



2020
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



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Resilient nations.*

Snow leopards in Tian Shan

Basic Data	2
Overall Ratings.....	3
Development Progress.....	4
Implementation Progress	60
Critical Risk Management	62
Adjustments	63
Ratings and Overall Assessments	64
Gender	80
Social and Environmental Standards	83
Communicating Impact	85
Partnerships	105
Annex - Ratings Definitions.....	108

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	Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Low

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 2019	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"> - Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>) - Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>) - Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) - Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>) 	<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"> - Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 49; - Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 4116; - Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 31; - Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>): 197; 	<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"> - Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 49; >0% - Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 4839; >3% - Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 40; >1% - Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>): 256; >5% 	<p>Results of the 2018 inventory exercise of globally significant fauna in Jalal-Abad province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 40; - Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 3,124; - Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 0; - Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>): 164 <p>Results of the 2019 monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 31; - Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 3,050; - Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 0; - Tian Shan white clawed bear 	<p>Results of the 2019 inventory exercise of globally significant fauna in Jalal-Abad province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snow leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>): 34; - Ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>): 4656; - Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>): 72; - Tian Shan white clawed bear (<i>Ursus arctos isabellinus</i>): 261 <p>Source: Department of Biodiversity and Specially Protected Areas of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF).</p> <p>As reported in the 2019 PIR, The Western Tien Shan region remains poorly studied, available data is fragmented, and information not</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,</p>	<p>structured. This is the very reason why the project continues to support scientific studies in target landscapes and development of electronic PA system.</p> <p>Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs in the Jalal-Abad province have all the needed cartographic and technical materials: maps of internal and external boundaries, zoning maps, maps of raids, forest planting maps, taxation materials, projects of national park organization.</p> <p>With these materials the protected areas may plan and implement annually nature and forest conservation and biotechnical activities.</p> <p>Developed materials contain all needed information for planning and management protected areas for the next 15 years.</p> <p>With the support of the project a new methodology was developed for flora and fauna inventory and zoning, which was approved by the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic No. №01-9/180 dd June 28, 2018.</p>
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				<p>resulting in the 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</p>	<p>Using this new approved methodology, inventory and zoning of protected areas “Alatai” and “Kan - Achuu” were completed in 2018 and approved in 2019.</p> <p>Also, in 2019 the State Enterprise “Kyrgyzlesoohotoustroistvo” conducted forest management activities using the new methodology in other PAs such as Kulun Ata, Kara Shoro and Kyrgyz Ata. This methodology is unique, as it also includes biodiversity monitoring.</p> <p>The project purchased 50 units of camera traps for Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs, which make monitoring of population of wild animals much easier. The project organized practical trainings for Alatai and Kan Achuu staff on the use of automated camera traps.</p> <p>Staff of the pilot protected areas regularly set up camera traps on their territories and publish wild animals’ photos on the SAEPF’s website, as well as on Facebook. This is being positively accepted by local population who learn more</p>
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				<p>of flora and fauna as well as the revision of forest management in the two state 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</p>	<p>about the importance of biodiversity.</p> <p>The camera traps helped to decrease poaching cases. According to rangers, with the camera traps, the number of poaching cases decreased dramatically. Now people are displaying more care when visiting forestries and PAs of the pilot rayons.</p> <p>On the territory of Western Tian Shan such rare red book animals as ibex, porcupines and bears have been seen, not been seen before for more than 10 years. It is a testimony of a good dynamic and increased effectiveness of the protected areas in the area. The project in collaboration with the Department of biodiversity conservation and PAs and the National Academy of Science is conducting a detailed research and inventory of the territory. Results of the research will be available in the next reporting period.</p>
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				zone of tourist and recreation activities - 122 units on 3,053.2 ha, in the zone of limited economic activity - 364 units on 12,297.8 ha.	
2. Status of globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts: - Semenov's fir (Abies Semenovii) - Juniper (Juniperus sp.) - Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana)	Index of area and forest quality of globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts (ha): - Semenov's fir (Abies Semenovii) – Total = 4,281.8 ha: Ha - Category 1: 2,025.1 (47%) Ha – Category 2: 1,728.3 (40%) Ha – Category 3: 528.4 (12%) Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%) - Juniper (Juniperus sp.) – Total = 6,847.3 ha: Ha - Category 1: 694.4 (10%) Ha – Category 2: 4,254.9 (62%) Ha – Category 3: 1,898 (28%)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Index of area and forest quality of globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts: - Semenov's fir (Abies Semenovii) – Total = 4,281.8 ha: Ha - Category 1: 2,225.1 Ha – Category 2: 1,956.3 Ha – Category 3: 100.4 Ha – Category 4: 0 - Juniper (Juniperus sp.) – Total = 7,171.8 ha: Ha - Category 1: 1289.1 Ha – Category 2: 4,701.7 Ha – Category 3: 1,181.0 Ha – Category 4: 0 - Relict spruce	Semenov's fir (Abies Semenovii) – 4,930.5 Ha Juniper (Juniperus sp.) - 9,204.6 Ha -Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) – 4,322.2 Ha 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.	Status of globally significant flora remain at the 2019 level as reported in the previous PIR: Semenov's fir (Abies Semenovii) – 4,930.5 Ha Juniper (Juniperus sp.) - 9,204.6 Ha -Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) – 4,322.2 Ha According to 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 on Environment Protection and Forestry, Institute of Forestry of the National Academy of Science, PA counterparts. Within the framework of the World

	<p>Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%)</p> <p>- Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) – 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>(Picea schrenkiana) – Total = 4,202.6 ha:</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>Bank-GEF Project on “Integrated management of forest ecosystems of Kyrgyz Republic”, the second forest inventory is taking place in the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>National forest inventory will be conducted using the new approved methodology. Project staff have actively participated in the discussions of the new methodology with the Forest Institute of National Academy of Science, SAEPF and other independent experts.</p> <p>The main aim of the National forest inventory is to ensure sustainable development of forest sector, biodiversity conservation through development of transparent and up to date database on forests, their quantitative and qualitative parameters, integration of ecosystem service principles and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>It is planned to cover 1 300 forest paths, using data collection program, modern equipment and satellite images. It will enable to receive necessary information on forests, their resources, as well as assess area of forests with 95% accuracy.</p>
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					Inventory will cover all forests of pilot territories, including two forestries – Toktogul and Toguz Toro. In order to support the forestries, the project plans to conduct practical trainings on data collection and develop database on forest areas of Alatai and Kan Achu PAs.
3. Area of degraded pastureland in four target A/As in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts - Cholpon-Ata - Kyzyl-Ozgorush - Kok-Irim - Atai	65,361 ha (estimated based on relevant available data)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	0 ha (decrease of 65,361 ha)	65,111 ha Key results in the reporting period include: 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. 2. The information system “Electronic Pasture Management” is being upgraded with the support of the Project. 3. Induction seminars to introduce	65,111 ha As of now all 4 pilot pasture committees in pilot ayil okmotus have their pasture management plans covering 119,655 hectares. The project will continue to support restoration of the degraded pastures. As of now around 60% or 65,000 ha of degraded pastures are being restored. With the set-up of an electronic pasture management system the project plans to cover at least 119,655 hectares of pastures in the pilot areas. According to the agreement with the Pasture Department and association member we also plan to

				<p>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 corridors of wild</p>	<p>expand and replicate the e-pasture system possibly beyond pilot landscapes but at least to the Jalal Avad province.</p> <p>The project continues its collaborating and coordinating with the partners working on pastures: ARIS, Association of pasture committees “Kyrgyz Zhayit” and Pasture department under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>The information system “Electronic Pasture Management” is being updated and upgraded with the support of the Project.</p> <p>The following results have been achieved on restoration of degraded pastures and integration of “Electronic Pasture Management” system on the territories of pilot ayil okmotus of Toktogul and Toguz Toro districts:</p> <p>1. An individual consultant is hired on pasture management issues; a company commissioned to conduct geobotanical studies of pastures;</p>
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				animals.	<p>small grant support component of the project is underway as well as development of Electronic Pasture Management system;</p> <p>2. Recommendations on restoration of degraded pastures in pilot ayil okmotu have been agreed with pasture households and finalized;</p> <p>3. Management plans of 4 pilot pasture committees have been reviewed and recommendations on improvement of management plans have been provided;</p> <p>4. The project held two meetings Toktogul and Kazarman (7 and 20 February 2020) on cooperation between pasture users and pasture restoration. Representatives of pasture users, ARIS, Zhayit committees, ayil okmotu, district pasture users association "Kyrgyz Zhayity" participated in these meetings. As a result, the following was proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of consolidated plans of the pilot ayil okmotus, Toktogul and Toguz Toro forestries, Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs on avoiding conflict situations on pasture use.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of pastures and pilot ayil okmotus and distribution of maps among pasture users; <p>These meetings assisted the participants in improving their knowledge on pasture management.</p> <p>On November 1, 2019 the project supported the Sixth National meeting of the Coordination Board on Pasture Management, organized by pasture users' association of Kyrgyzstan. Activities on rehabilitation of degraded pastures have been discussed, as well as integration of Electronic pasture management system on the territories of pilot LSGs. As a result, the Coordination board has recommended to support the project activities and its further collaboration on integration of the Electronic Pasture Management system.</p> <p>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 and will be based on the results of ongoing geobotanical</p>
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					<p>research of pastures in pilot areas.</p> <p>The project continues its work on monitoring of four (4) demonstration plots (0.6 ha in total) set to conduct monitoring of pasture degradation processes.</p> <p>Project will continue to support restoration of degraded pastures by providing sainfoin seeds as in the previous years (244 Ha).</p> <p>Work is being carried out with Pasture committees in the pilot local self-governments, 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 corridors of wild animals. For example, in the Saimaluu Tash SNP project will support restoration of degraded pastures by providing new innovative tools for Kyrgyzstan as electronic shepherd. This will allow to protect territory from livestock grazing.</p>
4. Landscape area under directly improved conservation management	Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land	The area of the two new PAs "Alatai" and "Kan - Achu" in the primary target districts: 88,985 ha	The project's current progress against the EoP targets is as follows:

	<p>measures will be directly influenced by project results:</p> <p>- 0 ha</p>		<p>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 leskhozoes), 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>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 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</p>	<p>(1) 162,188 ha under SFM in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozoes</p> <p>(2) 9223 ha of restored degraded forests and support of natural generation of forest. Two forestries updated plans and included biodiversity conservation activities to their plans.</p> <p>(3) SLM in 119,899 ha of pasturelands</p> <p>(4) 286,099 ha of PAs and additional territory of lake Kara Suu is 1663 Ha, in total 287762 Ha with improved biodiversity, forest and land management (Achieved, 100% of EoP)</p> <p>The project conducted a number of activities to achieve this indicator and its EoP targets:</p> <p>(1) The project provided fencing materials and transportation services to support and promote natural regeneration on 8,923 ha, and new plantings of about 300 ha. Also, preparatory works are in</p>
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				<p>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 rangers of both PAs “Alatai” and “”.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>process for planting of about 100 ha. Project has fully achieved the target on the Natural regeneration of forests with extra 4000 ha on top of required 5000 ha indicator.</p> <p>(4) 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 also supports capacity building activities in other SNPs covering 287,762 ha in total.</p> <p>It is worth noting the role of the project in establishing a well-coordinated stakeholder dialogue with the state authorities in the pilot territories. For the first time with the support of the Project joint plan on raids has been developed with participation of Zhalal Abad branch of the Department of biodiversity conservation, ecological and technical inspection, internal affairs, hunters’ community of Toktogul and Toguz Toro districts. Employees of the protected areas conduct joint anti-poaching raids with participation of representatives of the Department of biodiversity, ecological and technical inspection, militia, hunting experts. This enables them to better understand problems, as well as strengthens</p>
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				<p>Lake area) were created for effective nature conservation and management. The PAs total area is now under good protection and effective management.</p>	<p>cooperation between law enforcement bodies.</p> <p>For effective daily work and phenological observations on living and nonliving nature, the project provided the rangers with “Ranger Books”, which have been developed jointly with specialists of the Department of biodiversity conservation and PA. Also, the project plans to provide all necessary equipment for timely exchange and access of information which will be conducted through official website of the Department for biodiversity conservation, as well as E-PA system. E-PA will serve as a website with general access, where all necessary information about PA will be placed. Information will contain raids, as well as yearly data on wild animals. The aim of the system is to collect and process information, converting reports into digital format for the use of the SAEPF’s divisions.</p> <p>The project also proposed its recommendations on passport of PAs, where geographic and cadaster legal acts have been included.</p> <p>With the provision of heavy front loader for the Alatai PA road</p>
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				<p>communication has been improved. Management of Alatai PA repair roads after avalanches and erosion, which improves road infrastructure and ensures safe access for tourists, local beekeepers and other visitors.</p> <p>For PA staff and volunteer inspectors seminar-trainings have been conducted on enhancing their capacity (nature protection law, antipoaching activities, first aid, fire safety in 2018, 2019, 2020), basis of biodiversity conservation in 2020.</p> <p>Volunteer inspectors participate in joint raids with rangers, conduct nature protection, biotechnical activities. Volunteer inspectors help other employees to execute nature protection activities, participate in inventory of wild animals. Also volunteer inspectors are involved in awareness raising activities among local population on importance of biodiversity.</p> <p>The capacity of employees of the Sector of Specially Protected Areas of the Western Tien Shan, in particular the employees of Alatai and Kan-Achuu PAs, and Toktogul and Toguz-Toro Forestries of the Kyrgyz Republic is enhanced through series of seminar-trainings</p>
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				<p>with application of practical tasks. 2 field trainings on “Biodiversity conservation and PA system” and “Monitoring and scientific and research work in PA” were conducted since the start of the year and 2 online trainings on ranger activities and environmental protection and management of protected areas due to the Covid-19 situation.</p> <p>The project provided video dash cameras, camera traps, notebooks, computers, binoculars, hand-held GPS for increasing the effectiveness and accuracy of flora and fauna survey, and for efficient anti-poaching activities in Alatai and Kan-Achuu PAs, as well as 5 PAs of Western Tian Shan.</p> <p>Also, a motorboat was provided by the project for increasing the effectiveness of anti- poaching activities in the lake Kara Suu of the Alatai PA.</p> <p>The motorboat will also be used for researching of ichthyofauna of the Kara Suu lake. The scientific expedition is underway with participation of the National Academy of Science and SAEPP.</p>
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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>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 Sustainable Land Management aspects.</p>	<p>The project cannot yet report exact value for the landscape area under improved conservation management as this is still work-in-progress and will be available by project end.</p> <p>As of today, the landscape area under direct improved conservation broken down by categories is the following: total area of the two natural parks (88,985 ha), SFM land (34,382 ha), afforested area (8,290 ha), and SLM land (119,899 ha).</p> <p>Project is strengthening the partnership with the key partners at all levels, such as district, province administrations and local CSOs, public communities, including women, youth centers, pasture committees to review the existing Development Strategies of the target districts and Management Plans of the relevant 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 Sustainable Land Management aspects.</p>

					<p>In February 2020 the project team jointly with representatives of SAEPF, the Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of KR, UNESCO, Science academy and others organized a visit to Batken district of Kyrgyzstan with the aim of considering establishment of micro-reserve and geopark in this region. During the meeting with Batken province's Governor an agreement has been achieved to start the process. The work is underway.</p> <p>Thanks to the effective collaboration with the GEF-SGP program, 2 project proposals have been supported by SGP: in Ton district of Issyk Kul oblast on establishment of micro-reserve with development of birdwatching, as well as supporting of geological monuments in Nookat district of Osh province. In both projects local population is supposed to protect local ecosystems, as well as develop eco-tourism. Both micro-projects of the GEF-SGP program are results of conducted trainings and wide awareness raising campaign of the Project.</p> <p>WTS territory is unique with huge</p>
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				<p>biodiversity and at the same time densely populated territory, with high anthropogenic load. The project regularly conducts activities on awareness raising on importance of biodiversity conservation and how biodiversity positively affects sustainable living. As a result of conducting activities on awareness raising and enhancing capacity of employees, poaching cases are decreasing, number of wild animals is increasing. The Department on biodiversity conservation has spotted new species of red book animals, such as gray monitor lizard (on the territory of Aksy rayon), marmot Menzbir (on the territory of Ala Buka rayon. Local rangers of Besh Aral PA reported on migratory species of mountain sheep Marco Polo, which signals of favorable and better conditions for wild animals.</p> <p>The project's experience on Birdwatching was replicated in other parts of the country, and in Issyk Kul province as a result of consultations and trainings two community-based conservancies were established. The aim is mostly to develop scientific tourism and eco-tourism through birdwatching and provision of services on photo hunting. This initiative significantly contributes to the Project's main approach on ecosystem-based</p>
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					management for the biodiversity conservation.
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"> - 0 women - 0 men <p>Toguz-Toro District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0 women - 0 men <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"> - 8,979 women - 9,328 men <p>Toguz-Toro District communities of Kok-Irim and Atai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,723 women - 2,909 men 	<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"> - 9,879 women - 10,287 men <p>Toguz-Toro District, people of Kok-Irim and Atai villages total - 5836</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,864 women - 2,972 men 	<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"> - 9,879 women - 10,287 men <p>Toguz-Toro District, people of Kok-Irim and Atai villages total - 5836</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,864 women - 2,972 men <p>The Project conducted a number of</p>

				<p>The Project has implemented a number of activities for local 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</p>	<p>activities for local 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>A draft concept of the alternative livelihood program (microgrant program) to support local communities was developed, and the program was launched in November 2019 starting from trainings on development of proposals in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts.</p> <p>In total 124 participants attended those trainings. Selection panel's regulations were developed and approved by district administrations, and Members of Selection panel were appointed in both districts.</p> <p>206 local people representing local initiative groups, jamaats and local</p>
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				<p>microgrant program to support local communities with alternative livelihoods.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>public funds took part in developing 23 grant proposals. Among them there were 141 people in Toktogul district (64 women and 77 men), and 65 people in Toguz-Toro district (36 women and 29 men).</p> <p>In 2020, training sessions were conducted in 4 pilot ayil okmotus of Toguz-Toro and Toktogul districts with participation of 245 local people with (Toktogul district – 83 women and 118 men), and Toguz-Toro district – 17 women and 27 men).</p> <p>Two sessions of Selection panel were conducted in Toguz-Toro and Toktogul districts. After reviewing and evaluation of received project proposals in Toguz-Toro district, 5 project proposals were approved for financing. These are beekeeping (1), small sewing workshops (2), bakery (1), zero-waste production based on greenhouse, camper and biogas plant (1). Three out of these projects are women led projects. Also, grant activity resulted in creation of 3 new CBOs in Toguz-Toro district.</p> <p>Four project proposals were approved for financing in Toktogul</p>
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					<p>district with total amount of 1 405 314 KGS (18 K USD). These are planting fruit trees (1), wool processing (1), small juice processing workshop (1), organization of seasonal yurt guesthouse (1). All of these are women led projects. In total 9 projects out of 23 applications were approved for financing with total amount of 4,681,060 KGS (60,00 K USD), including 3,237,879 KGS (41,500 USD) (UNDP co-financing).</p> <p>For the first time in Kyrgyzstan birdwatching expeditions have been conducted to the Zhalal Abad province, with the aim of promoting environmentally friendly tourism and raising awareness on biodiversity conservation in the Western Tian Shan. In December 2019 first seminar for birdwatchers was conducted, where local communities, representatives of SAEPF and the Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other stakeholders participated in order to discuss joint actions for development of this type of tourism.</p> <p>The project has provided a venue, where stakeholders can meet and discuss opportunities for the development of birdwatching and</p>
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				<p>with the support of the project Association of birdwatchers has been established. Now, the book “Voice of birds” is under development, where different species of birds of the Western Tian Shan are described and poems are presented with the voices of children.</p> <p>With the support of the project a new local park of 6 ha was established in Atai village of Toguz Toro district. The project provided construction materials in 2019 and in spring 2020 while local self-government institution together with local community procured about 600 plants of ash, pine, birch, apple, spruce and currant.</p> <p>In 2019 the project procured 8 tons of sainfoin for Kok-Irim ayil okmotu of Toguz Toro. As a result, 47 pasture users could restore their pastures and 100 ha of land was improved. In total 258 people, out which 132 women could receive economic benefits.</p> <p>With the support of the project the PA staff in the pilot areas developed touristic routes and destinations that have been marked in Google</p>
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					<p>Business as Protected Area.</p> <p>For the first time local tour operators invited foreign tourists from France. In 2020 we were planning to receive the first flow of tourists, however due to the Covid-19 situation the trips were cancelled. Local communities of the pilot areas will benefit from the abovementioned activities.</p>
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The progress of the objective can be described as:	On track
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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 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
7. Management effectiveness of key alpine protected areas in Jalal-Abad province covering 286,099 ha	<p>METT Score:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alatai SNP (new PA): 17 - Kan-Achuu SNP (new PA): 16 - Sary-Chelek SBR: 59 - Padysh-Ata SNR: 45 - Besh Aral SNR: 43 - Saimaluu-Tash 	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>METT Score:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alatai NP (new PA): >50 - Kan-Achuu NP (new PA): >50 - Sary-Chelek SNR: >65 - Padysh-Ata SNR: >50 - Besh Aral SNR: >50 	<p>METT Score:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alatai SNP (new PA): 23 - Kan-Achuu SNP (new PA): 21 - Sary-Chelek SBR: 59 - Padysh-Ata SNR: 46 - Besh Aral SNR: 47 - Saimaluu-Tash SNP: 40 - Dashman SNR: 44 (additionally included as requested by the National Partners as it is located in the Western Tian Shan) 	<p>Midterm METT Scores (as reported in the 2019 PIR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alatai SNP (new PA): 23 - Kan-Achuu SNP (new PA): 21 - Sary-Chelek SBR: 59 - Padysh-Ata SNR: 46 - Besh Aral SNR: 47 - Saimaluu-Tash SNP: 40 - Dashman SNR: 44 (additionally

	SNP: 29		<p>- Saimaluu-Tash SNP: >40</p>	<p>landscape).</p> <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 SAEPF 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 legal revenues produced by PAs. Clear targets and expected results have already been identified and</p>	<p>included as requested by the National Partners as it is located in the Western Tian Shan landscape).</p> <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 SAEPF on May 22, 2018, No. 01-9/148 which has successfully been used in all PAs.</p> <p>Project conducted METT trainings for all Western Tian Shan PAs. The METT training methodology was designed to engage relevant PA staff to transfer -hands-on experience.</p> <p>The project is developing an electronic PA system to optimize time required for collection and primary processing of initial information, transfer of information from SAEPF subdivisions and other involved organizations, analysis of information and provision of access for organizations to information related to environment protection. The e-PA system is expected to be completed by August 2021. The design of the E-PA system has</p>
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				<p>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 brands using, beekeeping, tourism, birdwatching, selling of seedlings and PAs produced</p>	<p>been developed, functional structure of the information system has been approved and work is in progress on content side of the system.</p> <p>Methodological instructions on program budgeting for the PAs have been developed with support of project and tested on the two pilot PAs and additionally 3 PAs in the Zhalal-Abad province. The managers of PAs strengthened their capacities on strategizing, planning and results-based budgeting for short and long term considering the limited budget and legal revenues of the PAs. Clear targets and expected results have already been identified and will be integrated in the budgets of 2 pilot PAs--“Alatai” and “Kanachuu”. The next step is the adoption of performance programme based budgeting of PAs in the country (to be supported by Western Tian Shan project).</p> <p>Jointly with the BIOFIN-II phase project the project assists with development of methodological instructions on program budgeting to strengthen environment related contributions through the budget. All necessary rules were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Finance to get approval for the</p>
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				<p>products were proposed as financial solutions. The drafted business plans will be discussed with key stakeholders in September</p>	<p>piloting. Also, these plans will be supported by the BIOFIN-II phase.</p> <p>The potential sources of revenues and options for financial mechanisms were identified jointly with local stakeholders in pilot PAs and proposed for inclusion into draft business plans for Kan Achuu and Alatai PAs. The revision of entrance fee considering the costs of maintenance and development of touristic infrastructure, charity boxes, revenues from using brands of the PAs, beekeeping, tourism, birdwatching, sale of seedlings and products produced by the PAs were proposed as financial solutions. The drafted business plans have been discussed with key stakeholders and Project has started supporting development of the ecotourism and birdwatching in the PAs territory.</p> <p>Public boards regularly convene with park employees and volunteer inspectors. Managements of the protected areas inform about parks activities, discuss planned events and exchange with ideas and plans. Public boards also conduct awareness raising activities for local population on importance of PAs, environment protection and biodiversity.</p>
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					<p>Public boards of pilot parks regularly conduct meetings with park employees and volunteer inspectors. Management of parks is informed about park activities, plans and ideas. Public boards conduct awareness raising activities among local population on importance of PA, environment protection and biodiversity.</p> <p>Due to the situation with COVID - 19, the project had to resort to online forms of communications with PAs administrations. Jointly with the Department of the Biodiversity and PAs under the SAEPF, Project conducts online trainings as well as has regular working meetings to learn about PA problems and respond to their needs more effectively. This is a good example how Covid-19 in some way has positively impacted and promoted digitalization in the PAs system.</p>
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 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	Following Regional Workshop in Almaty in 19-20 June 2019, supported by UNDP-GEF projects, in October 2019 the Second Regional seminar on HCVF has been organized and a concept has been developed. Jointly with partner organizations, such as World Bank,

				<p>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 HVCF concept and respective staff engaged.</p> <p>Representatives of the environmental agencies of Kyrgyzstan (SAEPF) and Kazakhstan, international expert community and representatives of 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</p>	<p>Association of land and forest users, national partners and other stakeholders 6 categories have been discussed to be included into HCVF. Draft concept of the HCVF has been discussed.</p> <p>Jointly with the GEF funded SL project in Kazakhstan, in November 2019 representatives of the environmental agencies of Kyrgyzstan (SAEPF) and Kazakhstan conducted a study tour to Switzerland and Italy. The aim of the study tour was to learn how identification, conservation and management of high conservation value forests (HCVF) are being organized in these countries for further replication of this experience and approach in Kyrgyzstan. Jointly with the national partners of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, participants met representatives of Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and Tourism, PA management, as well as local organizations, benefiting from HCVF. Opportunities for monetization have been discussed for further application in our countries.</p> <p>The draft of the HCVF has been finalized during the Regional seminar on 10-11 February 2020 in</p>
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				<p>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 approved. The activity will be completed in October 2019 and results reported in the next PIR.</p>	<p>Bishkek, where HCVF categories have been developed, management approaches have been discussed and monetization opportunities have been considered.</p> <p>At these meetings amendments and additions to the Forest Code have been discussed, in particular including HCVF concept into the Forest Code, for further adoption of government decree on HCVF.</p> <p>Owing to good collaboration with national partners and especially with the UNDP-GEF and World Bank projects in Kyrgyzstan, HVCV topic is progressing well.</p> <p>The Law on amendments and additions to the Forest Code has been developed, where HCVF concept is integrated as a separate article. After the Parliament elections, SAEPPF plans to initiate the changes into the Forest Code, which will be an accomplishment of this indicator. Project will continue its support on development of the regulations and their implementation within the remaining project timeline.</p>
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<p>9. Existence of HCVF management measures in FMPs and level of implementation in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts</p>	<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>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>4/6 on GEF TT scale: “Step 4: The regulations are under implementation”</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 in critical situations, including protection of water</p>	<p>As it was mentioned earlier, the project is in process of developing a joint action plan with the Department of the Forestry on legislation, identification and inventory of HCVF in the Kyrgyz Republic as well as including it into the Forest Code which will be revised in 2020 by a World Bank project in the forestry sector.</p> <p>In the pilot territories of Toktogul and Toguz Toro forestries, Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs it is expected to organize forests into several categories, as these forests are home to rare and endemic species. This will allow for better performance of nature conservation functions, have aesthetic and recreational value, as well as give opportunity for local population to enjoy the gifts of nature. It means that all forests on the project territories will be included into HCVF categories, and nature protection activities will be executed in accordance with appropriate HCVF category.</p> <p>Also, the Second National Forest Inventory is ongoing in accordance with the new methodology. HCVF categories are planned to be</p>

				<p>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 revised in 2019-2020 by World</p>	<p>separately highlighted in the information system on forest management, which will be approved by National partners in late 2020. As already reported in the 2019 PIR 5 out of 6 proposed categories of HCVF are considered relevant for Kyrgyzstan.</p>
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				Band leded 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 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>	<p>In general, average information for all five protected areas in the pilot territories as follow: Rangers and volunteer inspectors conducted on average 2-4 raids per week, covering 5-6 thousand ha and about up to 50-60 km is covered by rangers' team (2 people). We may consider that minimum coverage necessary to ensure effective management and target is achievable for rangers and PAs management.</p> <p>In accordance with data for the last quarter April-June 2020, provided by the pilot protected areas and 2 forestries, as part of nature conservation efforts and biodiversity monitoring activities, rangers and foresters covered:</p> <p>1,784,048 ha total; on average each patrol covered from 1,081 to 6,524 ha, 485 raids for three months in total comprising 251,175 ha of the pilot territory.</p> <p>Seminar-trainings were conducted on capacity building: environment</p>

				<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.</p>	<p>protection activities, anti-poaching activities, technical safety and first aid, basic information on use of camera traps, fire safety in 2018 and 2019, basic information on biodiversity conservation in 2020.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic for rangers of Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs online trainings were organized on the “Introduction to ranger activity and environment protection activities in PA”. The project held a seminar for rangers on PA management on 26-27 February 2020.</p> <p>Community patrols supported by the project are performing very well and with good results.</p> <p>Two (2) groups (one in each PA) of voluntary rangers (4 groups in total) were established with 20 local residents in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts. Voluntary groups of rangers joined the nature conservation activities of the two protected areas. For increasing the effectiveness of their anti-poaching activities, like rangers they were equipped with uniforms and necessary technical equipment.</p> <p>Among freelance rangers there are two women rangers from Toguz-</p>
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				<p>Toro district and Toktogul regions, involved into all ranger's activities and are very active on awareness raising and eco-education of the communities.</p> <p>Volunteer inspectors participate in patrolling together with rangers, performing environment protection and biotechnical activities. Volunteer inspectors provide support to the PA staff, participate in accounting of wild animals and together with rangers execute biotechnical, fire safety activities.</p> <p>Volunteer inspectors of 2 pilot PAs regularly participate in all seminar-trainings on capacity building.</p> <p>Volunteer inspectors were provided with sleeping bags, tents, binoculars for the efficiency of their work.</p> <p>For anti-poaching patrols for the first time the project procured video dash cameras and GPS. According to the rangers the use of these devices improved their safety when dealing with and seizing poachers, when poachers see video dash cameras they behave differently.</p> <p>In 2020, 369 patrols have been conducted in Alatai and Kan Achuu</p>
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					<p>PAs and Toktogul and Toguz Toro forestries, 49 raids have been conducted by volunteer inspectors of Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs on the territory of 259,000 ha.</p> <p>In 2019 in the Alatai PA total 4 protocols issued with fine sanctions totaling 152,510 KSG. Two (2) cases have been considered: 8080 KSG reimbursed and 1000 KGS paid as a fine. One case was limited to a warning. Another case was transferred to the Toktogul district court for further consideration. The court issued a decision to impose a fine in the amount of 20,000 KGS. In the Kan Achuu PA, 3 protocols were issued and claims worth 3030 KGS have been reimbursed to the Kan Achuu PA.</p>
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The progress of the objective can be described as: **On track**

Outcome 2

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

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
11. Area of sustainably managed forest in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts (broken down by HCVF in PAs, HCVF in	Total 0 ha out of 40,839 ha of HCVF	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	>40,000 ha	0 ha of HCVF As progress of this Indicator	The project is progressing well towards the envisaged end target and expects to report over 40,000 ha of HCVF as officially recognized

leskhoz, and all other forest)	<p>Toktogul HCVF: 31,045 ha (5,658 ha within Alatai PA, 25,387 ha in leskhoz);</p> <p>Toguz-Toro HCVF: 9,794 (799 within Kan-Achuu PA, 8,995 ha in leskhoz);</p>			<p>interrelates with the progress under Indicators 8 and 9, no developments can be reported yet.</p> <p>As described under Indicators 8 and 9, activities on identification and inclusion of HCVF in the forest management have been initiated.</p> <p>Figures will be reported in the next PIR when the HVCF concept and methodology are approved.</p>	<p>and sustainably managed areas after the adoption of the amendment to the Forest Code.</p> <p>As the progress of this Indicator interrelates with the progress under the Indicators 8 and 9, there are no exact official figures available yet.</p> <p>Changes into the Forest code are under introduction and the novel topic of the HVCF is integrated into the Forest Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, which is the key legislation in the sector.</p>
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)	<p>244 ha under afforestation and 7,200 ha supported for natural regeneration.</p> <p>In coordination with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, the project has initiated and is supporting the relevant activities.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>300 ha under afforestation and 8,923 ha supported for natural regeneration.</p> <p>In coordination with the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry, the project has initiated and is supporting:</p> <p>--Reforestation activities in target forestries: construction materials (like metal and barbed wire) were provided for fencing to prevent potential damage from livestock grazing in the selected plots. Field trips and reforestation activities were also supported by the Project.</p>

				<p>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.</p> <p>Reforestation activities were performed in the forestries: the Project provided the needed construction materials (like metal and barbed wire) for fencing while 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>By supporting reforestation at additional 4,037 ha this reporting period this indicator has been achieved. The project plans to reach 10,000 ha in the next reporting period.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Forest Department under SAEPP, the project team has organized field trips to monitor the planting activities, which had been conducted from the beginning of 2018. The average plant survival rate is characterized as follows:</p> <p>Aksy forestry - 2018 -50 ha - 73%, 2019 - 50 ha - 81%, 2020 - 100 ha – autumn inventory</p> <p>Toktogul forestry - 2018 - 44 ha - 68%</p> <p>Toguz Toro forestry - 2019 - 50 Ha - 78%</p> <p>2020 - 5,0 Ha – of new planting and autumn inventory to be completed.</p> <p>All of the above-mentioned areas have been fenced to prevent potential damage from livestock grazing.</p>
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					<p>In spring 2020, 89 local residents from Zhany-Zhol and Aksy LSGs of Aksy district were involved in the spring forestry activities in the Aksy forestry for planting of new seedlings. Thanks to the good coordination and collaboration between the projects, this work was also supported by a WFP Project.</p> <p>Also, the WFP project considered and approved applications of the Toktogul forestry for fencing areas intended for planting seedlings and nurseries. Activities on fencing of planted areas and nurseries were completed only partially due to the situation with Covid-19, the work was temporarily suspended.</p> <p>The activities are ongoing in close cooperation with the Department of Forestry under the SAEPF.</p> <p>SAEPF is also providing its good support and contribution according to the project document by providing planting materials, equipment and sharing the salaries of forestry staff.</p>
13. Lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided	0 tons CO2 equivalent	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	2,979,548 tons CO2 equivalent	No estimate of lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided is available.	Using FAO methodology for 2020 the project estimated avoided lifetime indirect GHG emissions of

				<p>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.</p>	<p>979,548 tons CO2 equivalent for already reforested areas of 9,217 ha by the Project.</p> <p>Forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic is the only sector that mitigates climate change by absorbing and retaining large amounts of CO2 and plays an important role in maintaining the country's carbon balance. Calculations of CO2 absorption by forests and perennial crops of arable land (by biomass) for 27 years from 1990 - 2017 show constant growth, and in 2017, according to the Third National Communication to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change comprised 11,000 tons CO2 equivalent.</p>
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	<p>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 projects of ARIS, World Bank, GIZ and the head of the Pasture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic.</p>	<p>This reporting period, the Project continued with a series of round tables and field meetings to familiarize pasture users with an e-Pasture Management tool. Meetings were also held with the pasture-related 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 Project's activities related the</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>	<p>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>E-pasture management system is under development and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2021.</p>
15. Hectares of alpine grassland and forest ecosystems under improved conservation management	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 SLM in 147,268 ha of pasturelands	<p>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 SLM land (147,268 ha).</p> <p>The total area of the territories supported by the Project in the two pilot districts can be</p>	<p>Total coverage of the two pilot PAs “Alatai” and “Kan-Achuu” (88,985 ha), SFM land (34,382 ha), afforested area (9222 ha), and SLM land (119,655 ha).</p> <p>The total area about 200, 000Ha of the territories supported by the Project in the two pilot districts can</p>

				<p>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> <p>The project provided seeds to restore pasture lands and set up 4 demo plots in Kok Yirim to monitor pasture conditions in project areas</p>	<p>be considered as under effective management as the project is working with all relevant institutions such as pasture committees, forestries and protected areas of Jalal Abad province and has been providing all the necessary support. For effective functioning, target PAs were provided with all necessary office supplies and field equipment. The project as supported development of management plans and building their capacity through different trainings and exchange visits, etc.</p> <p>As it was mentioned before, as a result of providing sainfoin for Kok Irim LSG of Toguz Toro district 100 ha of pastures could be restored and Project will continue joint work with the pasture committees on the four demo plots for monitoring of pastures.</p> <p>The project defined degraded pastures and developed recommendations on implementation of the process on degraded pasture restoration on the territories of 4 LSGs, for the geobotanical survey planned later in 2020.</p>
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					In February 2020 two round tables have been organized on the development of network between pasture users' communities at the pilot LSG. Also, two seminars on pasture rehabilitation were conducted, on the lands close to "Alatai" and "Kan Achuu" PAs. Activities initiated on revision of the Pasture management plan to introduce and fully integrate SLM concept.
16. Hectares of pastureland under SLM in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	0 ha	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	147,268 ha	<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</p>	<p>74,400 ha. Indicated only territory of the PAs and forestries.</p> <p>Underway in the four pasture committees and more detailed figures will be reported later.</p> <p>The work on introduction of an upgraded version of the E-pasture management information system in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts is underway. 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. Project will continue supporting the pasture committees for restoration of the pastures.</p>

				<p>Bunk 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>	<p>The Project will provide support to Saimaluu Tash State National Park to control domestic livestock and will provide an innovative tool so called "electronic shepherd".</p> <p>Pastures in the pilot territories comprise the following numbers: Toktogul forestry - 22433 Ha, Toguz Toro forestry – 21882,7 Ha, Alatai PA – 20713,6 Ha and Kan Achuu PA – 9370,8 Ha.</p> <p>All pastures, except for the pastures of the Kan-Achuu PA are used by local livestock breeders as seasonal pastures, in accordance with the grazing norms, which are also monitored by the huntsmen of natural parks and forestry foresters. Leasing of pasture lands is not the main source of income, but partially covered from the local budgets.</p> <p>Jointly with Toktogul forestry, Forestry Department and World Bank 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 Alatai PA covers 72,324 ha and is in the process of implementation.</p>
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<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>	<p>Women: 11,702 Men: 12,237 Total: 23,939 Index = 100%</p> <p>Toktogul District Cholpon-Ata Village - 3,562 women - 3,802 men</p> <p>Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village - 5,417 women - 5,526 men</p> <p>Toguz-Toro District Kok-Irim Village - 1,703 women - 1,782 men</p> <p>Atai Village - 1,020 women - 1,127 men</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>Women: Men: Total: Index:</p> <p>Toktogul District Cholpon-Ata Village - 3,562 women - 3,802 men</p> <p>Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village - 5,417 women - 5,526 men</p> <p>Toguz-Toro District Kok-Irim Village - 1,703 women - 1,782 men</p> <p>Atai village - 1,020 women - 1,127 men</p>	<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>Toktogul District, residents of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush villages total – 20,166 - 9,879 women - 10,287 men</p> <p>Toguz-Toro District, residents of Kok-Irim and Atai villages, total – 5,836 - 2,864 women - 2,972 men</p>	<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. Due to the COVID-19 situation travels are restricted till October and more details will be reported later.</p> <p>The below numbers represent the population in the target districts that will be engaged in relevant project activities and after the consultations with the local communities we may come to conclusion that all their livelihoods are affected by land degradation in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts.</p> <p>Also, the Project plans a survey on the impacts of climate change to pastures.</p> <p>Toktogul District, residents of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush villages total – 20,166 - 9,879 women - 10,287 men</p> <p>Toguz-Toro District, residents of Kok-Irim and Atai villages, total – 5,836 - 2,864 women - 2,972 men</p>
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<p>18. Herder/farmer income change based on benefits from micro-finance/grant program for individuals participating in the program.</p>	<p>- Women: N/A - Men: N/A</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>- Women: 10% increase - Men: 10% increase</p>	<p>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.</p> <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>	<p>There is no progress as of yet.</p> <p>The alternative livelihood program (Indicator #6) was finally launched in November 2019 and 9 community level projects were approved. As part of the alternative livelihood program, data has been collected on possible revenue-generating activities in the pilot territories. The program expects to target 26,002 people residing in the project pilot area is.</p> <p>Financing of awarded grant proposals under the Alternative livelihoods program will be channeled through the local self-governments (LSGs). LSGs work in accordance with the local budget regulations/E-tender regulations. LSGs will act as the project's partner on livelihood opportunities and serve as a bridge between the project and community groups during implementation of the livelihood program. LSGs will provide additional consultations and technical support to the beneficiaries. In addition, LSGs will play a key role in the issue of financial mechanism and sustainability of implemented</p>

					<p>activities.</p> <p>In September-October 2019, two exchange trips were organized by communities of Chon-Kemin, Tyup and Ak-Suu districts to Toktogul and Toguz-Torouz districts with the aim to implement activities related to the implementation of the Alternative livelihood programme.</p> <p>The exchange trips achieved the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raised interest of the local population to participate in the program; - local population learned on alternative sources of income; - local population learned on how to prepare project applications. <p>Initial results of the alternative livelihood program, expected by the end of the project, and we also plan monitoring during the implementation period. We expect that some of the groups could show their results and changes in their family income within the next six months after providing finance.</p>
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<p>The progress of the objective can be described as:</p>	<p>On track</p>
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Outcome 3					
Strengthened national capacities for snow leopard conservation, promoting Kyrgyz regional and global cooperation, and setting the scene for up-scaling					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
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"> - 2015 - On the Tajik-Kyrgyz border - attempted transfer from Tajikistan to Kyrgyzstan of two snow leopard skins and one snow leopard cub - 2015 - one snow leopard skin confiscated in Bishkek (from Talas region) - 2016 - one snow leopard skin confiscated in Issyk-Kul - Zero seizures assisted by specially trained dogs - 4 arrests related to wildlife trafficking - 	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>Annual number of seizures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snow leopard: - Snow leopard prey: - Other illegal wildlife: - Number of arrests = >baseline - >50% of arrests result in prosecutions 	<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 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</p>	<p>During this reporting period two cases were reported officially on spotting Snow Leopards by local communities. Health condition of the species was very weak (vision problems and etc.) and representatives of the SAEPF decided to keep them in the rehabilitation centers. There were no other illegal cases reported during this time.</p> <p>While no more 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>On 26-29 November 2019 the Regional seminar on Implementation of CITES convention has been conducted with participation of national partners, working in environment protection from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and partner organizations. During this event, it</p>

				<p>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 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</p>	<p>was agreed to strengthen cooperation between SAEPF and Customs service with engagement of stakeholders in order to combat poaching activities. The project provided uniforms to the canine service under the Customs Service of KR as a technical support.</p> <p>Construction of an open-air cage (for 4 dogs) for the canine service at the Manas International airport is underway with the Project's support. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the construction is slightly delayed and is expected to be completed by the end of August 2020. This will contribute to improvement of the control of illegal wildlife trafficking and improve the cooperation between their involved parties.</p> <p>Also, as a follow up to the CITES meeting, the work on development of Guides for identification of flora and fauna species under CITES is underway. The Guides will be used by customs and border services of the Kyrgyz Republic at the border points of the country and will include printed materials, as well as a mobile application.</p> <p>For promoting good behavior and</p>
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				<p>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. 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</p>	<p>attitude of ordinary people and activists who contribute to environment protection, the project produced video reels about eco-tourism and positive attitude towards nature. Also, in cooperation with other UNDP projects, key messages on importance of conservation of biodiversity have been developed and demonstrated in the “Ata” (father) and the “Naparnikter 2” (mates) films. The films were widely disseminated in the social media and broadcasted by the national public TV channel OTRK, as well as in local cinema theatres.</p> <p>The Project supports the upgrade of the E-PA management system that will evolve into a single effective tool for management of protected areas. Also, E-PA system will contribute to decrease illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. E-PA system will serve a good platform and tool to monitor and coordinate activities among all responsible institutions such as customs, academia and hunting department of the State Agency on Environment and Forestry. Stakeholders commended the idea to integrate the snow leopard database and the user database in the E-PA information system.</p>
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				<p>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>	<p>Activities on raising public awareness of biodiversity conservation issues as well as their role are underway at full speed.</p> <p>Project also agreed to conduct series of expeditions to the PA territory with the support of the canine centers, where capacity of the dogs on illegal trade and antipoaching activities will be shown.</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	No formal international agreement between Kyrgyzstan and neighboring countries related to snow leopard conservation	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<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"> - Cooperation on law enforcement at border points regarding illegal wildlife trade - Illegal hunting by border guards - Data sharing on snow leopard monitoring 	<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.</p>	<p>The project together with the GSLEP Secretariat continued supporting consultations with partners from the Central Asian countries through the various channels.</p> <p>Draft MOU and action plan were developed and circulated among UNDP projects and partners in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for review. Comments were collected on the draft MOU by Colleagues from Uzbekistan, as it was initiated during the first meeting in Tashkent in 2018.and it was discussed during the workshop on</p>

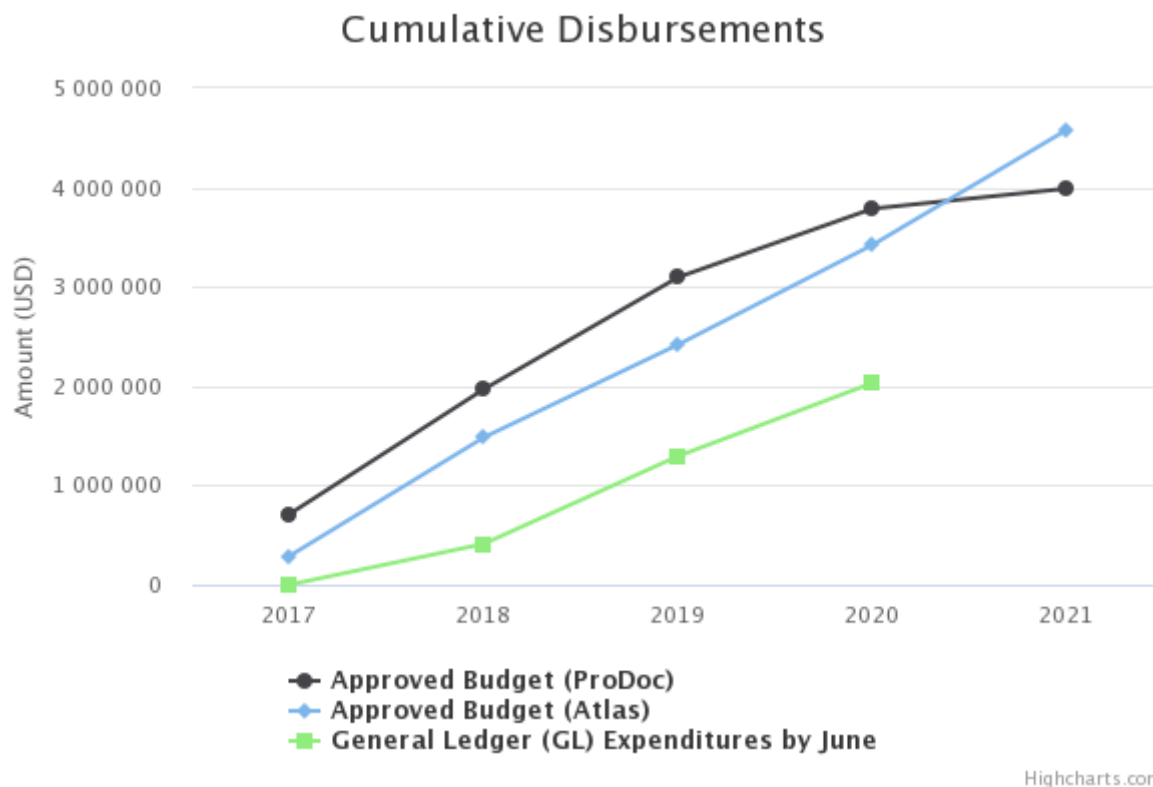
				<p>The head of the newly established Department of Biodiversity Conservation and PAs attended the meeting on behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>At this meeting, the GSLEP Secretariat presented their activities as well as opportunities for joint efforts of all similar projects in the region on snow 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 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</p>	<p>“Transboundary aspects of conservation of snow leopard ecosystems” in Khodjand, Tajikistan, on 10-12 April 2019.</p> <p>Following the discussion at the Khodjand meeting, it was agreed to proceed with development of the final draft MOU, subsequently shared with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for agreement. Upon receiving positive feedbacks and general agreement, it is now planned to sign the MOU by four countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) in nearest months. In the Kyrgyzstan we faced some difficulties with the MoU signing at the MFA level, hopefully will resolve all issues and we could sign the MoU within the 2020.</p> <p>A draft Memorandum of Cooperation on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard under endorsement by the Kyrgyz Government.</p> <p>As for the other countries, as we know we are waiting official approval from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.</p>
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				<p>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 book, video and many other printed materials.</p>	<p>One of the main achievements is that under the Snow leopard symbol, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic initiated the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly "Nature knows no borders" related to the biodiversity conservation including the snow leopard. This will attract more attention to the Project results and aim at supporting the idea of the ecosystem-based management approach at a very high level.</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	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%)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Publishing of annual estimates with a 60% confidence level (the average confidence level among other snow leopard range states in GSLEP population estimate)	<p>Snow Leopard monitoring database is being developed in partnership with the stakeholders: Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Department of the SAEPF, Panthera, Snow Leopard Trust, NABU and others. The Project has been able to create an effective stakeholder dialogue platform by uniting all key parties and improving coordination and synergies towards better information sharing and participatory planning and implementation of future activities.</p>	<p>Snow Leopard monitoring database is being developed in partnership with the stakeholders: Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Department of the SAEPF, Panthera, Snow Leopard Trust, NABU and others.</p> <p>The Project has been able to create an effective stakeholder dialogue platform by uniting all key parties and improving coordination and synergies towards better information sharing and</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 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>participatory planning and implementation of future activities.</p> <p>In February 2020 in Bishkek, the Project jointly with the GSLEP Secretariat supported a meeting on snow leopard monitoring methodology where all partners jointly developed and agreed on mapping of activities. This will allow the national partners to closer monitor and coordinate activities related to snow leopard monitoring and keeping all data in a single place. The project supports development and adaptation of the PAWS methodology for the Kyrgyz Republic and implementation was postponed due limited access to the regions following the COVID19 outbreak. The project plans to get the methodology endorsed officially and disseminate it to other neighboring countries and share project's experience and country in general.</p>
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				<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):	50.92%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	53.64%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	2,030,927

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

Key Project Dates	
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	Dec 6, 2019
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>

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2019 to 1 July 2020)
2019-12-18
2020-02-09

E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Operational	<p>COVID-19 travel restrictions, mandatory self-isolation and banning public events negatively impact project mobility and delayed implementation of key project activities.</p> <p>In 2020, the project planned 2 important activities on micro grant component and constructions for SNPs. Due to the COVID outbreak, the project had to stop all activities for further notice from the Government. Local self-governments also closed access to pilot districts. Local communities in 2 project areas Toktogul and Kazarman regions, fully closed the access to the villages. Not possible to start spring reforestation activities (up to 150 Ha planned new plants), to continue trainings and microgrant component, also finalization of the design development of the ranger houses is postponed.</p> <p>The project needs to revise and re-schedule all activities, especially activities related to the construction, microgrant program and reforestation. Risk is that Project would not be able to finalize bigger tender cases for some activities. This may affect the project's delivery in 2020, as approx. 20% of delivery depends on construction works.</p> <p>In the reporting period, the project team invested considerable efforts in re-scheduling all planned activities, discussing proposed changes with the national partners and focusing on better coordination with all stakeholders in target regions. As part of the Mid-Term Review recommendation that has been endorsed by the Project Board there is a need for project extension due to the emergence of pandemic COVID - 19 in 2020 and its overall uncertainty in the next reporting period.</p>

F. Adjustments

Risk Management

The Country Office is responsible for completing the Risk Management section of the PIR in consultation with the RTA. Before updating the PIR, the Country Office must update project-level risks in the Atlas Risk Register line with UNDP's enterprise risk management policy and have a detailed discussion with the RTA on risk management. Next, the Country Office must select below the 'high' risks identified in the Atlas Risk Register as well as any other 'substantial' risks from the Atlas Risk Register identified by the RTA as needing to be addressed in the PIR. Moderate and Low risks do not need to be entered in the PIR Risk Management section. After selecting the risk, a text field will appear where the Country Office should describe the risk and explain actions undertaken this reporting period to address the risk selected.

Select the risk(s) from the options that match the 'high' risks in the project's UNDP Risk Register as well as any 'significant' risks from the register, as agreed with the RTA. Please describe the risk identified and explain the management approach agreed between the RTA and Country Office on managing/mitigating the risk.

Operational

Comments on delays in key project milestones

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.

There are no significant delays in achieving project milestones this reporting period.

Due to the changes in the schedule of the consultant MTR was conducted successfully with some delays and not effected very much to the project implementation.

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.

An inception workshop took place seven months after the project document had ben signed, because of a late hire of the project manager and related staff. And due to the current Covid pandemic, access to some of the project sites has been restricted, that has resulted in some delays of the project's reforestation, alternative livelihoods and construction works.

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.

(not set or not applicable)

G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>Overall, the project is on track towards achieving its targets and objectives and with some indicators successfully achieved by now. The project has fully met its targets set for 2019, except for the construction of ranger houses and administrative buildings that were postponed due to the delayed inventory works by state partners related to the documentations on land transformation etc.</p> <p>As preliminarily confirmed by the MTR, the project is well aligned with national strategies and programs as well as with the UNDP and GEF-6 focal areas strategies and has direct response to national priorities. The implementation adheres to the project strategy reflected 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 assessment report.</p> <p>Upon RTA’s 2019 PIR recommendations, the project team have been closely working with the SEAPF to avoid potential issues and regularly and timely convened Project Board meetings to discuss and solve problems preventing the project from full speed implementation. Also, MTR management response matrix was finalized and presented to the members of the Project Board, translated version also sent to the partners and shared with the RTA.</p> <p>All recommendations were considered and some of the activities already incorporated in the 2020 AWP.</p> <p>In March 2020 the Project also was selected as part of the management audit according to the UNDP rules. Project passed management audit successfully and audit report is available for public.</p> <p>Monitoring of the ongoing and planned procurement in accordance with the AWP is carried out at the project level.</p> <p>The delivery for the first half of 2020 is 40%. This is due primarily to the fact that the most of the bigger planned procurement cases will be concluded in the second half of 2020.</p> <p>Annual delivery rate of the project in 2019 was 98%. The budget revision was done, due to the delays on construction activities and in accordance with the UNDP rules. Overall, the project made a remarkable progress in implementing all planned activities. In the beginning of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic caused significant changes in delivering the planned activities in 2020. As of now about 20% of budget of 2020 is under the risk and it is related to the bigger tender cases on construction activities. Because of the Covid situation, most of the project activities planned for 2020 (trainings, workshops and field trips to the project sites) needed to be readjusted to in terms of their timeframes and</p>	

shifted to online, in order to meet this year's projects goals and benchmarks. Some activities already in place via online channels, also some exchange visits were organized with the permission from SMUNDO CO and with the considering all requirement related to the Covid -19 (masks, sanitary norms, distance etc.)

The partnership with the SAEPF, GSLEP Secretariat and other relevant partners is very effective, which serves as a key factor for the achievement of project goals and sustainability of UNDP-GEF investments.

The project enjoys excellent partnerships with relevant government entities at all levels; including ARIS, Association of Pasture Committees as well as non-governmental organizations such as NABU, Irbis, WFP, FAO, GSLEP, UCA, and Snow Leopard Foundation/Trust. It also enjoys an excellent coordination approach with other related donor-funded projects, such as World Bank and FAO. The project also joined the Coordination and Consultative Council, an entity led by SAEPF, which brings together donors, 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.

Communication activities and knowledge management provide a good visibility to the project at national and local levels. The project has produced excellent information products to raise awareness of stakeholders and beneficiaries and to emphasize the visibility of the project. The project also developed several blogs for the Regional UNDP website and participated in the photo contest.

The project has released numerous communication products through several channels, including YouTube videos, national movies, newsletters, magazines, social media, websites including those from partners of the project, TV channels, books, brochures, etc. The project has opened Facebook pages for both new SNPs: Alatai and Kan-Achuu and actively promotes their pages.

Most important achievement in the reporting period is successful cooperation with PA's administration, SNP's steering committees, local communities and especially effective work of the community rangers.

The project has been addressing the needs and contributing to the national priorities on biodiversity conservation. The attention to the biodiversity conservation topic, including the wildlife conservancy at very high level is now resulted in the development of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly "Nature knows no borders". Transboundary cooperation is recognized as a key factor in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Kyrgyz Republic calls not to stand aside from the current threats to the environment, but to take decisive, joint international steps to protect our nature. The draft enjoyed positive responds from global ecological organizations such as UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on migratory species, Ramsar Convention, UNEP, WWF and NABU.

The project implementation was slightly delayed due to the delays in project staff hiring, however issues caused by the delays were quickly resolved and the project is now 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

factor slowed implementation of key procurement cases, as most of ToR's and technical specifications should be discussed and approved by SAEPF, to ensure their ownership. As this is a low rated risk, the project staff will closely monitor this to avoid potential delays in key procurement activities.

In overall, partnership with the major stakeholders (state and non-state ones) has been improved and strengthened. For instance, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Information are now on the board and are taking a lead in the design and dissemination of public education materials for the project local communities and development of the ecotourism in PAs.

Project continues its support in establishing strong professional partnership relations between the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Biodiversity Departments of SAEPF, which is very important given the country has strategically prioritized the nature-based tourism development, including tourism in protected areas. This is an entry point to highlight the value of the biodiversity for tourism and importance of the biodiversity conservation efforts. Protected areas are 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. On the other hand, tourism may be a disturbing factor for biodiversity when it is not controlled 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 their first 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 understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation in PAs and adjacent areas that can serve as a local economic, cultural and natural asset for attraction of tourists. As part of the recommendation of MTR project actively supports development of the eco-tourism in PAs. First touristic routes were created and shared via google maps.

Project supported the development of guidelines for geological tourism development. Also, good partnership is in place with the local UNESCO office on geological monuments. Jointly with the UNESCO office in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan Project supported research trip to the Batken region to learn more on the creation of community-based reserve. Th territory is very promising and needs to be recognized as protected.

Taking into account remoteness of the newly established PAs, significant investments are required to keep up appropriate and sufficient technical capacity for 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, including community rangers.

Project has provided necessary office and field operation equipment to the protected areas and forestries. A heavy machinery like front loader was also provided to “Alatai” SNP which was of high necessity, as roads within the PA are sometimes flooded. Also, for better monitoring and increasing efficiency of antipoaching activities on the Kara Suu lake zone, motorboat was purchased and delivered to the “Alatai” State National Park.

Thanks to our good collaboration with the SAEPF, with the support of project now both protected areas has their inventory books and maps, which will allow them to better plan their territory and to revise management plans according to the forestry books.

METT scores are also showing us the effectiveness of their work. In General, the increase in estimates is due to project interventions in the PAs, such as zoning, equipping with appropriate field and other equipment, repairing and building infrastructure works, supporting the preparation of management plans, and micro-grant support to the local communities.

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 which is approved by the SAEPF (by order #01-9/223 from 4 September 2019) and now under the implementation of each responsible parties. As for our project the company was engaged to conduct series of training and develop short term courses for ranger. Project plan to integrate special learning section on the E-PA system.

In terms of conservation of highland forests, the project is making good progress. Thanks to our good coordination at national level, we could integrate HVCF topic into the new edition of the forest code. This is really good achievement that after endorsement of the new version of Forest code by the new parliament in autumn 2020, we will continue work on HVCF identification in our pilot areas. Also, here we are closely working with the partners on second national inventory of the forest. We plan to get data and according to the approved categories of HVCF we will develop additional layer on HVCF.

Additional 55ha forest have been planted with the support of the project and in total we have 294 ha new forest and 8290 ha support of the natural regeneration of forest. Moreover, additional forest restoration activities will be carried out in autumn of this year and we will have extra 5000ha for natural regeneration forest indicator.

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.

Regional plans with the integrated biodiversity conservation activities have been developed and endorsed by the head of the regional and the local parliamentarian. Also, community-based reserve was created to support the birdwatching as part of the scientific research and eco-tourism development. Reserve territory is unique in term of the bird's diversity and especially because of the griefs. Project plans to support community rangers and develop birdwatching in the region.

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.

In terms of snow leopard research and monitoring programme, the project is continuing its activities. It has carried out theoretical and practical training workshops for PAs, research institutions, etc., and will proceed in this manner. Camera traps have been installed, for instance, and photos of snow leopards were taken as well as other red-listed animals.

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, developed with the support of project and submitted to the SAEPF. 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. As of now we have created map of the snow leopard monitoring work. Also it was agreed to integrate snow leopard database into the E-PA system. All works are in process and hopefully the development will be finalized by the spring 2021.

In terms of transboundary cooperation, the project planned to agree and sign the transboundary MOU on cooperation on snow leopard conservation amongst Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan last year (2019) in October within the Regional Conference of Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development in Tashkent. Unfortunately, due to the political issues Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan governments were not able to provide their feedback to the MOU in time to proceed with endorsement to Uzbekistan Colleagues. However, 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 that will continue working on this direction, which now face some difficulties due to pandemic situation.

Several meetings at the international level were supported:

- Regional workshop on World Heritage Sites management, organized jointly by

	<p>UNESCO, November 2020, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional meeting in Bishkek on HVCF to finalize the concept of HVCF in each county. - Study tour to the Switzerland and Italy to learn more on HVCF, conducted jointly with the GEF funder project in Kazakhstan. - Study tour to Moscow to learn more on scientific research and biodiversity conservation measures conducted for the representatives of Biodiversity and PAs Department of the SAEPF. - Second regional meeting on CITES convention in Bishkek, where we agreed to support development of the joint identifiers for CITES listed species. <p>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.</p> <p>Public awareness activities were implemented by using various information channels and innovative techniques, such as celebration of important international and national biodiversity days, public events and holidays, exhibitions.</p> <p>Despite delay in project start 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>	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>This is a flagship project and helps the government of Kyrgyzstan address its priorities in biodiversity conservation, as set out in the country's national strategy on BD conservation, and action plans. As the top predator in the high mountains in these countries, the snow leopard plays an important ecological role in controlling the populations and health of the wild ungulate species it preys on. The project operates in the area of Western Tian-Shan, which is one of the 200 world known biodiversity "hotspots", and protecting the snow leopard, its prey species, and its habitat is critical to protecting broader eco-regions as well, such as the high altitude grasslands and wetlands in Kyrgyzstan and in other neighboring range countries. As such, it is an important indicator species of highly healthy mountain ecosystems. In addition, the snow leopard is an important cultural symbol of the Kyrgyz people.</p>	

During the reporting period, the project has managed well with its pace of implementation and delivery and is progressing towards achieving its objectives as planned. All planned targets for 2020 have been met, except for the physical construction works of the ranger houses for the Parks which the project serves due to challenges with obtainment of land transformation and related legal documents from the state partners. Despite the Covid pandemic, this work is being undertaken in a more aggressive manner in 2020 to ensure that the target is met, and partners' expectations are not thwarted. More specifically, the project wants to make sure that tenders for construction of ranger houses and Parks' offices are announced in the Fall of 2020, so that the project can take a good stock and progress of its planned delivery targets for this year through committing the funds to a would be selected Contactor, so that 2020 project delivery figures are met, while the physical construction of the sites can start in the spring of 2021. These tenders were supposed to be conducted in 2019 however, due to delays with selection of construction sites and with issuance with permission documents by the main national partner, these tenders (and their budgets) needed to be carried over onto 2020, via respective agreement with the government and GLGE's respectively, in line with GEF norms and guidance from the IRH BD regional Team. Given the importance, this particular activity is under constant oversight of the Country Office team; overall, the CO exercises its quality assurance function to support the project with its programmatic and operational activities to ensure that the project's goals and objectives are met in due and timely fashion, and mitigation/adaptive measures are introduced as appropriate, as evidenced by the case with the construction of ranger houses and Parks' office stated above.

With regard to the rest, the project is being viewed as a trusted partner of the government through its activities related to the improvement of enabling environment and enactment of normative and legal acts as pertinent, conducting capacity building activities through trainings for the rangers and national level conservationists, and staging very successful outreach campaigns (both at the national and local levels) to target groups on the importance of biodiversity conservation, with focus on snow leopards and other endangered species.

These results have also been largely confirmed through findings of the independent midterm project evaluation, whose results have been accepted and management response drafted and followed up as appropriate. One of the key recommendations stemming out of the MTR has been to provide assistance to drafting a national strategy on protected areas and the project is planning to provide this requested assistance.

At the request of the government, has been providing assistance to drafting of the UN GA Resolution on BD conservation, that the government wants to submit for the UNGA review and approval, with the hope to galvanize international attention to the problem of snow leopard conservation, protection of unique ecosystems and the need for broader transboundary cooperation and nature at large, as well as mobilize additional donor funding and support to address the problem of BD conservation and promote peoples' well-being, especially of those living in buffer zones.

	The project is well connected with other state and non-state actors who are doing similar projects; through effective coordination and collaboration, it value adds to augment the results, enhances transparency and avoids possible duplication/overlap. Thus, the project's overall DO rating is Satisfactory.	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
GEF Operational Focal point	<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>	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Implementing Partner	Satisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>Implementation of the UNDP-GEF project “Conservation of globally important biodiversity and associated land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan mountain ecosystems to support sustainable livelihoods” is conducted in partnership with State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), in particular with Department for Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (CBPA).</p> <p>Activities of the project include three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - management of key biodiversity territories in the Western Tian Shan: <p>Plan of joint activities is developed and implemented;</p> <p>Local communities are mobilized, and are constantly informed on project implementation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project integrates new definition – High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) into the Forest Code of Kyrgyz Republic and the Department actively supports this definition. With adoption of HCVF concept, forests, located on the territory of PAs will be included into certain categories and their status will be revised on the national level and they will be additionally protected with new legal acts. In this regards, the project organized series of regional seminars with participation of international experts, as well as study tour to Italy and Switzerland for SAEPF specialists. - The project supported volunteer inspectors for Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs from local communities of Toktogul and Toguz Toro rayons, who are engaged in environment protection and biodiversity conservation activities. In order to improve capacity of pilot park employees and volunteer rangers series of seminar-trainings have been organized with engagement of qualified specialists. Participants of seminar-trainings have already received necessary basic trainings on biodiversity conservation, nature reserves, PA management, fire safety, biotechnical activities implementation etc. - For effective work of volunteer inspectors field uniforms and field equipment have been provided by the project – binoculars, GPS, tents, sleeping bags and other. Volunteer inspectors are actively involved in the activities of pilot parks, 	

participate in the anti-poaching raids, engaged in biotechnical, forest protection and other environment protection activities, as well as initiate awareness raising campaigns among local community on importance of new PAs and conservation of biodiversity.

- The project organized meetings for Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs with representatives of Internal Affairs, ecological and technical safety, hunting society of Toktogul and Toguz Toro rayons, and memorandum on mutual assistance has been adopted.

- The project successfully organized study tour to Kemin rayon on learning of activities of PF "Shumkar Tor" with participation of employees and volunteer inspectors of Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs and representatives of regional state administration of Toktogul and Toguz Toro rayons. Participants learned about planting, development of tourism, as well as success stories about wild animals' preservation.

- For PAs of Western Tian-Shan, such as Alatai, Kan Achuu, Sary Chelek, Padysh Ata, Dashman, Besh Aral, Saimaluu Tash videoregistrators and binoculars have been provided for effective work during anti-poaching activities.

- For Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs camera traps have been procured for better monitoring of wild animals. Alatai and Kan Achuu employees were trained how to use camera traps and now set the cameras by their own and process the data received. The Department plans to develop new methodology of snow leopard monitoring, with further use on the pilot territories. With setting of camera traps accuracy of information on wild animals has improved.

- Communication between local self-government authorities, state authorities and local communities improved, newly established supervisory boards in Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs created platform for dialog, management of parks informs about PA activities and together discuss further plans.

- Front loader for Alatai PA is used for repairing of roads and restoration after mudslides.

- For curbing illegal fishing on Kara Suu unique lake, upon request of Alatai PA and Department, the project provided motor boat, also used for research activities of ichthyologic fauna. For the present time Department is discussing joint scientific expedition to the lake Kara Suu with National Science Academy.

- With the support of the project Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs are fully equipped with all necessary technical documentation: maps, PA development projects. Technical materials have been prepared by "Kyrgyzlesoustroistvo" State Enterprise upon request of the project after forest management works on the territory Alatai And Kan Achuu PAs. Pilot parks have opportunity to plan and implement all activities with use of these materials.

- PAs of Western Tian Shan are provided with Ranger books for phenological observations, also Guidelines for rangers are in the process of printing.

- In order to ensure transparent access to information, the project actively involved in implementation of electronic PA system. Electronic PA is database of all PAs of Kyrgyzstan, where information will be placed and updated on flora and fauna of each PA. Separate section will include information on wild animals, which will be updated in accordance with wild animals' inventory.

- The project should stress more attention to the construction of administrative buildings and ranger houses for pilot parks. Construction of these objects was planned for 2020 and it was also included into SAEPF plans. In general the Project is working well and in close collaboration with the State Agency. We hope jointly will reach our goal and for 2019 we would like to mark project

	activities as "Satisfactory". All tolls developed by the project will be used by other protected areas through the Biodiversity and PAs Department.	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
Other Partners	Satisfactory	- <i>IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>Due of the global pandemic (COVID 2019) many of jointly partners events are postponed to better period. And because of it, there is a an issue and risk that projects might operate not on time. But despite this situation, many initiatives that the Western Tien Shan (WTS) project supported back in 2019 have a place to be in 2020.</p> <p>Supports of the WTS project on a national scale:</p> <p>So, following the results of the expert meeting "Population assessment of snow leopards in the Western Tien Shan" which was held at the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic SAEPF (March 2019) which was also supported by the WTS was created the GLASS initiative. It is a unique dialogue expert platform of partners, which included the GSLEP Secretariat, the Ilbirs PF, the German Nature Conservation Union NABU, the Snow Leopard Trust SLT, and the Snow Leopard Foundation in the Kyrgyz Republic SLF.</p> <p>The goal of this initiative is to conduct joint exercises to assess the abundance, distribution and threats of snow leopards in the Western Tien Shan in consortium with the WTS .</p> <p>The GLASS platform has developed a snow leopard methodology scheme (which includes research activities as well as the Guidelines of the installation of the camera traps).</p> <p>Later, WTS will assist in the development of the Snow Leopard Assessment Methodology in the Kyrgyz Republic (also known by the name – Population Assessment of Snow Leopard in Kyrgyzstan\PASK).</p> <p>It should be noted, that this format of a consortium of partners for the population assessment of the snow leopard in Kyrgyzstan is being formed for the first time and has a long-term plan, the idea of which is supported by the WTS. In particular, the project supported a development the Methodology for assessing the snow leopard population in Kyrgyzstan for SAEPF based on the protocols of the Population assessment world snow leopard population PAWS (Developed under Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program GSLEP for all snow leopard range countries).</p> <p>To follow up all these actions, on 23-24 January, 2020, an Expert meeting was held at the SAEPF with the participation of PF Snow Leopard Foundation in the Kyrgyz Republic (SLFK), PF Ilbirs in the Kyrgyz Republic, the NABU, UNDP</p>	

(WTS) and GSLEP Secretariat.

The main objective of the event was a joint discussion about the PASK snow leopard assessment methodology within the PAWS and general activity on snow leopard conservation of all NGOs in Kyrgyzstan.

Following the results of the expert meeting, taking into account the comments of all interested parties, the GLASS consortium developed a map of distribution of partners across the territory of Kyrgyzstan within the framework of PASK.

Support of the WTS project on a global scale:

WTS welcomed the development of a memorandum and endorsement of the Joint Action Plan for the Western Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai, with the aim - expanding transboundary cooperation on snow leopard conservation.

In this direction, the WTS project has supported a number of related international meetings, with the participation of the snow leopard range countries in Central Asia. In particular:

- 1st Central Asian Meeting took place in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan (July 2018) Consultative Meeting on Transboundary Cooperation in Conservation of Snow Leopard Ecosystems;
- 2nd meeting took place in Khujant, Republic of Tajikistan, (April 2019), Regional workshop: transboundary aspects of snow leopard ecosystem conservation;
- 3rd meeting took place in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, (July 2019), International Conference "Snow Leopard Conservation: Population, Management and Transboundary Cooperation". At the last meeting, the said memorandum on the Western Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai received its scientific and final encouragement among the parties to the memorandum.

Thus, all measures taken in the field of conservation of the snow leopard and its ecosystems will increase the low awareness and superficial understanding of the critical situation of the snow leopard, the importance of its food base and habitat among the population of the Kyrgyz Republic, the role of the local population in the conservation of the snow leopard, as one of the responsible for the conservation of biodiversity and environmentalists.

Thus, mentioned above Memorandum between the Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) will consolidate and give impetus to the PAWS process of cross-border cooperation within the GSLEP program.

Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Overall Assessment	<p>This is the third PIR for this project aiming at conservation of globally important biodiversity and associated land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain ecosystems. The project has passed its midterm and as 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. 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.</p> <p>Key highlights under objective level include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As reported in the 2019 PIR, The Western Tien Shan region remains poorly studied, available data is fragmented, and information not structured. This is the very reason why the project continues to support scientific studies in target landscapes and development of electronic PA system. This certainly adds to the sustainability of project interventions. Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs in the Jalal-Abad province have all the needed cartographic and technical materials for planning and implementation of annually nature and forest conservation and biotechnical activities: maps of internal and external boundaries, zoning maps, maps of raids, forest planting maps, taxation materials, projects of national park organization. - A new methodology developed and approved for flora and fauna inventory and zoning have been used for inventory and zoning of protected areas “Alatai” and “Kan - Achuu”. - Flora and fauna inventories and zoning of the new PAs were completed - The inventory globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts reported by State Institution “Kyrgyz Forestry and Hunting Management” remains at the 2019 level and 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. The second inventory of forests plans covering all forests of pilot territories, including two forestries – Toktogul and Toguz Toro—will be conducted across 1,300 forest paths using data collection program, modern equipment and satellite images and will produce the needed information on forests, their resources, as well as assess area of forests with 95% accuracy. - As of now around 60% or 65,000 ha of degraded pastures are being restored. The project has developed pasture management plans covering 119,655 hectares of pastures; - In terms of landscape area under directly improved conservation, the project reports 162,188 ha under SFM in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozoes (target achieved), 119,899 ha (or 81% of EoP) under sustainable pasture management and 286,099 ha of PAs with improved biodiversity, forest and land management (achieved, 100% of EoP). As for indirect indicator, the project cannot yet report exact value as this is still work-in-progress and will be available by project end. - Though not required, the project provided preliminary estimates of the number of populations indirectly benefiting from the project livelihood activities, which are either at the end project level or close to EoP target for this indicator. In total, about 5,770 people took part in various project activities, 42% of which were women. - A draft concept of the alternative livelihood program (microgrant
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program) to support local communities was developed, and the program was launched in November 2019. As of today, 4 project proposals were approved for financing in Toktogul district with total amount of 18,000 USD.

Stemming from the above, progress towards the development objective is rated to be S (Satisfactory).

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 updated for all PAs in Western Tian Shan and show positive increase over the baseline for all 7 target PAs. The project now develops an electronic PA system to optimize time required for collection and primary processing of initial information. The e-PA system is expected to be completed by August 2021. Methodological instructions on program budgeting for the PAs have been developed with support of project and tested on the two pilot PAs and additionally 3 PAs in the Zhalal-Abad province. The project has drafted HVCF related amendments to the Forest Code. The Law on amendments and additions to the Forest Code has been developed, where HCVF concept is integrated as a separate article and is currently with SAEPF and awaits government approval. The project is in the process of 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 including it into the Forest Code, which will be revised in 2020 with support of a World Bank project in the forestry sector. In the pilot territories of Toktogul and Toguz Toro forestries, Alatai and Kan Achuu PAs it is expected to organize forests into several categories, as these forests are home to rare and endemic species. Finally, rangers and volunteer inspectors conduct on average 2-4 raids per week, covering 5,000-6,000 ha (vs 1,000 ha as EoP target). 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 has improved this reporting period. The project is progressing well towards the envisaged end target and expects to report over 40,000 ha of HCVF as officially recognized and sustainably managed areas after the adoption of proposed amendments to the Forest Code. The project reports attainment of end targets for its indicator on restored forests: 299 ha under afforestation (60% of EoP target) and 8,923 ha (198% of EoP target) supported for natural regeneration. Using FAO methodology for 2020 the project estimated avoided lifetime indirect GHG emissions of 979,548 tons CO₂ equivalent (or 33% of EoP target) for already reforested areas of 9,217 ha. E-pasture management system is under development and is expected to be finalized by the end of 2021. The project reports about 200,000 ha as supported by the project in the two pilot districts and are now under effective management. The project defined degraded pastures and developed recommendations on implementation of the process on degraded pasture restoration on the territories of 4 LSGs, for the geobotanical survey planned later in 2020. This reporting period 74,400 ha (area of PAs and forestries) have been brought under SLM in target districts. Around 300 ha of degraded pasture lands were restored through the provision of seeds and the project continues to support pasture committees for restoration works. A detailed survey will be carried out and a number of livelihoods affected by land degradation processes

will be identified and reported in the next PIR. The alternative livelihood program (Indicator #6) was finally launched in November 2019 and 9 community level projects were approved. As part of the alternative livelihood program, data has been collected on possible revenue-generating activities in the pilot territories. The program expects to target over 26,000 individuals residing in the project pilot areas.

Overall progress under this Outcome is assessed as S (Satisfactory).

Under Outcome 3 on strengthened national capacities for snow leopard conservation, overall good progress is observed. This reporting period no cases of illegal wildlife trade have been registered. The project procured uniforms for the Dog Service staff at the Manas (Bishkek) airport and it is in the process of installing an open-air cage for 4 dogs for the service to improve the control of illegal wildlife trade at the airport. Development of guides for identification of flora and fauna species under CITES is underway. The Project supports the upgrade of the E-PA management system that will evolve into a single effective tool for management of protected areas in the country.

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. Draft MOU and action plan were developed, circulated among UNDP projects and partners in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for review and feedback received. A draft Memorandum of Cooperation on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard is now with the Kyrgyz Government waiting approval. The project also supports the development of a Snow Leopard Monitoring database and a monitoring methodology to monitor the Snow Leopard population. In February 2020, the project jointly with the GSLEP Secretariat supported a meeting on snow leopard monitoring methodology where all partners jointly developed and agreed on mapping of activities. 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 two Project Board meetings this reporting period, in December 2019 to report on progress and approve the 2020 annual workplan and in February 2020 to endorse the MTR Management Response Matrix, review and approve several documents including proposed amendments to the Forest Code.

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 high risk in regard to the COVID-19 measures that already negatively impacted project mobility and delayed implementation of key project activities on the ground. In the reporting period, the project team invested considerable efforts in re-scheduling all planned activities, discussing proposed changes with the national partners and focusing on better coordination with all stakeholders in target regions. In line with the MTR recommendation (endorsed by the Project Board) the project plans to request a no-cost project extension, partly due to COVID - 19 in 2020 and its overall uncertainty in the next reporting period.

Regarding financial management, the disbursements of the GEF grant has improved, although more efforts are needed to ensure that the project delivery remains on track. As of June 30, 2020, total expenditures amount to about USD 2,030,927 representing about 51% of the GEF grant.

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

The RTA advises:

- Submit to RTA an official request for project extension;
- Incorporate activities to comply with the MTR recommendations in the project's annual workplan;
- 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.

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.

<p>Gender Analysis and Action Plan: WTS ID_Gender mainstreaming plan_2018_FINAL.docx</p> <p>Gender Analysis and Action Plan: Gender mainstreaming plan_101450_WesternTianShan_2019_MA.DOCX</p> <p>Gender Analysis and Action Plan: Gender mainstreaming plan_101450_WesternTianShan_2019_MA.DOCX</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Atlas Gender Marker Rating</p>
<p>GEN2: gender equality as significant objective</p>
<p>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):</p>
<p>Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No</p>
<p>Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes</p>
<p>Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes</p>
<p>Not applicable: No</p>
<p>Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>The project's 2020 gender mainstreaming plan was developed in close cooperation with the UNDP Gender team. The project coordinates and consults with the UNDP Gender Team when it comes to implementation of the gender related activities (plan is attached to PIR).</p> <p>The project has been addressing the issues of gender-equality and the empowerment of women in different ways, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 "Alatai" 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 microgrant applications), etc.

The project considers gender issue as a very important components and considers it in its every activity: trainings, seminars, eco-events and etc. Also, when working on visibility materials, such as photo posting, video production and etc. the project strives to consider gender equality issue.

In the project pilot PAs currently, there are 2 ranger women: a volunteer inspector - Baisalbekva Raimkan and second ranger - Omurova Nurgul. Although, it was not easy for them to get involved in work, where majority of rangers are men, they could overcome initial challenges and now are sharing their experience with others. The project strives to support rangers and create all necessary conditions for successful implementation of their work.

Also, several gender-oriented activities had been supported by the project. For example, in December 2019, during a 16-days campaign against domestic violence, the project supported entertainment competition among pairs of dads and daughters on joint activities, such as quizzes, cooking activities, performance show etc. in pilot areas. The goal of such activity is promotion of gender equality as well as enhancing knowledge of local population on importance of biodiversity conservation.

Also, the project currently develops a ToR on gender research, where the role/impact of women in conservation of biodiversity is planned to be studied. The project consults closely with IRH Gender Equality Team on this topic.

In terms of the covid-19 related impact on gender equality and women's empowerment, there is no major issue. Maybe we may consider some delays related to the implementation of the alternative livelihood program, where we have some women lead groups, so they we benefited with some delays, due to the covid-situation. As reported earlier we have difficulties with the access to the pilot area, to finalize this program and sign the agreements to start the process.

The MTR also highlighted the project's gender activities as a good example and need to continue according to the MTR recommendations.

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

As mentioned before, the project faces certain obstacles, when involving women in nature

conservation and protection. As some may think that being ranger is only a masculine occupation but hired women as rangers in the project proved the opposite. In our project activities, we try to convince people, that the role of women is crucial in nature protection. Showing films, such as “Ata”, “Naparnikter”, where stereotypes on gender issues are destroyed and role of women is valued. Another way is involvement of women and men in joint activities, so that they understand, that there is no such profession where only women or men should work.

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.

Currently the project implements a grants component where women are offered with an opportunity to develop project proposals, which will have positive and sustainable effect on biodiversity conservation and environment protection. In this component, we are monitoring precisely gender issue and strive to involve women in our pilot areas as much as we can.

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.

SESP: KGZ_PIMS6958_WTS_SESP_signed.pdf
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.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?
No
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.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
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.
No
If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
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.
Not Applicable
If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential)?
No
If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.

(not set or not applicable)

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.)

The more environmentalists there are, the more sustainable our nature will be story of public inspector

Nurlan Mamyrkulov is a public inspector at Alatai Nature Park. Nurlan says that he used to be a poacher before becoming a conservationist. It is very interesting, why he decided to radically change his views and transform from an illegal hunter into an environmentalist to preserve the biodiversity of the Western Tian Shan. What prompted him to make such a drastic change in his life?

Three years ago, Nurlan learned that a joint patrol group was being formed from among local residents, and he immediately decided to join it. One of the reasons why Nurlan took this step was that he realized that nature required urgent protection. Now the "ex-poacher" is helping the rangers of Alatai Nature Park to protect and preserve the local biodiversity.

"To be frank, up to 2018 I have been one of those, who has hunted for ibex. We can say that I was a real poacher before I became a public inspector. There are people in the villages who consider wildlife to be their property. They like to hunt mountain goats and deer. As a result, wild animals are becoming less and less. Therefore, when the Alatai Nature Park was created in Toktogul district, and the Kan-Achuu park was established in the neighboring region, we were immensely pleased and immediately supported the UNDP-GEF project, as the numbers of wild animals in our mountains had been shrinking", says Nurlan.

To strengthen participatory patrolling and enforcing anti-poaching in Western Tian Shan Protected Areas, joint patrol groups were established at Alatai and Kan-Achuu State Nature Parks as part of the UNDP-GEF project. The groups are formed from the locals who regularly conduct joint anti-poaching patrol raids together with rangers and local authorities. The groups involve representatives of local law enforcement authorities, self-governance bodies, state administration, as well as the Association of Hunters and Fishermen to conduct random field inspection raids regularly. The project equipped the patrol group members with means of communication, optics, camera traps, outfit, and expedition equipment.

The public inspectors mainly work with rangers and foresters to create the conditions for the wildlife. They organize the feeding of wild animals and prepare hay for winter feed. The group members regularly meet with residents, conduct meetings, inform them, thereby contributing to anti-poaching activities and the protection of wildlife. Together with the UNDP office in Toktogul, the inspectors conduct regular lectures on biodiversity at schools, urging young people to protect the environment and increase their environmental literacy.

"In spring and autumn, we not only keep a record of animals around Lake Kara-Suu but also have to clean up the garbage left by some careless vacationers and tourists around the lake", says Nurlan. "We have conducted several raids on the bank of the Lake Kara-Suu in our Alatai district and have caught the poachers two times, who have fished illegally. As a result, public inspectors have filed a report with regard to them according to the law".

The project undertook a number of trainings on environmental legislation, wild flora and fauna accounting, combating poachers, designing strategies for the development of protected areas, ecotourism, and scientific research.

“In general, the first task is to perform all tasks per the law. You shall know how to work with people. The project has been supporting us from the beginning. I participated in the project-backed trainings and learned many useful things about environmental standards and the fight against poaching. Besides, I have learned about the rights and the obligations of the inspector and how to provide the first aid. Moreover, the project has provided us with a special uniform and binoculars and has taught us how to work with a camera and a GPS-navigator”, says Nurlan

Under the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, the last three years witnessed a growth in the number of wild animals. For example, the number of rice, wild boar, and bear have doubled whereas the number of roe deer and goats increased three times.

“Our mountains are home for ibex, deer, bears, marmots, and badgers. There are snow leopards in the mountains adjoining Kan-Achuu. Moreover, a snowcock can be often encountered in the mount Karakyr-Ata, which is also in the Red List. We see that pheasants have appeared on the outskirts of the village”, says the public inspector.

Nurlan also shared his plans for further actions. “We create so-called “jamaats” from among the villagers who support us and are interested in nature conservation. Indeed, the more defenders of nature, the more sustainable our nature will be. We are working to increase the awareness of the villagers and change their consciousness. The plans are to develop ecological tourism, by preserving our beautiful nature. Of course, combating poaching and protecting endangered species will be our priority. There is still a lot of work ahead”, says Nurlan Mamyrkulov, member of Alatai Joint Patrol Group.

Western Tian Shan is a mountain system characterized by a high level of endemism and rich flora and fauna. The region is included in the UNESCO world heritage list. It is one of the 34 global Biodiversity Hotspots and is included in the world Ecoregion rating of Global 200 according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The territory of the Western Tian Shan is inhabited by 27 species of animals that are on the verge of extinction and 54 red book species of plants grow here.

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.

In March 2020 International Ice Hockey Tournament with #SaveSnowLeopard slogan was planned. Teams and participants from Kuwait, Malaysia, Philippines were invited and confirmed their participation. All the preparatory work has been finalized, however the COVID19 situation disposed otherwise and it was cancelled. The project plans to renew the work once the situation allows.

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-CsdLaS7THAd4jUTsWYmhWfXtGWbchH&index=9&t=11s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMm9winYPI8>

Also, our stories were published on the UNDP regional website.

<https://undpeurasia.exposure.co/conserving-kyrgyzstans-alatai?source=share-UNDPEurasia>

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/>).

UNDP social media

Links for information produced in 2019 and 2020 year:

Conference “UN model” on Biodiversity Conservation

1. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/un-model-as-a-platform-for-youth-to-discuss-globally-important-t.html>
2. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/un-model-as-a-platform-for-youth-to-discuss-globally-important-t.html>
3. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/un-model-as-a-platform-for-youth-to-discuss-globally-important-t.html>
4. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2502739423155285?__tn__=-R

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171. <http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/04/trans-boundary-issues-in-saving-the-snow-leopard.html>

172. <https://www.instagram.com/p/BwEk4ISH0fY/>

229. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/photos/a.153455198083731/2157456821016882/?type=3&theater>

230. <http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/04/western-tian-shan-is-in-the-unesco-lis.html>

231. <http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/04/western-tian-shan-is-in-the-unesco-lis.html>

232. <http://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/04/western-tian-shan-is-in-the-unesco-lis.html>

233. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2249232561839307?__tn__=-R

234. <https://www.instagram.com/p/By7GtnUnH1j/>

Project Location Data

Provide the coordinates for the project's geo-location sites. Provide the coordinates in decimal degrees (Longitude and Latitude). If you are not able to provide the coordinates in decimal degrees, you can alternatively provide them in the Degrees, Minutes, Seconds format. If you have this information stored in a GIS file, upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv). If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.

Please attach the GIS data. Any of the following formats are acceptable: shapefile (.shp)*, .kmz, .kml. If helpful, see here a quick note on how to gather geo-reference info. *Note that a shapefile is composed of several files: a .shp file should be zipped in a folder accompanied by the file extensions: .shx, .sbn, .prj, .dbf, .cpg, .sbx, .xml.

<p>If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.</p>
<p> </p>
<p>Provide geo-location in longitude, latitude, format.</p>
<p>If you have this information stored in a GIS file, please upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv).</p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Longitude</p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Alternatively, provide geo-location in degrees, minutes, seconds format. Please also provide information on what the coordinates point to in the space provided.</p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Minutes</p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Seconds</p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Coordinates description</p>
<p>Planned construction of the administrative buildings of "Alatai" and "Kan Achuu"; State National Parks, ranger houses and project areas, planting activities. Table with GIS details is attached.</p>

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.

Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?
Yes
Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?
No
Does the project work with the Private Sector?
Yes
Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?
Yes
Does the project work with UN Volunteers?
Yes
Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?
Yes
CEO Endorsement Request: PIMS 5411 Kyrgyzstan WTS CEO Req resubm 20 oct.docx
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.
<p>The implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan in process. Project team is in close contact with all partners.</p> <p>New good partnerships relationship established with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, private sector representatives, UNDESCO offices in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on new for Kyrgyzstan Geoparks topic. Also the project established good partnership with the UN sister Agencies ad WFP on planting and reforestation activities, and mutual support is provided at community and national levels.</p> <p>The project continued partnership with a diverse range of CSO/NGOs:</p> <p>The Foundation “Initiative of Roza Otunbaeva” produced a set of visibility materials on Ecological</p>

Education (videos, interactive games/posters)

An IFAD-funded project on pasture management, being implemented by the Kyrgyz Agency of Development and Communities Infrastructure, cooperated with the project to build on synergies and avoid duplication especially in development of the management plans for pasture committees.

Community-based organizations working on biodiversity conservation in the two target districts are the project's partners on anti-pouching, joint patrolling and monitoring and other related activities at the community level.

The project collaborated with the following partners:

- with UNDP BIOFIN II project on financial mechanisms for environment and biodiversity protection
- with FAO-GEF funded, GIZ, WB-GEF-funded joint Forest Management project on forestry sector, especially development of electronic system on forestry, including data collection on protected areas. In 2020 the jointly developed and now supporting implementation of Capacity building plan for the State Agency on Environment Safety and Forestry.
- UNDP-GEF funded projects in Central Asia on wildlife conservancy topic, especially on snow leopard monitoring protocols.
- The Ministry of Education organized a III competition for school children at the International Day of Biodiversity Conservation together with the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry and also in 2020 we plan to involve representatives of the mass media. The project plans to announce results of the competition in October within the Snow Leopard decade.

We work closely with the UNSECO office in Kyrgyzstan on geological research and geoparks, a new topic for the country. Jointly with UNESCO the project conducted a preliminary survey in the Batken region to learn more on needs to organize a protected area. Also, we collaborate on the idea to include the project's area in the UNESCO list of natural heritage.

SGP

The project partnered with the GEF Small Grants Programme during the high-level Snow Leopard Conservation International Forum by using the visibility materials such as comics about the snow leopard developed with support of SGP in the past.

According to the new changes introduced today, the GEF Small Grants Program is physically located in UNDP, which allows coordinating program issues more closely. Two proposals of the project were successfully supported and resulted in a wide-scale information campaign of the project on birdwatching and ecotourism development.

UNV

There are 2 national volunteers in the project's team who work as community mobilizers. They provide significant support to the project and are the first link to connect with local communities. The project also conducts trainings to enhance the potential of project staff, including volunteers. Today,

they also provide support to natural parks for maintaining the park's page on social networks.

The project faced no major issues on covid-19 related impact on stakeholder engagement.

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.