. The review demonstrated a high interest of the key project partners as Forestry Department under the State Agency, Forestry Institute etc. in improving the legal framework and the full in-depth analysis of the legal and regulatory framework will be conducted by local and international experts. The recruitment process is underway.	<p>The initial review of the legal and regulatory framework was carried out in 2018. The review concluded that the HCVF management approaches are not reflected in the current legislation. The review also revealed a strong interest of the key project partners like the Forestry Department under the SAEPF, Forestry Institute and etc. in improving the legislation in regard to HCVF. The project initiated an in-depth analysis of the regulatory framework by engaging local and international expertise.</p> <p>Jointly with a similar UNDP-GEF Project of Kazakhstan, an initial review of the current situation and legislation was conducted to develop a draft HCVF concept and respective staff engaged.</p> <p>Representatives of the environmental agencies of Kyrgyzstan (SAEPF) and Kazakhstan, international expert community and representatives of</p>

					<p>the scientific community discussed the High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) identification approaches at the recent Regional Workshop in Almaty in 19-20 June 2019, supported by the UNDP-GEF projects.</p> <p>Participants discussed methodological aspects of analysis and assessment of the forest funds of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan such as the distribution of the total land area of the state forest fund, the division of forests into groups and categories of protection, as well as further development and implementation of the HCVF approach at the national level.</p> <p>International consultants presented the HCVF concept and definitions of 6 HCVF categories. Participants identified barriers and opportunities for implementing the HCVF approaches in their countries and reviewed the international experience and best practices in the identification, management, and conservation of HCVF.</p> <p>The first draft of the HCVF concept and the methodology for determining HCVF forests were developed. A follow-up workshop is planned for end of July 2019, where both documents will be discussed, validated and hopefully</p>
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					approved. The activity will be completed in October 2019 and results reported in the next PIR.
9. Existence of HCVF management measures in FMPs and level of implementation in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	<p>HCVF management measures not incorporated in FMPs in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts</p> <p>0/6 on GEF TT scale: No existence or mention of biodiversity (e.g. HCVF) considerations in sector policy Implementation is initiated (defined as incorporation of HCVF management practices in approved FMPs) in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	4/6 on GEF TT scale: "Step 4: The regulations are under implementation"	<p>No progress can be reported yet.</p> <p>The achievement of this indicator is linked to implementation of activities under Indicator 8 above.</p>	<p>As it was mentioned above under Indicator 8, the activity on development of the HCVF concept for Kyrgyzstan is underway.</p> <p>Experts during the technical meeting in Almaty selected 4 groups of HCVF (out of 6 currently proposed classification) that are relevant for Kyrgyzstan:</p> <p>HCV 1 - Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.</p> <p>HCV 2 - Large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p> <p>HCV 3 - Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.</p> <p>HCV 4 - Basic ecosystem services</p>

					<p>in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.</p> <p>HCV 5 - Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.</p> <p>HCV 6 - Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Next steps of the project under this Indicator depend on approval of the HCVF concept and methodology in October 2019, so that the project can start developing a joint action plan with the Department of the Forestry on legislation, identification and inventory of HVCF in the Kyrgyz Republic as well as to include into the forest code which will be</p>
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					revised in 2019-2020 by World Bank led project in the forestry sector.
10. Average number of hectares covered per week by anti-poaching patrols (PA rangers, forest rangers, and game wardens) in Alatai SNP (56,826 ha) and Kan-Achuu SNP (30,497 ha), Toktogul (104,860 ha) and Toguz-Toro (57,356 ha) leskhoz territories, and Chychkan Zoological (game) reserve (65,551) territories in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts, out of the 315,090 ha total SNP, leskhoz, and game reserve)	250 hectares patrolled per week in 2016 (10 km covered per day by ranger teams (2+ individuals) for each of five management areas for 5 of 7 days)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	1000 hectares patrolled per week in 2021 (baseline * four times the number of anti-poaching ranger team patrols for each location. Assessed as the minimum coverage necessary to ensure effective management, regulatory monitoring, and deterrence of illegal activities)	<p>The project supported the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Conservation department of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry to inform, identify members of the anti-pouching groups. Also, the project determined training needs of anti-poaching patrols. Based on the identified needs, trainings covering legal framework, monitoring will be conducted in August. The project already received approx. 100 requests for trainings. Procurement is in process to purchase the equipment for these training groups.</p> <p>The national partners such as State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, local NGOs, Academy of Science, local representatives from the project pilot area, through the joint site visit learned the community-based conservancy experiences (i.e. Panthera). Follow-up replication in target areas will be supported by the project.</p>	<p>The Department of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Conservation of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry has been getting support from the Project in identification of members of the anti-pouching groups. The Project has conducted a training on needs assessment of the anti-poaching patrols.</p> <p>The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, local NGOs, National Academy of Science, local representatives from the Project pilot area, through the joint site visit learned the community-based conservancy experiences (i.e. Panthera in Chon Kemin valley).</p> <p>In collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and PAs, the project conducted outreach and capacity building meetings with local communities aiming at creating community patrols in future.</p> <p>Stemming from the meetings, two</p>



					groups (one in each PA) of voluntary rangers composed of 20 local residents were established in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts. Voluntary groups of rangers will join and participate in the nature conservation activities of the two natural parks. For increasing efficiency of their anti-poaching activities, they were also equipped with uniforms and necessary technical equipment. Among freelance rangers there is a woman ranger from Toguz-Toro district.
<b>The progress of the objective can be described as:</b>		<b>On track</b>			
<b>Outcome 2</b>					
<b>Ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity in Western Tian Shan are enhanced by regulating land and forest use in buffer zones and corridors and support to sustainable livelihoods</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
11. Area of sustainably managed forest in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts (broken down by HCVF in PAs, HCVF in leskhoz, and all other forest)	Total 0 ha out of 40,839 ha of HCVF  Toktogul HCVF: 31,045 ha (5,658 ha within Alatai PA, 25,387 ha in leskhoz);  Toguz-Toro HCVF: 9,794 (799 within Kan-Achuu PA, 8,995 ha in leskhoz);	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	>40,000 ha	0 ha of HCVF  No progress can be reported yet. The achievement of this indicator is linked to implementation of activities under Indicator 8. And as reported under Indicator 8, the project already initiated some activities related to inclusion of HCVF considerations in forest management.	0 ha of HCVF  As progress of this Indicator interrelates with the progress under Indicators 8 and 9, no developments can be reported yet.  As described under Indicators 8 and 9, activities on identification and inclusion of HCVF in the forest management have been initiated.

					Figures will be reported in the next PIR when the HVCF concept and methodology are approved.
12. Area of forest resources restored in the landscape (broken down by reforested/afforested area, vs. area under natural regeneration support	0 ha	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	4,886 ha (500 ha reforestation/afforestation, 4,500 ha supported for natural regeneration)	0+ The project started implementation of the Indicator related activities in close partnership with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry. By the end of 2018, the project plans to restore up to 400 ha of degraded forest area in Jalal Abad province. To achieve this plan, the initial steps to restore degraded forest lands are being implemented, i.e. soil loosening, fencing forests, etc.)  The project faces some delays with implementation of these activities due to the project late start. Given the seasonality of forest reforestation works ( e.g. tree planting), this risk will remain valid in the coming years. The project undertakes some preventive measures to minimize this risk. The project secured preliminary agreement on all planned activities with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, and in autumn 2018 the project plans to start initial works (soil	244 ha under afforestation and 7,200 ha supported for natural regeneration.  In coordination with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, the project has initiated and is supporting the relevant activities.  The Project supported the Department of Forest Ecosystem Development with identification of four (4) plots on the project target landscape of forestries for reforestation. Selected species for afforestation included Tien Shan spruce, walnut, almond and pistachio. In total 244 ha during 2018-2019 were restored through reforestation. Additional 200 ha were selected for the project's reforestation activities in 2020.  Reforestation activities were performed in the forestries: the Project provided the needed construction materials (like metal and barbed wire) for fencing while

				preparation for planting). Note: This indicator is linked to the Indicator 4 of Outcome 1.	fencing--to prevent potential damage from livestock grazing in the selected plots was done by the forestries Field trips and reforestation activities were also supported by the Project.  Fencing materials were provided to promote and support natural regeneration. As of now, 2 new sites were identified in coordination with the partners and local level negotiations are underway.
13. Lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided	0 tons CO2 equivalent	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	2,979,548 tons CO2 equivalent	No progress can be reported yet.	No estimate of lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided is available.  The Project collaborates with a UNDP-GEF Project on National Communication of the Kyrgyz Republic under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding methodological aspects of estimating avoided emissions.
14. Implementation of e-Pasture Management System (as an SLM mechanism supporting implementation of the Pastures Law) in Toguz-Toro and Toktogul districts	Pasture Management Committees (PMCs) do not have support mechanisms to implement SLM	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	e-Pasture Management System implemented by 4 PMCs in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	No progress can be reported yet.  This indicator is closely linked to the Indicator 3 of Outcome 1. And as reported under Indicator 3, the project already initiated	The Project conducted a series of round tables and field meetings to familiarize pasture users with an e-Pasture Management System that has been developed by another UNDP project. Meetings were also held with the pasture-related

				some activities related to improved pasture management.	<p>projects of ARIS, World Bank, GIZ and the head of the Pasture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>The President of the Kyrgyz Republic declared the year of 2019 as the “Year of Digitalization and Regional Development”, which is as an additional incentive to the project’s national and local counterparts to promote implementation of the indicator that now serves and is aligned with very the needs and high-level agenda of the country.</p> <p>The Project’s activities related the review and improvement of the information system (e-pasture) as well as on the job training of pilot pasture committees have been initiated.</p> <p>Results will be reported in the next PIR, as the Project planning to complete this activity in the second half of 2019.</p>
15. Hectares of alpine grassland and forest ecosystems under improved conservation	0 ha	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	186,536 ha - SFM in 34,382 ha of HCVF, restore degraded forest in 4,886 ha, and implement	0+ha Implementation is in progress. There is a plan to have 400 ha	Total coverage of the two pilot PAs “Alatai” and “Kan-Achuu” (88,985 ha), SFM land (34,382 ha), afforested area (7,444 ha), and

management			SLM in 147,268 ha of pasturelands	forest lands restored by the end of 2018. See more details above under Outcome 1, indicator 4.	<p>SLM land (147,268 ha).</p> <p>The total area of the territories supported by the Project in the two pilot districts can be considered as under effective management as we are working with all relevant institutions as pasture committees, forestries and protected areas in Jalal Abad province and provide all necessary support. For effective functioning of the target PA, the project provided all necessary office and field equipment, supported development of management plans and building their capacity through different trainings and exchange visits, etc.</p> <p>The Project has been working closely with forestries, pasture committees and local informal group as women and youth committees, as well as the district level state administrations that provide regular support to the Project activities. Working groups were established under the district level state administrations to work on revision of the regional development strategies with integration of biodiversity conservation aspects.</p>
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					The project provided seeds to restore pasture lands and set up 4 demo plots in Kok Yirim to monitor pasture conditions in project areas
16. Hectares of pastureland under SLM in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	0 ha	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	147,268 ha	0+ha In progress through introduction of an upgraded version of the E-pasture information system in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts. It is linked to the indicator 14.	<p>The work is underway through introduction of an upgraded version of the E-pasture management information system in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts. Progress under this indicator is interrelated with the progress under Indicator #14.</p> <p>Around 300 ha of degraded pasture lands were restored through the provision of seeds.</p> <p>The whole territory of the two new SNPs is not allowed for grazing and the pasture lands could be fully restored in the next 5 years.</p> <p>Jointly with Toktogul forestry, Forestry Department and World Bank funded a project on forestry sector in the Toktogul district an integrated management plan was developed with the focus on biodiversity conservation issues, as its border territory with the SNP «Alatai» covering 72,324 ha.</p>

					<p>An inventory of the natural reserves areas in Western Tian Shan that were transferred to the leshozes or forestries and are now being used for grazing is ongoing. Results of the inventory will show whether the indicator and its end results need to be adjusted.</p> <p>Due to the absence of primary and legal documents of these reserves, the need for a comprehensive assessment of the status of the reserves was identified. With the Project support, primary materials of the reserves were collected from the State Archive of the Kyrgyz Republic with the Project's support and a reserves inventory guideline was developed and approved by SAEPF's order No. 01-9/314 on December 17, 2018.</p>
17. Number of people whose livelihoods are affected by land degradation in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts (with a population number index value fixed set at 100 for 2016 (in case of total population increases or decreases)	<p>- Women: 11,702</p> <p>- Men: 12,237</p> <p>- Total: 23,939</p> <p>- Index = 100%</p> <p>Toktogul District</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>- Women:</p> <p>- Men:</p> <p>- Total:</p> <p>- Index:</p> <p>Toktogul District</p> <p>Cholpon-Ata Village</p>	The exact number of livelihoods affected by land degradation will be identified during the in-depth assessment commissioned by the Project to be completed by the next PIR.	<p>A detailed survey will be carried out and a number of livelihoods affected by land degradation processes will be identified under the planned in-depth assessment.</p> <p>The below numbers represent the population in the target districts that will be engaged in relevant project activities.</p>

	<p>Cholpon-Ata Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3,562 women</li> <li>- 3,802 men</li> </ul> <p>Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5,417 women</li> <li>- 5,526 men</li> </ul> <p>Toguz-Toro District</p> <p>Kok-Irim Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,703 women</li> <li>- 1,782 men</li> </ul> <p>Atai Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,020 women</li> <li>- 1,127 men</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 3,562 women</li> <li>- 3,802 men</li> </ul> <p>Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5,417 women</li> <li>- 5,526 men</li> </ul> <p>Toguz-Toro District</p> <p>Kok-Irim Village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,703 women</li> <li>- 1,782 men</li> </ul> <p>Atai village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1,020 women</li> <li>- 1,127 men</li> </ul>		<p>Toktogul District, residents of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush villages total – 20,166</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9,879 women</li> <li>- 10,287 men</li> </ul> <p>Toguz-Toro District, residents of Kok-Irim and Atai villages, total – 5,836</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2,864 women</li> <li>- 2,972 men</li> </ul>
18. Herder/farmer income change based on benefits from micro-finance/grant program for individuals participating in the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women: N/A</li> <li>- Men: N/A</li> </ul>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women: 10% increase</li> <li>- Men: 10% increase</li> </ul>	No progress can be reported this year. Income change figures will be identified following implementation and evaluation of the income generation initiatives (a grant program) as described under indicator 4 of Outcome 1 above. The project currently discusses terms and administration of the program	There is no progress as of yet. Income change figures will be known after implementation and evaluation of the income generation activities (an alternative livelihood program to be implemented by the project) as described under indicator #4 of Outcome 1 above.



				with local micro-finance organizations: Bai tushum, Aiyl Bank, Fiancé micro finance companies.	<p>The alternative livelihood concept was developed and discussed with the local communities. The call for proposals will be announced in July-August 2019.</p> <p>Green criteria for the livelihood program have been developed and the project has been discussing the terms and administration of the program with local micro-finance organizations like Bai Tushum, Aiyl Bank and Finance that have presence in the pilot districts.</p>
<b>The progress of the objective can be described as:</b>			<b>On track</b>		
<b>Outcome 3</b>					
<b>Strengthened national capacities for snow leopard conservation, promoting Kyrgyz regional and global cooperation, and setting the scene for up-scaling</b>					
<b>Description of Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Level</b>	<b>Midterm target level</b>	<b>End of project target level</b>	<b>Level at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>Cumulative progress since project start</b>
19. Level of illegal wildlife trade activity, as indicated by number of snow leopard, snow leopard prey, and other illegal wildlife seizures at border crossings and at Manas international airport, as well as number of arrests related to wildlife trafficking	<p>Annual number of seizures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2015 - On the Tajik-Kyrgyz border - attempted transfer from Tajikistan to Kyrgyzstan of two snow leopard skins and one snow leopard cub</li> <li>- 2015 - one snow leopard skin confiscated in</li> </ul>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Annual number of seizures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snow leopard:</li> <li>- Snow leopard prey:</li> <li>- Other illegal wildlife:</li> <li>- Number of arrests</li> </ul>	<p>Good progress is observed in implementation of this indicator. The project exercises strong cooperation with the government partners, customs services in implementation of the following activities:</p> <p>1. Together with the Secretariat of CITES, the first four-days training on illegal wildlife trade</p>	<p>While no quantitative progress can be reported yet, the project has been exercising and enjoying strong cooperation with the government partners, customs services in implementation of the following activities:</p> <p>As a follow up to the four-day</p>

	<p>Bishkek (from Talas region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2016 - one snow leopard skin confiscated in Issyk-Kul</li> <li>- Zero seizures assisted by specially trained dogs</li> <li>- 4 arrests related to wildlife trafficking</li> <li>-</li> </ul>		<p>= &gt;baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- &gt;50% of arrests result in prosecutions</li> </ul>	<p>(CITES Convention) was conducted in Russia for the government, law enforcement, customs representatives and scientists of Central Asia. A visit to a cynological services center was organized (dogs training on derivatives). There is an agreement with the Customs service to (1) construct a special cage for dogs at the Manas airport to contribute to improved control of illegal wildlife trade and (2) develop a visual classificatory of wildlife trade products for identification and recognition by the customs.</p> <p>2. Memorandum of Understanding on issues of regular data sharing on illegal wildlife trade between the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, Law Enforcement, Customs Services and the Academy of Sciences has been renewed. The project will provide a space for regular meetings and discussions among these parties to improve the coordination and collaboration.</p> <p>3. The project will support the development of a data base of hunters and violations under the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry to be then shared with the law</p>	<p>seminar (CITES Convention) held in 2018, the project acquired uniforms for the staff of dog services.</p> <p>Designing and construction of an open-air cage (for 4 dogs) for the dog service at the Manas International airport is underway with Project's support. This will contribute to improvement of the control of illegal wildlife trade is.</p> <p>Project supported and facilitated regular meetings under the Memorandum of Understanding on issues of regular data sharing on illegal wildlife trade between the State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, Law Enforcement, Customs Services and the Academy of Sciences.</p> <p>The Project is planning to join its efforts with the WWF Russia to conduct trainings on combating poaching with the use of dogs.</p> <p>In cooperation with the Department of Security Council and natural parks, the Project is supporting activities on managing and preventing wildlife diseases.</p> <p>A memorandum with the State Inspectorate for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Security under the</p>
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				<p>enforcement organizations. The project will contribute to addressing the key risks regarding to the procedural issues of violation cases monitoring from registration until the court and data sharing, as outlined in the project document. The data base is expected to document all legal violations and have this information available in one place and online, which will contribute to reducing corruption and improving monitoring of legal violations.</p>	<p>Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has been concluded with a detailed Plan of activities to address the associated issues.</p> <p>Trainings on collecting tests were conducted for all the rangers from across the country.</p> <p>As already noted, the year of 2019 was declared as the year of digitalization and development of regions, resulting in the launch of the government's program on the use of digital technologies and improving the access to open data.</p> <p>As a follow up, the Project supports the upgrade of the E-PA management system that will evolve into one of effective protected areas management tool. Also, E-PA system will contribute to decrease in illegal wildlife trade. E-PA system will be good platform and tool to monitors and coordinate activities within the all responsible institutions s custom office, academia and hunting department of the State Agency on Environment and Forestry.</p> <p>In consultation with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, a ToR was developed and agreed upon.</p>
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					<p>Development of the E-PA system has been initiated.</p> <p>Stakeholders commended the idea to integrate the snow leopard database and the user database in the E-PA information system.</p> <p>Activities on raising public awareness of biodiversity conservation issues as well as their role are full speed underway.</p> <p>Based on research on environment conservation related aspects of the great Manas epic a short-animated video (3 min) with infographics developed and will be released in partnership with the Ministry of Education to all schools in the Kyrgyz Republic..</p> <p>For promoting good behavior and attitude of ordinary people and activists who contribute to environment protection, the project produced 8 video reels about plastic waste management, tree planting, eco-volunteerism etc.) that were widely disseminated in the social media and broadcasted by the national public TV channel OTRK, free of charge (upon their own initiative).</p>
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<p>20. Level of international cooperation and coordination with Kyrgyzstan border countries regarding illegal wildlife trade, biodiversity management in borderland protected areas, and snow leopard monitoring</p>	<p>No formal international agreement between Kyrgyzstan and neighboring countries related to snow leopard conservation</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>International agreement between Kyrgyzstan and at least one bordering country under implementation regarding at least one of the below issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperation on law enforcement at border points regarding illegal wildlife trade</li> <li>- Illegal hunting by border guards</li> <li>- Data sharing on snow leopard monitoring</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Indicator is in progress. The key highlights include:</p> <p>1. A high-level international forum on Conservation of Snow Leopard and its Ecosystems was attended by 500 participants from all 12-range countries and resulted in signing the 2nd Bishkek Declaration that confirmed high-level commitments of range countries to work together for Snow Leopard Conservation. The Forum was organized by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the project contributed financially and provided expertise and technical assistance.</p> <p>The Forum increased awareness of the broad stakeholders on the Snow leopard conservation issues, involved the high political leadership who recognized the key importance of the Forum and requested UNDP to initiate a regional project on Snow Leopard conservation. The Forum initiated series of good discussions on joint resource mobilization and green investments. UNDP is following-up with the partners on resource</p>	<p>Western Tien Shan mountains were declared as one of the important transboundary landscapes for biodiversity conservation and snow leopard habitat.</p> <p>The project together with the GSLEP Secretariat supported consultations with partners from the Central Asian countries through the following events and workshops:</p> <p>1. A coordination meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, July 2018. The head of the newly established Department of Biodiversity Conservation and PAs attended the meeting on behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>At this meeting, the GSLEP Secretariat presented their activities as well as opportunities for joint efforts of all similar projects in the region on snow leopard topic. A Memorandum of Cooperation on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard has been initiated.</p> <p>2. In April 2019, a meeting was</p>

				<p>mobilization.</p> <p>The Forum had excellent visibility resulting from a well-designed and successfully implemented Communication Strategy of the Forum in general and which is linked to our Communication Strategy of the Project . These included broad coverage in social media and TV, including international media. Outreach products were developed using innovative new technologies (3-D application Arloopa, video 360, theatre performance, photo book, video and radio products etc). This forum was a result of excellent partnership with all key partners working on Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation at all levels, including other UNDP-GEF funded projects</p> <p>2. As a continuation of the Forum and an effort to build on its results, the project supported the 3rd Steering Committee of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP) held on June 3 in the Issyk-Kul district. The key result is a positive decision on a regional project proposal covering 12-range countries to be presented during</p>	<p>held in Khujand, Tajikistan, where countries resumed discussions on the text of the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard and its habitats. Opportunities for creating a regional genetic laboratory for studying the snow leopard were also on the agenda. UNDP-GEF projects of the Central Asia are planning to support national partners in advancing the work under the Memorandum of Cooperation.</p> <p>3. During the meetings, agreements were reached on conducting joint expeditions to record and monitor the snow leopard population, exchange of data and information as possible and according to the laws of the countries.</p> <p>4. Multiple visibility products were produced by the Project for the Second International Forum on SL conservation held in August 2017 that were widely distributed and being used by a range of countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Russia and etc. These include snow leopard 3D reality application - Arloopa, developed by Armenian partners, video 360, theater performances, snow leopard photo</p>
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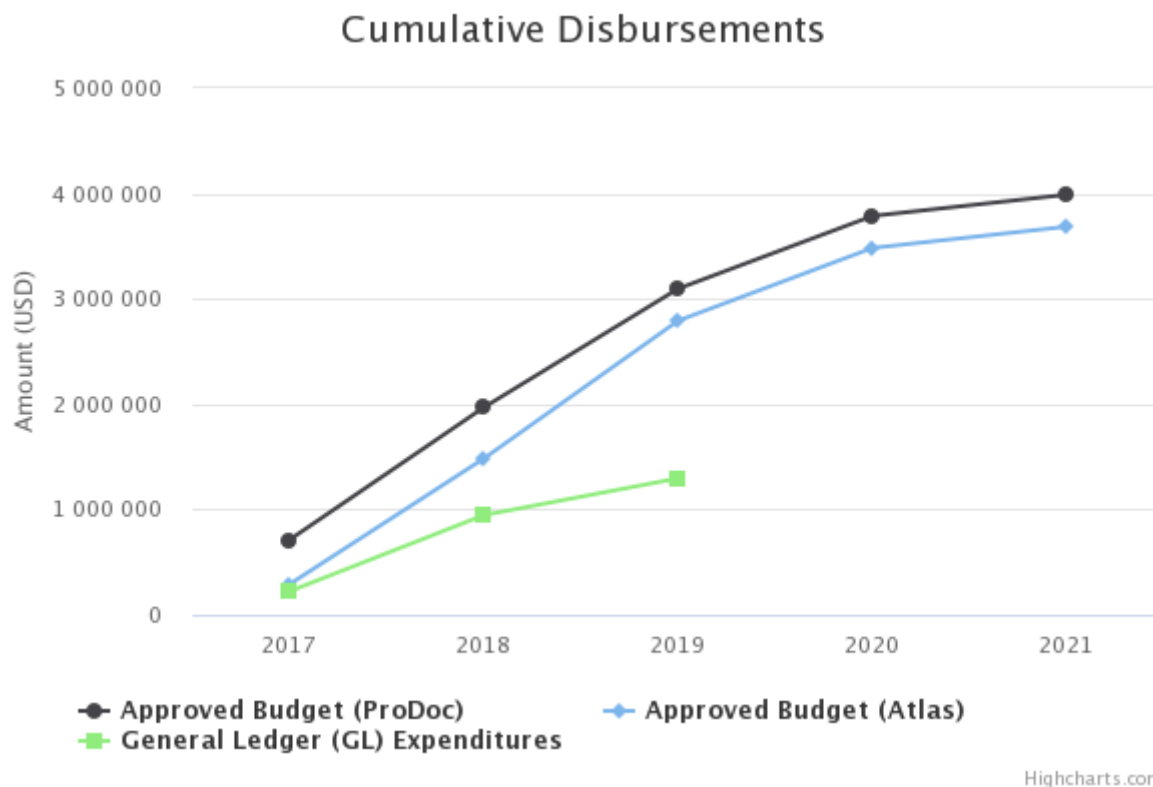
				<p>6th GEF Assembly in Vietnam. Another result is the launch of Western Tian-Shan Landscape, as important habitat for Snow Leopard. The strong level of coordination among UNDP-GEF-funded projects in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan should be highlighted. The next coordination meeting is planned in Tashkent in July this year. The meeting will discuss the Snow Leopard monitoring issues and the governments of three Central Asian will sign the MoU on Cooperation.</p> <p>3. The Project presented its objective and ongoing activities at the Inception workshop UNDP/GEF and Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan Project "Conservation and sustainable management of key globally significant ecosystems for various benefits" in Astana, Kazakhstan, on May 10, 2018.</p>	<p>book, video and many other printed materials.</p>
21. Quality and coverage of snow leopard monitoring data in Kyrgyzstan as indicated by estimated accuracy and timeliness of national snow leopard population estimate	<p>Latest population estimate 15 years prior (2001) with a 30% confidence level (lowest possible estimated population / highest possible estimated population, i.e. 150/500 = 30%)</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>Publishing of annual estimates with a 60% confidence level (the average confidence level among other snow leopard range states in GSLEP population estimate)</p>	<p>Snow Leopard monitoring data base is being developed in partnership with all relevant stakeholders: Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Department, Panthera, Snow Leopard Trust, NABU etc. The project managed to unite all key parties to improve coordination for better synergies</p>	<p>Snow Leopard monitoring data base is being developed in partnership with the stakeholders: Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Department of the SAEPP, Panthera, Snow Leopard Trust, NABU and others. The Project has been able to create an effective stakeholder dialogue platform by uniting all key parties</p>

				<p>and information sharing through the regular meeting with them and joint planning of our activities.</p>	<p>and improving coordination and synergies towards better information sharing and participatory planning and implementation of future activities.</p> <p>In March 2019 in Bishkek, the Project jointly with the GSLEP Secretariat supported a meeting on snow leopard monitoring methodology.</p> <p>At this meeting, a number of methodologies were presented by the partners, as a result, the most suitable snow leopard monitoring method for Kyrgyzstan was identified. Formal adoption of the methodology is expected until the end of August 2019.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Project has started activities on development/adaptation of protocols as well as methodologies for conducting a research on the snow leopard in Western Tian Shan. Upon agreements with the partners such as Snow Leopard Foundation, Snow Leopard Trust, NABU and Irbis Foundation, GSLEP Secretariat, the processing and analysis of the obtained data will be completed until the end of</p>
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					<p>2020. Due to the seasonality of the work, this study is time consuming itself and would cover only 2-3 stages of research.</p> <p>A consortium of all partners was established in June 2019 to conduct joint monitoring over the number of snow leopards which is among the key and successful achievements of the project.</p> <p>Thanks to well-coordinated efforts of the project team with the national partners, 25 camera traps were procured and installed in October 2018 on the territory of PAs by the "Alatai" and "Kan-Achuu" SNPs, which allowed the Project smoothly launch the study of fauna of the nature parks, not missing the season. This year the Project procured additional 50 camera traps being now provided to the nature parks to increase the PAs' effectiveness in wildlife monitoring especially the snow leopards.</p>
<p>The progress of the objective can be described as:</p>		<p>On track</p>			

## D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	32.47%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	41.84%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	1,295,170

<b>Key Financing Amounts</b>	
PPG Amount	121,013
GEF Grant Amount	3,988,575
Co-financing	24,519,183

<b>Key Project Dates</b>	
PIF Approval Date	Jun 4, 2015
CEO Endorsement Date	Dec 27, 2016
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Mar 17, 2017
Date of Inception Workshop	Dec 7, 2017
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Oct 15, 2019

Actual Date of Mid-term Review	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Oct 4, 2021
Original Planned Closing Date	Mar 16, 2022
Revised Planned Closing Date	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

<b>Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)</b>
2019-02-08

## E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Organizational	<p>Frequent changes in the management of the national parks, as well as heads of district state administrations also, to some extent, put certain barriers to implementation of the project's activities on the ground.</p> <p>A new head of the Toktogul district state administration was appointed, a head of the Toguz-Toro district state administration had been changed twice, the Director of the SNP "Kan-Achu" was also replaced. The project team had to undergo another round of consultations with the newly appointed officials. Normally, such changes should not create any threat nor cause instability to the project implementation, as central level arrangements remain intact. However, from the project's experience, have a long-lasting negative effect on local level interventions by taking extra time, as additional consultations and their subsequent consents and agreements were required with the new appointees and their staff. As risk mitigation measures the project always in contact with the central apparatus and tries to keep the newcomer updated by providing detailed information on project activities, having additional meetings and organizing joint field trips to the pilot areas to learn more and in detail about the project activities.</p>

## F. Adjustments

### Comments on delays in key project milestones

<p><b>Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.</b></p>
<p>There are no significant delays in achieving project milestones this reporting period.</p>
<p><b>Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.</b></p>
<p>There are no significant delays noticed that could seriously hamper achievement of project milestones during this reporting period. The inception phase is a critical one to once again verify partners' expectations of the project, given a rather long period of time that had passed from the moment the project document was approved by the GEF and the actual implementation start of the project. These, as said above, have slightly delayed the inception phase and launch of the inception report; however, the project is now well on track, with no foreseen deviations from its plans and implementation strategy.</p>
<p><b>UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.</b></p>
<p>No delays observed this reporting period</p>

## G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Moderately Satisfactory	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	<p>Overall the project is on the track of achieving its targets and objectives. The project has fully met its targets set for 2018, except for the construction of ranger houses and administrative buildings that were postponed due to the delayed inventory works at the side of the state partners related to the documentations on land transformation etc. There for now and considering the budget utilization rate (75% for 2018) the overall rating is MS.</p> <p>Upon RTA's 2018 PIR recommendations, the project team have been closely working with the SEAPF to avoid potential issues and regularly and timely convened for the project boards to discuss and solve problems preventing the project from full speed implementation.</p> <p>The partnership with the SAEPF, GSLEP Secretariat and other relevant partners is yet effective, which serves a key factor for the achievement of project goals and sustainability of UNDP-GEF investments.</p> <p>The forestry inventory guidelines with focus on PAs have been supported by the Project as an innovative tool that was formally adopted and tested to streamline forestry management and will now allow to conduct integrated inventory of flora and fauna. The pilot PAs having used this methodology were able to develop their own management plans with specific focus on biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Most important achievement in the reporting period is the increasing of the existing PA coverage by integrating the Lake Kara–Suu under the PA area. This unique high mountainous Lake was transferred under the custody of SNP "Alatai" based on Governmental Decree by which the Lake was excluded from the list of fisheries under the custody of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic. Thus, the area of SNP Alatai was expanded by additional 1,630 ha. The Lake with adjacent territories are quite attractive and promising in terms of tourism development, however nature conservation activities will require appropriate facilities and equipment for the rangers to implement regular and effective nature conservation efforts, plus necessary facilities for development of tourism are required like routes, signboards, places for camping and etc.</p> <p>The project has been addressing the needs and contributing to the national priorities on biodiversity conservation. The inception workshop has been very well received by the government and national partners.</p> <p>The project implementation was slightly delayed with the delays in project staff hire, however issues caused by the delays were quickly overcome and the project was put on track. The coordination and work with the national partner SAEPF still needed improvements, especially given the reshuffles that led to the changes in the roles and responsibilities of the relevant departments. This something that basically slowed key procurement cases, which should have been consulted with them in terms of ToR's and technical specifications to ensure their ownership and buy in. Despite this is a low rated risk, the project staff will closely monitor this to avoid potential delays in key procurement</p>	

activities.

But in overall, partnerships with the major stakeholders (state and non-state ones) have been improved and strengthened. For instance, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic is now on the board and is taking a lead in the design and dissemination of public education materials for the project local communities. A number of training materials and educational methodologies have been developed based on the training needs of the target groups. Project has facilitated the establishment of professional partnership relations between the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Biodiversity Departments of SAEPP, which is very important given the country has strategically prioritized the nature-based tourism development, including in protected areas. This is quite an entry point to highlight the value of the biodiversity for tourism and importance of the biodiversity conservation efforts. Protected areas quite promising in terms of promotion of scientific, educational or discovery tourism. Kyrgyzstan has extremely improved its touristic ranking and is now attracting more and more tourists annually. From another hand, tourism may be a disturbing factor for biodiversity when it is a not controlled one and when is not managed in a sustainable way, that is why the Project intends to support the development of the methodology for assessing the capacities and potential of the pilot PAs for developing tourism.

In summer 2019 “Alatai” and “Kan-Achuu” SNPs welcomed the first ever tourists since their establishment in 2016. The Nature Parks were established in 2016 by the Governmental decrees of the Kyrgyz Republic and are located in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts respectively. The PAs serve as spaces to protect unique natural wealth, biological diversity of the region and protect the Red Listed flora and fauna, including the iconic snow leopard species.

Ecotourism is one of the activities that encourage local communities to cooperate with PAs in efforts for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services provided by the PAs. This activity provides jobs and income opportunities as well as gives the sense of place and ownership. The project raised local communities’ awareness by providing get understanding on importance on biodiversity conservation in PAs and adjacent areas that can be a local economic, cultural and natural asset for attraction of tourists.

Project will support the development of guidelines for tourism development and will cooperate with the UNDP BIOFIN project on the best finance mechanisms to increase revenues in the PAs.

Taking into account remoteness of the newly established Pas, significant investments are required to keep up appropriate and sufficient technical capacity for employing effective operation and management in nature conservation. Hence, the management staff were equipped with the necessary office equipment, PAs staff trained and provided with field operation equipment.

Project has provided necessary office and field operation equipment to the protected areas. A heavy machinery like front loader was also provided to “Alatai” SNP which was of high necessity when roads within the PA will have been flooded.

Forest sector involves many actors in Kyrgyzstan, attracting investments of over 20 mln USD from UNDP, GIZ, WB, FAO, JICA and other NGOs. There is a common dialogue platform on forest issues for all partners led by SAEPF, which lets setting good synergies and avoid potential duplications and other contradictions. The project has established a good cooperation links with forest related projects and programmes of the development partners. Hence, all forest-related projects have been supporting the capacity building programmes in the forest sector of SAEPF and forest enterprises and local communities as well as a communication strategy.

The plans are expected to be approved by the end of 2019 year, and all projects will be supporting the implementation of this plan. This will minimize duplication of activities of partners.

In coordination with the local administrations and local communities, the Project has carried out a number of capacity building activities and awareness raising workshops on sustainable natural resource management.

Snow leopard is central in the project concept and this overarching idea helps to design implementation actions around this. The updated Action Plan on Snow Leopard conservation was made an integral part of the NBSAP for 2019-2023 with support of the Project, which was submitted to the Government for review and approval. The Project team provided technical inputs to this work under the lead of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry.

To achieve the goals of the GSLEP in harmonization of the methods for monitoring of SL, the Project has successfully facilitated the discussions over the methodology for SL monitoring, bringing together CSO partners and academia by creating a consortium of partners. Partners have come up with a generalized methodology to be approved by the SAEPF at the end of August 2019. The monitoring of the snow leopard population in Western Tian Shan as one of GSLEP priority landscapes was initiated in collaboration with the relevant partners.

Several meetings at the international level were supported:

- Consultative Workshop “Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard Conservation”, July 16-20, 2018, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- International Conference for Snow Leopard Conservation, September 3-7, 2018, Shenzhen, China
- 70th session of the CITES Standing Committee, Sochi, Russia, October 1-5, 2018
- Regional workshop “Transboundary aspects of conservation of snow leopard ecosystems” April 10-12, 2019, Khujand, Tajikistan
- Regional workshop on World Heritage Sites management, organized by UNESCO, April, Almaty, Kazakhstan
- International Conference on Snow Leopard Conservation: Population, Management & Trans-boundary Cooperation, July 3-4, 2019, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Finally, partnership with the other GEF funded projects has been ensured, and MoU between the governments of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and



Kazakhstan is under signature, with technical and legal support from the UNDP-GEF Projects, which will have a detailed Action Plan to be consulted and agreed among the environmental authorities of the countries by the end of 2019.

Project has established quite effective synergies with other initiatives on common topics related to the biodiversity conservation and management. UNDP BIOFIN and the Project provided support to SAEPF in effective planning and budgeting of PAs AWP. The new financial solutions were developed to increase the revenues in the PAs and new budget rules for financing PAs and forestries were submitted to the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic for piloting. This allows reversing the approaches from staff financing to result-based financing.

As new and innovative topic, project jointly with the Forestry Department of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry conducted feasibility study on blockchain. Engaged NGO Blockchain Association in Central Asia conducted research on how blockchain technologies can be used to improve effectiveness of management in forestry sector and in PAs especially pasture/land management. Discussion of the provided recommendation still in process with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry. FAO also conducted research and jointly we plan series of round tables to discuss possibilities of using blockchain technologies.

Public awareness activities were implemented by using various information channels and innovative techniques like celebration of important international and national biodiversity days, public events and holidays, exhibitions:

- In cooperation with the birdwatchers and designers the project has organized a photo exhibition and a fashion show devoted to the protection of birds. Domestic and foreign birdwatchers shared their photos to draw public attention to their important role in the ecosystem, their unique beauty and the need to be preserved. With partners UNDP is seeking for the activities in the field of education, the arts, culture, and sports to better and targeted convey of messages about the need to preserve unique biodiversity wealth to the wide public.

- Improving environmental education of the children had become one of the goals of the “Jibek Jolu” exhibition organized by the Public Foundation “Roza Otunbayeva Initiative”. UNDP together with partners organized a number of events on safeguarding biodiversity, improving environmental education. In the framework of the Days of the Snow Leopard and Environmental Knowledge, the Museum of Fine Arts named after Gapar Aitiev hosted a photo exhibition “Birds on the Great Silk Road”, children’s quizzes, videos, and a photo zone.

- March of Parks 2019 were held on 25 April 2019 in Western Tian Shan: Toktogul city, Kazarman bringing together more than 600 people from local communities, which was held under the motto “Save the habitats of plants and animals!”. The campaign aimed at telling about the protected areas and draw the public attention to the issues of safeguarding the biodiversity of the Western Tian-Shan and its unique ecosystems. The local communities conducted a trash clean-up campaign and planted trees. Schoolchildren held flash mobs, musical performances, sports tournaments and intellectual contests calling upon for biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. The March of Parks 2019 was supported by the project and the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry.

- International Biodiversity Day. Bishkek, 11 May 2019. From May 22 to 23, 2019, the International Scientific and Practical Conference “The Role of

	<p>Research and Development in the Management and Development of the Network of Protected Areas (PAs)” was held in the State Biosphere Reserve “Sary-Chelek”. The conference was attended by representatives of the Kyrgyz Parliament, ministries, local state administrations, local self-government bodies, universities, civil society organizations and the UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic. This year, the reserve turned 60 years and celebrated 40th anniversary since its inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves of the UNESCO program “Man and Biosphere”. In addition, in 2016, “Sary-Chelek” was included under the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Western Tian Shan.</p> <p>World Environment Day. Bishkek, 7 June 2019. UNDP and the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry celebrated the World Environment Day 2019. The book "The geological heritage of the Western Tian Shan, written by Alexey Dudashvili was presented, as a basis for biodiversity conservation and development of ecotourism. The book contains results of observations of geological processes and the study of objects of inanimate nature. Through a description of geological forms and whole landscapes, such as caves, karst springs, canyons, valleys, the author shows the importance of preserving the surrounding nature and biodiversity.</p> <p>Having had some delayed project implementation, during its first year of implementation the project made a progress towards its objectives - to promote a landscape approach to protection of internationally important biodiversity, and land and forest resources in the Western Tian Shan.</p>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2019 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2019 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>UNDP Country Office Programme Officer</b>	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>Overall, the project is on track. It enjoys support and trust on the part of the government, and its products are fully nationally owned, through participatory stakeholder approach, multi-level consultations (i.e both local and national levels.) There is a delay in the construction works related to ranger houses and Parks’ offices-as explained by the PM in the next section, this has happened because of inventory works and also due to the fact, that the local authorities have not been able to submit all the domestic documents on time (allocation of land plots, agreements/consents of the local bodies, etc.) As we all know, UNDP cannot move with these without a full package of documents, on the basis of national ownership and given the technical mandate of our Organization. However, and in terms of overall project delivery the project has clear set plans and strategy to ensure proper delivery (of both funds and its content-based deliverables), in close consultations with the national partners, and no thus far, no major deviations are expected. With regard to risk management, the project regularly lists those in an Atlas project module and provides regular updates; for instance, in 2019, there have been frequent changes at the level of local authorities with whom the project has been cooperating; however, these risks are being handled effectively, since the project is being coordinated from the central level and enjoys good contacts and has built a solid partnership that helps to implement the project without any hindrance. This is why the project has been given a “satisfactory” rate and this also coincides with an international expert’s opinion who has recently done a mid- term review of the project, and has confirmed that the project is very much needed for the country and addresses national needs and priorities. The MTR also highlights the excellent versatile platform that the project has built to ensure better coordination and avoidance of duplication among state and on</p>	

especially non-state actors, and stated that the project is on good track and enjoys full national ownership for its results, with a “Satisfactory” rate too.

As a rationale to the above DO and PR ratings, the project has been serving as a connecting point between the state and non-state entities involved into SL conservation and larger biodiversity conservation work, such as the SAEPF, GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, FFI, and other development partners. The project has also been playing a pivotal role in lessening national-versus local level divide, through rigorous application of laws and normative/legal acts related to BD conservation are approbated/tested at the local level and at the project sites, to improve resilience and livelihoods.

For example, the forestry inventory guidelines with focus on Pas, as proposed by the lead national partner, have been technically supported by the Project and have been regarded as an innovative tool that was formally adopted and tested to streamline forestry management and will now allow to conduct integrated inventory of flora and fauna in the project pilot areas. In turn and having used this methodology, the pilot PA’s were able to develop their own management plans with specific focus on protection of endangered species and larger biodiversity conservation, mingled with development and community empowerment.

In addition and as stated briefly above, the partnership with the SL network organizations is growing (such as NABU, FFI, SLT, the GSLEP Sec, etc), and this has been manifested, for example, through joint plans and initiatives to conduct a survey and subsequent estimation on the snow leopard population, with embedded component on door-to-door visits to respective households. Capacity building activities (the joint methodology for SL monitoring, whose contents have been agreed between major partners, both state and non-state), introduce a commonly agreed instrument to monitor the SL population, thus joining efforts of partners and conservationists to implement commonly agreed goals and objectives, for the sake of enhancing coordination and lessening duplication.

In terms of awareness raising/public education campaigns, the project has conducted a number of excellent informative and awareness raising workshops related to BD conservation with focus on SL and other endangered species, as well as promoting larger principles of natural resource management, in line with the national international norms and standards, in close partnerships with local authorities and communities. To strengthen the institutional and political frameworks on BD and larger environment conservation, the project has, for example, provided technical and expert support to drafting and approval of the Snow leopard conservation plan for the period 2018-2021, among other documents and decrees in the area of conservation.

By the virtue of technical nature, the project is seen as connecting point between the government, civil society, academia and the private sector as a vehicle to ensure cross sectoral coordination, and foster transparency and accountability of the government (both at the national and local levels) in natural resource management, BD conservation and community empowerment, with strong inclusion of gender principles, and the like.

<b>Role</b>	<b>2019 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2019 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>GEF Operational Focal point</b>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2019 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2019 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>Project Implementing Partner</b>	Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>UNDP-GEF project “Conservation of globally significant biodiversity and related land and forest resources of the Western Tien Shan to support sustainable livelihoods” (hereinafter - the project) is carried out in partnership with SAEPF, in particular with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Specially Protected Areas.</p> <p>The project covers three directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- management of key biodiversity areas within the landscape of the Western Tien Shan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint plan was developed and is in process of implementation;</li> <li>• Local communities are mobilized and are regularly informed about the project activities;</li> <li>• Two Nissans have been transferred to “Alatai” and “Kan Achuu” SNPs;</li> <li>• One front loader purchased and transferred to “Alatai” SNP;</li> <li>• Supervisory boards have been established in pilot parks with the participation of representatives of local communities and local self-government bodies;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Enhancing ecosystem resilience through regulation of land use and forest management to support of sustainable livelihoods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on potential partners operating in the region, such as other projects as well as economic entities is being collected;</li> <li>• Development of electronic pasture system is in process jointly with the Pasture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture;</li> <li>• Development and maintenance of electronic database on PAs (e-PAs) and violations of environmental legislation is in process;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Strengthening national capacities for regional and global cooperation of Kyrgyzstan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various thematic information materials have been developed and disseminated;</li> <li>• The project ensures participation of active young people in the project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

activities at all level;

- Identification of diseases of wild animals, training of specialists on proper collection of samples is in process;

- The project assists in strengthening measures to combat poaching, illegal trade and transportation of derivatives of wild animals.

One of the directions of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Specially Protected areas is biodiversity monitoring. In collaboration with the project, the Department works on development of new approaches to monitoring (monitoring of snow leopard and its feed base) and testing them in the territories of two State Natural Parks - Alatau and Kan-Achuu. Currently, there is a need to conduct training to employees on the use of camera-traps (including installation, collection and processing of the data obtained), as well as teach them other methods of monitoring. In addition, there is also a need to conduct training on the methodology for assessing the environmental performance of specially protected territories of the Kyrgyz Republic. At the same time, funds allocated for specialists, experts and trainers, conducting training for monitoring of participants (including employees of PAs and business entities) should be sufficient to ensure payment for their work, transportation costs, accommodation and meals.

Due to the increasing reporting obligations under international agreements/conventions and the requirements of national statistical reporting, ensuring openness and transparency, a national database on wild animals of Kyrgyzstan was developed. With the assistance of the project, a separate section containing information on specially protected natural territories of the Kyrgyz Republic (electronic protected areas) has been developed.

It is also planned to create an electronic database on violations of environmental legislation with the possibility of issuance of state hunting certificates. The programming of these databases is conducted by the Central Asian Institute for Applied Geosciences (CAIAG), supported by the project.

Implementation of activities related to scientific research in PAs face difficulties. This is mainly due to the lack or limited funding, or lack of scientific personnel and low qualifications of specialists.

Provision of financial support to the protected areas is difficult to plan due to the complexity of the requirements imposed by the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic. Tenders for the implementation of various works and acquisition of assets result in delay due to the delay in the allocation of funds (late financing etc.).

In 2017 and 2018, the sum of activities of the protected areas composed 106,892.6 thousand soms (1,534.7 thousand US dollars) and 109,786.3 thousand soms (1,576.3 thousand US dollars), while the planned indicators composed 112 332.2 thousand soms and 124 308.5 thousand soms respectively.

Funding, required for the activities of protected areas in the first half of 2019 comprise 112,394.9 thousand soms (estimated by BIOFIN project), based on program budgeting. At the same time, only 77,729.55 thousand soms have been approved for this period and only 62,658.4 thousand soms (899.6 thousand US dollars) were financed.

In addition, in 2017 and 2018 139.0 thousand soms (\$ 2.0 thousand)

and 2109.4 thousand soms (30, 3 thousand US dollars) have been received from the Republican Fund for Nature Conservation and Forestry Development, and 4694.1 thousand soms (67.4 thousand US dollars) in the 1st half of 2019.

Many stakeholders express the opinion that PAs should focus on development of tourism. However, the Department for Biodiversity Conservation and PAs has a different vision, stating there is a need to limit attendance of PAs by tourists. First of all, the establishment of protected areas is aimed at preserving objects of biodiversity; it is extremely important to limit the impact of human activity on biodiversity and to reduce or eliminate the disturbance factor. This can be referred to the state nature reserves. By creating protected areas, undisturbed areas should be preserved, or there should be created conditions for restoring and maintaining damaged ecosystems. Therefore, the resources of environmental facilities should be considered, the possibilities and order of attendance by tourists (single and in groups) and limiting their number and routes of movement should be determined.

Unfortunately, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and PAs has been involved in the project after its launch and could not fully influence the planning of activities. Therefore, only certain changes have been made to the activities of the project.

Management plans of PAs requires inventory of the natural resources in the territories of the “Alatay” and “Kan-Achuu” PAs, with identification of key species, selecting and describing the sites and routes for monitoring, developing appropriate instructions and assisting in providing PAs with special equipment.

Currently, a documentary inventory of all the subjects of the protected areas is planned and carried out, taking into account structure, staffing, funding, logistical and regulatory legal support, positive and negative aspects of their activities, the availability and quality of security measures, touristic activities.

In order to promote scientific activities in the protected areas, the topics of scientific works carried out in the territories of state natural reserves and state natural parks were reviewed at the level of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, with the aim to determine interested participants from academic and scientific bodies, students and others.

In order to strengthen the work on the prevention of violations of environmental legislation, meetings are conducted with the representatives of local authorities and the population in order to familiarize them with the work of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Pas, introduce environmental legislation, measures of responsibility for violations (poaching), as well as select candidates for groups freelance inspectors for the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and PAs.

It is necessary to continue the work on building relationships with local communities, as well as with hunting entities, considering the training of employees of protected areas and activists from the local population on anti-poaching activities, as well as monitoring, providing the most active members of the communities with the necessary material and technical means, instructive and methodical materials.

According to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Specially Protected Natural Territories”, 9 by-laws are required:

- The order for establishing a network of specially protected natural territories;
- The order of the organization of ecological corridors;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The procedure for the formation, use, change of categories and liquidation of specially protected natural territories, as well as the approval of their borders (there is a procedure for formation, change of categories, approval of borders and liquidation of specially protected natural territories in the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Government resolution dated as of July 30, 2015 No. 541);</li> <li>- The procedure for state control and state monitoring of compliance with the established regime in specially protected natural territories;</li> <li>- The order of organization and arrangement of ecological routes, tourist paths and parking areas, accommodation of tourism facilities, museums and expositions under the open sky in specially protected natural territories;</li> <li>- The procedure for maintaining the state cadaster of specially protected natural territories;</li> <li>- The procedure for stay of citizens on the territory of state natural reserves;</li> <li>- Protection regime of tourist and recreational areas of natural parks;</li> <li>- The order of formation, use and definition of wetlands;</li> <li>- The order of formation and functioning of micro-reserves and specially protected areas of local importance;</li> <li>- The procedure for the formation of state monuments of nature.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Specially Protected Natural Territories” (amended by the Government Resolution No. 58 as of 06/02/2018) does not refer to the procedure for using lands of specially protected natural territories (however there is a Regulation on the use of lands of state natural parks of the Kyrgyz Republic, approved by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic as of 05.10.2015, No. 677, which, according to some experts, requires improvement).</p> <p>Therefore, there is a great need in the development of the relevant regulatory legal acts or to refine existing ones.</p> <p>In general, the development and the adoption of a regulatory legal act is a very complex and lengthy process that requires not only significant financial, but also human resources. There is a need for active assistance from the project team in developing of a concept of PA development.</p>	
<b>Role</b>	<b>2019 Development Objective Progress Rating</b>	<b>2019 Implementation Progress Rating</b>
<b>Other Partners</b>	Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>In 2017 and after its start, the project has supported an event of global significance for Kyrgyz Republic; this is hosting of an International Forum on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard and its Ecosystems, which was chaired by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic (August 24-25, 2017). The Forum was attended by all 12 snow leopard range countries senior officials ranging from the vice-ministers of respective environmental protection entities to a vice-president and the vice-speaker of the given range countries.</p> <p>Green investment Forum has been programmed into the Forum’s work to discuss and seek pledges for external resources for the GSLEP implementation</p>	

and fostering of the “green finance” principles.

Results of the Forum 2017:

- Bishkek Declaration 2017; the Document signals strong political, scientific and financial support to snow leopard conservation with focus on communities that share their spaces with the majestic snow leopard.
- First start of Population Assessment of the World snow leopard population (PAWS process) within the framework of achieving the goal of the GSLEP “Secure 20 by 2020”.
- The development of new projects on the snow leopard conservation with the possible allocation of financial quotas from all snow leopard range countries through the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

In addition, the WTS project promptly provided support to the GSLEP Secretariat staff itself, thereby providing an opportunity to enhance staff performance and productivity.

General information about the GSLEP:

2017 the midpoint of implementation of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program by 2020 (GSLEP). The GSLEP program was launched after all snow leopard range countries unanimously endorsed the Bishkek Declaration for snow leopard conservation in Bishkek, on October 2013.

GSLEP has provided a powerful impetus to the development and expand cooperation with range states, international organizations, as well as with the main experts in the field of snow leopard conservation and biodiversity. GSLEP have managed to create a platform where the political leaders of 12 snow leopard range countries have merged to work together to protect snow leopards and highland ecosystems.

2018-2019.

The WTS project is an important for the implementation of the GSLEP program itself at the national level (for Kyrgyz Republic), which enables the country to achieve the goal of the GSLEP program “Secure 20 by 2020”. The WTS plays significant role as well as in transboundary and global levels, in framework of GSLEP.

National level: The WTS project supported the initiative to develop a National Action Plan (2018-2023) for the implementation of National Strategy for the Snow Leopard Conservation for 2013-2023 (Government Decree No. 732, October 19, 2012). Subsequently, this Action Plan is submitted to the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Transboundary level: Within the framework of expanding transboundary cooperation, with the support of the WTS project, has been pushed the Central Asian Initiative between the Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, where the issue of signing a Memorandum and Endorsing the Action Plan of joint activities on the Western Tien Shan and the Pamir-Alay with



the goal of expanding cross-border cooperation on snow leopard conservation under the GSLEP and starting the PAWS process.

In this direction, a number of events have been held by the parties to the forthcoming Memorandum. So, they are:

- 1st Central Asian meeting was held in Tashkent, (July 16-20, 2018), Consultative meeting on transboundary Cooperation.
- 2nd meeting was held in Khudzhand, Tajikistan, (April 10-12, 2019), Central Asian Regional Workshop transboundary aspects of snow leopard conservation.
- 3rd meeting was held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, (July 3-4, 2019), Snow leopard conservation: Population, Management & Trans-boundary Cooperation.

Agenda of these meetings was a discussion of the draft Memorandum on the Western Tien Shan and the Pamir-Alai.

Global level: An important event for the country in 2018 was the holding - 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP).

Results:

1. Regional Project under the GEF 7, with UNDP's role as an implementing agency and co-lead by other core partners.

1.1 Countries provided information on funded GEF projects initiated to support national and global snow leopard priorities and ecosystems (NSLEP and GSLEP). Following the results of the Forum 2017.

2. Countries unanimously supported the PAWS process, in the framework of the Bishkek Declaration 2017.

3. Database to monitor poaching and illegal wildlife trade in snow leopard and related wildlife.

Need to continue to work closely with the GSLEP Secretariat and to complete previously initiated joint activities:

1. Approval by SAEPF - a methodology for assessing the snow leopard in the Kyrgyz Republic (PAWS process).

1.1 Estimation of the snow leopard population in WTS (Kyrgyz Republic).

2. Creation of a database on illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT), as part of implementation the Bishkek Declaration 2017.

3. Study of issues on creation the Regional Funds, Projects and National Trust Funds for financing the Management Landscape Plans within the GSLEP.

4. Processing the issue of the Genetic Laboratory in the Kyrgyz Republic.

5. Assist for organizing the International charity half marathon "Save the Snow Leopard", which is planned to be held in Bishkek (15 September, 2019).

Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating
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UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser	Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>This is the second PIR for this project aiming at conservation of globally important biodiversity and associated land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain ecosystems. As preliminary confirmed by the MTR, the project is well aligned with national strategies and programs as well as the UNDP and GEF-6 focal areas strategies, and it is a direct response to national priorities. The implementation adheres to the project strategy detailed in the project document. The project secured good progress across its objective level indicators and the overall “Satisfactory” rating is granted, which is in line with the MTR preliminary assessment and findings.</p> <p>Key highlights under objective level include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new methodology has been developed for conducting flora and fauna inventories and zoning. It was approved by an order of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), (No.01-9/180 - June 28, 2018).</li> <li>- Flora and fauna inventories and zoning of the new PAs were completed</li> <li>- The inventory globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts reported by State Institution “Kyrgyz Forestry and Hunting Management” is as follows: (i) Semenov’s fir (<i>Abies Semenovii</i>) – 4,930.5 ha; (ii) Juniper (<i>Juniperus sp.</i>) - 9204,6 ha; (iii) Relict spruce (<i>Picea schrenkiana</i>) – 4,322.2 ha</li> <li>- Economic, geobotanic assessment and mapping of degraded pastures in the two target districts are underway. The project set up four (4) demonstration sites (0.6 ha in total) to conduct monitoring activities of degraded pastures, and supported activities on restoring degraded pastures (250 ha) in in Toguz Toro. Update of pasture management plans of the targeted pasture management committees is ongoing as well the development of integrated management plans;</li> <li>- Jointly with the World Bank project, the project provided support to develop an integrated management plan for Toktogul Leskhoz (72,324 ha);</li> <li>- The project supported natural regeneration on an area of about 7,200 ha, and new plantings on about 250 ha;</li> <li>- Improved work condition of Rangers in two SNPs, have translated into a more effective management and protection of these parks covering an area of 88,985 ha (including the transferred area of 1,663 ha);</li> <li>- A total of about 5,770 people from local communities in the pilot districts took part in information campaigns calling for nature conservation and respect for biodiversity (42% women).</li> </ul> <p>Stemming from the above, progress towards the development objective is rated to be S (Satisfactory).</p> <p>Regarding Outcome 1 on conservation and sustainable management of key biodiversity areas within the Snow Leopard landscape, the project has introduced the METT methodology and a guide to conduct METT assessment, which was officialized by a SAEPF Order. METT scores have been established</p>	

for all PAs in Western Tian Shan. The project procured critical equipment to Rangers to better monitor and surveil fauna and flora in the two new SNPs as well as equipment to facilitate their fieldwork, including riding horses and camping equipment. The project has been introducing the HVCF concept in the forestry sector and a methodology to apply this concept to forests in Kyrgyzstan should be approved later in 2019. Finally, the project has also contributed to strengthen the patrolling and surveilling capacity of target PAs in Western Tian Shan. Progress under this Outcome is assessed as S (Satisfactory).

Outcome 2 aims at enhanced ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity in Western Tian Shan. It is a complex outcome containing six indicators and progress towards this outcome is closely linked to implementation of Outcome 1. Progress under Outcome 2 is slower due mostly to the fact that the HCVF concept (Outcome 1) has not been yet formally approved preventing forestry activities to be implemented, and that the micro-grant scheme has not started yet. Under Outcome 2 the project has focused on two areas: sustainable forest management and pasture management. Some plantations took place to restore some forest resources. The project has supported the revision/improvement of the existing electronic pasture management system as well as the use of this revised System by herders/farmers. It has also contributed to the restoration of degraded pastures. The project has also been supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in local development planning in the Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts. Finally, the project conducted an initial needs assessment to identify needs for a micro-grant scheme. A draft concept of the microgrant program to provide small “green” grants to herders and farmers was developed. A first tranche of USD 100k should be deployed in the coming year. The issue with the second project site (where social tension and private sector engagement were risking success as reported in the previous PIR) has been resolved and relevant activities on pasture management and sustainable livelihood opportunities are ongoing in the Toguz-Toro district. Overall progress under this Outcome is assessed as MS (Moderately Satisfactory).

Under Outcome 3 on strengthened national capacities for snow leopard conservation, overall good progress is observed. The project has so far procured uniforms for the Dog Service staff at the Manas (Bishkek) airport and it is in the process of procuring an open-air cage for 4 dogs for the service to improve the control of illegal wildlife trade at the airport. The project is also seeking to support the training of dogs to combat poaching. Regarding the conservation of Snow Leopard, the project has been supporting national stakeholders, including the GSLEP Secretariat, to participate in consultation meetings with Central Asian countries for the development of a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard and its habitat. The project also supports the development of a Snow Leopard Monitoring database and a monitoring methodology to monitor the Snow Leopard population, including the procurement of 50 camera traps. Finally, a series of information products were developed and used by the project in various fora to raise awareness about wildlife conservation, particularly Snow Leopard conservation. Progress under this Outcome is assessed as S (Satisfactory).

The project is implemented by a good technical team of professionals bringing together a broad range of skills and knowledge in protected areas, forestry and pasture management, biodiversity conservation, local livelihood, and capacity development areas. The project is implemented with good participative approaches and good partnerships with key stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan. The

State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) and its departments have been much involved in leading the implementation of project activities, which should contribute to a good sustainability of project achievements. As reported by the MTR, good collaborations with non-governmental entities as well as with local communities in the project areas have been observed.

The project held one Project Board meetings this reporting period, in February 2019, to report on progress and approve the 2019 annual workplan.

The project enjoys excellent partnerships with relevant government entities at all levels (national, regional and local); including ARIS, Association of Pasture Committees as well as non-governmental organizations such as NABU, Irbis, GSLEP, UCA, and Snow Leopard Foundation/Trust. It also enjoys an excellent coordination approach with other related donor-funded projects. The project also joined the Coordination and Consultative Council, an entity led by SAEPF and bringing together donors, and national and international stakeholders implementing forest related projects. Good coordination mechanisms are in place to collaborate among Partners, including the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. The participative and collaborative approach used by the project implementation team is conducive for this good engagement and will certainly be contributing to the sustainability of project achievements over the long term.

Communication activities and knowledge management provide a good visibility of the project at national, regional and local levels. The project has produced excellent information products to raise awareness of stakeholders and beneficiaries and overall to emphasize the visibility of the project. The project has released numerous communication products through several channels, including YouTube videos, newsletters, magazines, social media, websites including those from partners to the project, TV channels, books, brochures, etc. The project set up a Facebook pages for both new SNPs: Alatai and Kan-Achuu.

The project reports one critical risk related to frequent changes in the management of the national parks, as well as heads of district state administrations that put certain barriers to implementation of the project's activities on the ground. As mitigation measures, the project maintains regular contacts with the central apparatus and tries to keep the newcomer updated by providing detailed information on project activities, having additional meetings and organizing joint field trips to the pilot areas to learn more and in detail about the project activities.

Regarding financial management, the disbursements of the GEF grant is slower than the timeline. As of June 30, 2019, total expenditures amount to about USD 1,295,170 representing about 32% of the GEF grant versus an elapsed time of 50% (30 months out of 60). It has a remaining budget from the GEF grant of USD 2,693,405 (68%) for the remaining period of implementation. When considering the timeline left for implementing the project (30 months), it will require a drastic change in managing the project with a significant increase of project activities and double average monthly disbursements to fully implement

the budget by project end.

At this point in project implementation, it is critical for the project team and UNDP CO to devise a detailed multi-year procurement plan with a monthly break down of activities and adhere to it. In case of difficulties with TORs, or procurement process, the country office should benefit from RTA advise, as well as assistance of Country Support Desk of the Istanbul Regional Hub.

Considering that the current cumulative delivery is off track and the delivery rate against the approved annual budget is less than 50% (the two important criteria that justify the IP rating) the overall IP rating is rated as MS (Moderately Satisfactory).

The RTA advises:

- Jointly with the midterm evaluator, finalize the MTR report, prepare the management response to address the MTR recommendations and seek endorsement of the Project Board on both, the MTR report and management response matrix;
- Incorporate activities to comply with the MTR recommendations in the project's annual workplan;
- Monitor co-financing commitments and obtain co-financed estimates from Partners;
- Continue to maintain effective working relationships with the State Agency and district authorities to ensure timely implementation of activities on the ground.
- During planning as well as implementation, please try to maintain a more balanced progress across all project indicators;
- Equally, keep track on budget use and ensure that as activities roll out so does the budget delivery. Devise a detailed multi-year procurement plan with a monthly break down of activities and adhere to it. In case of difficulties with TORs, or procurement process, the country office should benefit from RTA advise, as well as assistance of Country Support Desk of the Istanbul Regional Hub.

## H. Gender

### Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning. The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

<b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan:</b> <a href="#">WTS ID_Gender mainstreaming plan_2018_FINAL.docx</a>
<b>Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.</b>
<b>Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):</b>
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes
Not applicable: No
<b>Atlas Gender Marker Rating</b>
<b>GEN2:</b> gender equality as significant objective
<b>Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.</b>
The Project supported 16 Days Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign in the project areas during the GBV awareness raising period of November 25 - December 10, 2018. With the special information materials and trainings on gender rights and equality the remote communities of Toktogul and Chatkal districts were reached out.
In fact, the Project set a goal to achieve Joint Forest Management model with not less than 30% of women participation and to facilitate women to take active position in management, however, local customs, traditional views and habits are still something hindering the women's full involvement into decision making processes. Moreover, the remote areas are highly prone to still follow the traditional - gender stereotyped habits with some extent of GBV. Therefore, to make project communities gender sensitive, the informational sessions were designed in a way to provide basics and include topics of understanding sex and gender, gender roles, gender stereotypes, GBV and the types of violence. Local volunteers, women and members of women committees were involved into 16 days campaign and invited various groups of the community. During the informational sessions at the local schools,

participants could interact with and ask questions from the gender experts and trainers, the live discussions touched upon types of violence with particular focus on psychological violence, explaining parents that they cannot and have no right to push their children for early marriages, and existing gender stereotypes leading to gender inequality and GBV.

In respect to gender roles, the audience acknowledged some positive progress of women economic participation, 2 ranger women perform their work in land and forest management along with their male colleagues in the Project areas. The entrenched stereotypes of having purely male and female professions is also one of the barriers leading to gender inequality, the discussed topics touched upon the challenges for young school graduates entering the high school. While some of them face parental influence in selecting their future profession, when in many cases girls are advised to be a teacher and boys to be an engineer.

Taking into account the aims of the 16 Days Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign, gender experts stressed on demonstration of zero tolerance towards the GBV, and encouraged the audience to appeal the GBV cases following the new Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Safeguarding and Protection Against Domestic Violence". The new Law protects GBV victims and a victim may call the Police.

That being said, communities of Toktogul and Chatkal districts are now aware of their gender rights and know how to address GBV, if it happens, having good understanding of how gender equality could influence the local social and economic development along with environmental protection and conservation efforts.

**Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**

**Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.**

The project's 2019 gender mainstreaming plan was developed in close cooperation with the UNDP Gender team and coordinates and consults with the UNDP Gender Team when it comes to implementation of the gender related activities (plan is attached to PIR).

The project has been addressing the issues of gender-equality and the empowerment of women in different ways, including:

1. Giving a priority to women applicants when hiring and procuring staff (3 of 7 project staff are women: Project Coordinator, Project Assistant, a National UNV)
2. Ensuring 40% participation of women in all the project activities at all levels.
3. Gender balanced Independent Steering Boards were established in the national parks: in SNP "Alatau" 4 of 9 staff are women, in SNP "Kan-Achuu" 4 of 11 staff are women.
4. Per the standard operating procedures, all information materials, guidelines, action plans and other materials have gender considerations.

5. According to the prevailing norms, traditions, stereotypes in the country, women are the key agents of knowledge transfer to children. Therefore, the project first targeted women by educating them on eco-education, importance of biodiversity, financial literacy (how to prepare a microgrant applications), etc.

6. Thanks to a series of consultations with the management of the two target nature parks, two (2) female rangers were hired. One of them is a freelance woman ranger who is part of the anti-poaching groups in “Kan - Achuu” State National park.

In 2018, the UNDP Gender Program has rewarded the project for the fruitful efforts and vivid contributions towards women empowerment and gender equality.

**Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.**

All project activities are designed and implemented with considerations of women empowerment.

Through inclusive community-based institutions for pasture management (pasture committees), small farmers will benefit from improved access to pastures, as pasture committees will be assisted in grouping and organizing herding of animals of small-scale animal owners, including women. The Project's ongoing work on pasture committees in target areas aims at improving women representation in all community-based bodies for up to 30%.

The Project will pay appropriate attention to the gender issues - up to 30% should be women lead initiatives. This component is yet to be initiated and the results of the assessment will follow.

The alternative livelihood program includes gender indicators, particularly favoring women as small-scale project implementers. The project envisages a target of 30% of women recipients and project managers.

The preparation of the Sixth National Biodiversity Report lacked qualitative research on gender and biodiversity. Having this in mind, the Project is planning a joint study with the UNDP Gender Program to analyze and showcase the role of women in biodiversity conservation. Results of the research will be reported in the next reporting period.



## I. Social and Environmental Standards

### Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

The Project Manager and/or the project's Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

<b>1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?</b>
No
<b>If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.</b>
The project's SESP risks were low and these remain with no changes.
<b>2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.</b>
No
<b>If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.</b>
N/A
<b>SESP:</b> <a href="#">KGZ_PIMS6958_WTS_SESP_signed.pdf</a>
<b>Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:</b> <i>not available</i>
<b>For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.</b>
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
<b>3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.</b>
Not Applicable
<b>If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.</b>
N/A
<b>4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?</b>
No
<b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status,</b>

significance, who was involved and what action was taken.
N/A

## J. Communicating Impact

**Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives.**

**(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)**

Panarbek Jabaikulov is a ranger with 14 years of experience. He began his forester career back in 2005 in the Aksy forestry. Since then he has been actively involved in the development of the district's forest sector. Aksy forestry has an area of 62.5 thousand ha, of which 29 thousand ha are covered with forest, nuts on 2,200 ha and pistachios on 14,700 ha. Panarbek says walnut and fruit trees play an important role in the ecosystem. Moreover, these forests have and play important natural-ecological functions, for example, the functions of protecting the soil from erosion or natural water balance. Therefore, it is very important to pay attention to the development of these crops.

Having good knowledge and awareness of the benefits of nuts and fruit crops, he and his colleagues have been nursing a project for many years to expand the forest coverage of the Aksy district. Now having got information about the UNDP-GEF Project, he has launched an initiative to plant walnuts and pistachios on the territory of the Aksy district.

His initiative was supported by the project and as a result, walnut and fruit crops were planted at the 3 sites with a total area of 100 ha. This year, they are planning to plant similar crops on 50 ha. Panarbek has emphasized that besides to reforestation goals, the Project carries a socio-economic impact. During the planting activities, the local residents were attracted, who received additional income and they were also taught and assigned personal responsibility for caring about the crops, as they were planted by themselves.

"The Project activities were not limited to the procurement of seedlings and the payment to workers, but it has also provided materials for fencing these plantations. Now plantations are safe from cattle, which has always been a huge problem when caring for the young seedlings. Forestry workers have also confidence in the safety of the trees, and higher chances for their growth", said the Chief ranger of the Aksy district.

As it is well known, by increasing the number of population, anthropogenic pressure on forests increases. Besides, the natural reproduction of the walnut is very low, the young trees do not find enough space for vegetation.

"Despite the trees have been planted just recently and the first fruits are expected in a few years, the local population is already applying to rent a land plot. This is because people are seeing the first and positive results, as all the conditions have been created", said Panarbek.

As the Project implementation goes, our views and attitudes towards the further expansion of forest areas are shifting. It also carries prerequisites for the development of ecotourism in the local areas and a positive effect on the climate change.

"By the way, this is my first experience in the implementation of the project, and I see that it gives a

positive impact and confidence in my future plans. I think the project will be replicative, and our efforts will continue in the same effective way”, Panarbek shared his hopes.

This year, especially valuable tree species like walnut, pistachio and almond were planted on the territory of forestries of the Western Tien Shan (Toktogul, Aksy and Karakul). The total area of the planting made 194 ha. UNDP-GEF Project and the SAEPF have provided technical support by procuring planting material, necessary tools and materials for fencing the forest plantations.

Restoration of the degraded forests brings many benefits like improving biodiversity, mitigating climate change and generating economic wealth. While forest degradation is threatening the snow leopard, by affecting its food base of wild hoofed and small mammals.

Forest restoration works have been carried by joint efforts of the SAEPF, local communities and the UNDP-GEF Project.

## Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media

**Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**

**Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file library' button in the top right of the PIR.**

The Project's communication plan (attached) was developed in consultation with the UNDP Communications team.

When implementing project activities, the project team regularly shared information using the mass media outlets and interacted with the wider public on the project results and plans – by maintaining effective feedback mechanism.

During the reporting period the project team has documented all activities and produced a video report:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVCEroQfC94&list=PLOu-CsdLaS7THAd4jUTsWYmhWfXtGWbch&index=9&t=11s>

Information on the project activities, important international or national dates and holidays in the area of environment and all relevant information goes through various channels including:

1. UNDP quarterly newsletters
2. UNDP biannual magazine Bayan
3. UNDP social media (Facebook, Twitter etc. )
4. Websites and newspapers of local partners
5. UNDP website (<http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/projects/conservation-of-globally-important-biodiversity-and-associated-l.html>)
6. State Agency website
7. Development of various media products (photo book, articles in newspapers and social media, TV channels)
8. Two Facebook pages of the Alatai and Kan-Achu natural parks:  
(<https://www.facebook.com/Государственный-природный-парк-Алатай-State-Nature-Park-Alatay-124922858138568/>; <https://www.facebook.com/Государственный-природный-парк-Кан-Ачуу-State-Nature-Park-Kan-Achuu-788284528020649/>).

Links for information produced in 2018 and 2019 year:

#### UNDP social media

1. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/videos/1705115142917721/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/1703028866459682>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/1701867729909129>
4. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/1700717726690796>
5. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/1694544903974745>
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## K. Partnerships

### Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important! All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

<b>Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?</b>
Yes
<b>Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?</b>
No
<b>Does the project work with the Private Sector?</b>
Yes
<b>Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?</b>
Yes
<b>Does the project work with UN Volunteers?</b>
Yes
<b>Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?</b>
Yes
<b>CEO Endorsement Request:</b> <a href="#">PIMS 5411 Kyrgyzstan WTS CEO Req resubm 20 oct.docx</a>
<b>Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.</b>
<p>The Stakeholder Engagement Plan is at full speed under implementation. The Project team has been in regular contact with all the partners. More detailed information about new partnerships like with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Science, Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, and private sector will be reported via the MTR and the plan might have some revision/update in accordance with the UNDP-GEF rules.</p> <p>The project established solid partnerships with a diverse network of CSOs/NGOs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Camp Ala-Too, a local NGO is a key partner in implementing the work on sustainable management of pastures. The project inherited and applied their best practice in community mobilization.</li> <li>2. The Public Foundation "Initiative of Roza Otunbaeva" produced a set of visibility materials on Ecological Education (videos, interactive games/posters)</li> </ol>

3. World Nomad Games (WNG) Secretariat selected the Snow Leopard as a symbol of the Third World Nomad Games. The innovativeness of this partnership was about considering environmental aspects in organizing the games (via increasing awareness about the importance of Biodiversity, Wildlife, including Snow Leopard and its ecosystems, harms of plastic pollution, pasture degradation, etc.) The project has developed a series of video materials broadcasted during the WNG considering the issues of biodiversity conservation and environment protection. The project has also produced a Guide for organizing such large open-air events, taking into account environmental aspects (pasture and land management). This Guide was transferred to the Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic.

4. An IFAD-funded project on pasture management, implemented by the Kyrgyz Agency of Development and Communities Infrastructure, has cooperated with the Project in the development of the management plans for pasture committees.

5. Community-based organizations working on biodiversity conservation in the two target districts served as partners on anti-pouching activities, joint patrolling and monitoring and other related activities were implemented at the community level.

The project has also collaborated with the following partners:

- UNDP BIOFIN project - on financial mechanisms for environment and biodiversity protection
- UNDP BIOFIN Project and UNDP-GEF RIO conventions project - on revision of the National Biodiversity Conservation strategy
- FAO-GEF, GIZ, WB-GEF – supported joint Forest Management project on forestry sector - on the development of an electronic system on forestry, by including data collection on protected areas
- UNDP-GEF Project in Uzbekistan - on implementation of a South-South Cooperation exchange visit on pasture management system in Kyrgyzstan
- The Ministry of Education and Science organized the Second competition for 200 schoolchildren on the International Day of Biodiversity Conservation jointly with the SAEPP.

Private sector:

The project works closely with the private sector. For example, a good collaboration was established with famous garment designers. Specifically, on the Snow Leopard celebration Day in October 2018, a famous local designer has produced children's line of cloths named "Snow Leopard". The designer has directed all the collected profit for tree planting in the city of Bishkek.

For attracting more attention to the issue of biodiversity conservation, an exhibition-show named "Inspiring fashion" was held by devoting it to the International Day of Birds on 1 April. By partnering with a female designer and her art-work, the Project raised public awareness about the problems of preserving wetlands and bird habitats.

The Project has supported the photo exhibition named "Birds of Kyrgyzstan". The key thing in this was that the project has united representatives of science, ornithologists, birdwatchers and amateur photographers for the cause of protecting environment and biodiversity.

Having collected more than 200 photos a photo exhibition was organized, where the authors themselves spoke with the guests about the photos and featured birds. Later in the month, the photo exhibition was presented at the international exhibition named "Silk Road", organized by the Public Fund "Initiative of Roza Otunbaeva". The project is planning to transfer this photo collection to the

secondary schools at the project areas and organize biodiversity corners or rooms.

A special line of chocolate bar named “Snow Leopard” was produced in collaboration with the Kyrgyz chocolate company. Two Kyrgyz Soms from each sold chocolate will be kept aside and directed for environment protection activities. These funds however will be kept by the company until a special mechanism of collecting deposits from private companies is operationalized.

#### Small Grants Program

The Project partnered with the GEF Small Grants Program in Kyrgyzstan during the high-level Snow Leopard Conservation International Forum by sharing visibility materials such as comics about the snow leopard produced by the SGP.

The GEF Small Grants Program is now physically located in the UNDP Programme Office, which will allow for better coordination and collaboration. Mr. Chalov Akmat is a GEF SGP grant recipient living in Toktogul district. One may say about Akmat that he is a savior of an endangered species of the Red Book “Uzunakhmat grape” (*Vitis usunachmatica*, Vass). The Project has prepared a short human story video about Akmat, as part of the information campaign about people who have contributed to biodiversity conservation and environment protection. This video has been broadcast on the OTRK National TV for a time period of three months, free of charge as it is a social video calling upon human beings to develop and foster care loving attitude towards our nature.

#### UNV

The project has two (2) National UNVs in the team who have been playing a key role in community mobilization efforts. They did a great job in establishing strong ties with the local communities. The project has been conducting tailored trainings to upskill the project staff, including the NUNVs. Having gained good experience and skills in communications and PR, they are now supporting natural parks with maintaining and promoting of their official Facebook pages, and facilitating access to other media outlets, both domestic and foreign.

## L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

### Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

### Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.