



2024 January
Post PIR Report



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Snow Leopards in Tian Shan

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Overall ratings	3
Development Objective Progress	4
Implementation Progress	Ошибка! Закладка не определена.
Project Governance	Ошибка! Закладка не определена.
Ratings and Overall Assessments	Ошибка! Закладка не определена.
Minor Amendments	Ошибка! Закладка не определена.
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A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5411
GEF ID	6958
Title	Conservation of globally important biodiversity and association land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain ecosystems and support to sustainable livelihoods.
Country(ies)	Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyzstan
UNDP-NCE Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Management Arrangements	DIM
Project Implementing Partner	KGZ10 (Kyrgyzstan)
Joint Agencies	(not set or not applicable)
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	6th PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY23
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

Project Description
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. 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. 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 Toguz-Toro districts.

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B. Overall ratings

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

C. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

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 2022	Level at June 2023	Post PIR report
1. Trend in population levels of globally significant fauna (Red List, ecosystem indicator or keystone species) in Jalal-Abad province: - Snow leopard (Panthera uncia) - Ibex (Capra sibirica) - Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) - Tian Shan white clawed bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus)	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: - Snow leopard (Panthera uncia): 49; <0% - Ibex (Capra sibirica): 4116; <3% - Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 31; <1% - Tian Shan white clawed bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus): 197; <4%	(not set or not applicable)	Population trend is at least stable over a rolling five-year period. Number of individuals and annual rate of change: - Snow leopard (Panthera uncia): 49; >0% - Ibex (Capra sibirica): 4839; >3% - Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 40; >1% - Tian Shan white clawed bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus): 256; >5%	On track. During the reporting period, there was reported an increase in the population of the key species. According to the Jalal-Abad Territorial Administration of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2021 provided the following inventory data of key wildlife species populations: - Snow leopard (Panthera uncia): 44 (89% of EoP target); - Ibex (Capra sibirica): 6725 (138% of EoP target); - Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 110 (275% of EoP target); - Tian Shan white-clawed bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus): 297 (116% of EoP target) Indirect evidence is also supportive of the increased number of key species: for the first time in Alatai SNP and Kanachuu SNP camera traps, set by the Project recorded presence of snow leopards in these locations.	Achieved. During the reporting period, an increase in the population of key wildlife species was observed. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic's data as of April 2023, there has been an upturn in the number of wildlife species, including those on the Red Book. Notably, the population of the Golden Eagle has tripled compared to EoP target. In addition, the populations of Ibex and Tian-Shan White Clawed Bear have risen by 57% and 47%, respectively, relative to their EoP targets. Meanwhile, the Snow Leopard population is kept stable . - Snow leopard (Panthera uncia): 48 (98% of EoP target); - Ibex (Capra sibirica): 7580 (157% of EoP target); - Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 131 (328% of EoP target); - Tian Shan white-clawed bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus): 376 (147% of EoP target) In this reporting period, the Project launched efforts to organize and conduct joint expeditions to assess the snow leopard population in the Western Tian Shan region. The goal is to gather, analyze, and interpret data to provide accurate information about this population. These findings will be added to national databases and published to offer insights into the snow leopard numbers in the Western Tian Shan region. The first of these expeditions took place in June-July 2023. However, heavy precipitation and climatic anomalies in the mountains led to challenges,	Achieved

				As reported in the previous PIR, following the Supervisory Board recommendations (2021), the Project had planned to conduct a joint estimation of a snow leopard population in the Zhalal-Abad region. Recently, the Project has resumed the work on promoting the PAWS PASK Methodology and will carry out this activity jointly with other stakeholders by the end of the Project. Evidence attached: 1) Antipoaching_patrol_acts_2019-2021. 2) Wildlife population data_MNRETS KR_2021	causing a delay in the installation of camera traps due to safety and accessibility concerns. Now that the traps are operational, a minimum of a 90-day period is essential for comprehensive data collection on snow leopards. Once collected, the data will undergo rigorous analysis aimed at providing robust estimates of the snow leopard's population size and density. Considering the time needed for a second expedition to collect the camera traps and for data analysis, the final results are expected in December 2023, after which subsequent reports will be released. Work is also being done to update the range map for the snow leopard and other factors at the national level. This is based on the digital map of the snow leopard's range in Kyrgyzstan with annotated recommendations on land use regimes in key territories that are important for the snow leopard. The efforts are grounded in the Population Assessment of the Snow Leopards in Kyrgyzstan (PASK) methodology, developed with the Project's support. The results of these activities will be presented in by the end of the Project in December 2023. Currently, the Project is working on the development of an amendment to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Specially Protected Natural Areas by introducing new terms: on the glacier and snowfield protection, geopark establishment, enhancement of natural sanctuary creation, and wetland management. It is also being prepared some amendments to the Land Code eliminating some impediments on creation of the nature sanctuaries. These changes aim to protect broader high-altitude landscapes, thereby positively influencing wildlife conservation efforts. In addition, in the fall of 2022 the Project organized and led a national-level roundtable in Bishkek, focusing on biodiversity conservation and the management of protected areas in Kyrgyzstan. The discussions during the roundtable emphasized the importance of revising and updating the national strategy and action plan for biodiversity conservation in the country. Evidence: WTS_Wildlife_Dataset_2023	
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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%) - Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%) - Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) – Total = 2,125.5 ha: - Ha - Category 1: 850.6 (40%) - Ha – Category 2: 1,048.8 (49%) - Ha – Category 3: 226.1 (11%) - Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%)	(not set or not applicable)	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 (Picea schrenkiana) – Total = 4,202.6 ha: - Ha - Category 1: 1,745.7 - Ha – Category 2: 2,456.9 - Ha – Category 3: 0 - Ha – Category 4: 0	The indicator was technically achieved in 2019 as reported in the PIR. As of today, the Second National Forest Inventory of Kyrgyzstan has not yet been finalized and the updated data are not available. According to State Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, the data of the National Forest Inventory is currently being processed and will be ready by the end of 2022. Hence, the status of globally significant flora stays at the 2019 level as reported in the previous PIR already exceeding anticipated EoP targets: - Semenov's fir (Abies semenovii) - 4,930.5 Ha (115% of EoP target) - Juniper (Juniperus sp.) - 9,204.6 Ha (128% of EoP target) - Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) - 4,322.2 Ha. (103% of EoP target)	The indicator was technically achieved in 2019 as reported in the PIR and the status of globally significant flora stays at the 2019 level already exceeding anticipated EoP targets: - Semenov's fir (Abies semenovii) - 4,930.5 Ha (115% of EoP target) - Juniper (Juniperus sp.) - 9,204.6 Ha (128% of EoP target) - Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) - 4,322.2 Ha. (103% of EoP target)	Achieved. Updated as of 2023 data and provided with breakdown as follows: - Semenov's fir (Abies semenovii) – 4,493.2 ha (105% of EoP target) - Ha - Category 1: 2,288.9 - Ha – Category 2: 2,168.0 - Ha – Category 3: 36.3 - Ha – Category 4: 0 - Juniper (Juniperus sp.) – 10,243 ha (143% of EoP target) - Ha - Category 1: 6,658.7 - Ha – Category 2: 3,568.2 - Ha – Category 3: 16.1 - Ha – Category 4: 0 - Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) - 4,830.4 ha (115% of EoP target) - Ha - Category 1: 2,718.5 - Ha – Category 2: 2,044.6 - Ha – Category 3: 67.3 - Ha – Category 4: 0 (Evidence: ExplanatoryTable4Indicator2_Forest species area by categories)
3. Area of degraded pastureland in four target A/As in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	65,361 ha (estimated based on relevant available data)	(not set or not applicable)	0 ha (decrease of 65,361 ha)	On track. With the aim of introducing and implementing the Sustainable Land Management approach	Achieved 60% of EoP. The Sustainable Land Management approach is being practiced in four target Aiyl aimaks of the Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts with the support of the Project. As	Achieved 75% of EoP. The degraded pastureland area has decreased to 16,026

- Cholpon-Ata - Kyzyl-Ozgorush - Kok-Irim - Atai			on the territory of Toguz-Toro and Toktogul districts the following activities were completed: - Management Plans for pasture committees of Cholpon-Ata AA, Kyzyl-Ozgorush AA, Kok-Irim AA, Atai AA; - a session of aiyl keneshs (village councils) conducted; - a geo-botanical survey of pastures conducted; - pasture areas identified; - pasture maps developed; - a database of pasture users created. The developed plans cover about 166,000 hectares of pastures, of which 30,000 hectares are pastures of two SNPs and 136,000 hectares belong to four pilot aiyl aimaks (villages). According to the plans, more than 200 pastoralists graze livestock on these pastures. According to undertaken studies, there is around 24,000 ha of pastures identified as degraded, mostly pastures located close to villages, whilst conditions of remote pastures were recorded as satisfactory. (pls. see annex: Report_Livestock_grazing_impact_to_biodiversity) To decrease the degradation of pastures and to ensure the implementation of developed management plans in the four target AAs the Project has provided the following support: - A small grant was provided to the pasture committees of Kok-	reported in the previous PIR, Management Plans have been developed for the pasture committees of Cholpon-Ata AA, Kyzyl-Ozgorush AA, Kok-Irim AA, and Atai AA. These plans were meticulously crafted based on comprehensive studies, including geo-botanical surveys and economic analyses of the ecosystem services provided by the pastures. Additionally, cartographic materials have been created to facilitate effective planning and management processes. Developed pasture management plans encompass approximately 166,000 hectares of pastures, with 30,000 hectares designated as pastures within two Special Nature Parks (SNPs) and 136,000 hectares belonging to the four pilot aiyl aimaks. To enhance management of these pastures, an automated tool called the "Electronic-Pasture Committee" has been developed and introduced, which is now being utilized by the pasture committees. The pilot pasture committees have successfully implemented the developed management plans, leading to positive outcomes. An example of this success is the utilization of provided mobile veterinary fence by pastoralists of Cholpon-Ata and Aiai aiyl aimaks both in the pastures near settlements and in remote pastures. This tool has played a crucial role in promoting sustainable livestock practices and has been very useful for almost all pasture users in the two ayil aimaks, providing veterinary services in remote pastures. Thus, during 2023, the mobile veterinary fence was used to perform spring chipping of about 500 horses, tagging of over 600 cows, and veterinary treatment of over 13,000 sheep during the spring season. These activities have made a significant contribution to the overall well-being and health management of livestock in the target areas. The pasture committees have continued their pasture seeding initiatives, which were previously supported by the project, mentioned in the previous PIR. Pasture committees have incorporated sainfoin cultivation into their management plans, enabling them to produce seeds and utilize them for reseeding purposes. An illustrative example is the Cholpon-Ata pasture committee, which collected seeds from the previously sown sainfoin area and successfully seeded 150 hectares this spring. This proactive approach by the	hectares, with the following breakdown:: - Alatai SNP- 1346 ha, - Kan-Achuu SNP- 5012 ha, - Kok-Irim AA- 1668 ha, - Atai AA- 5,760 ha, - Cholpon-Ata AA 1751 ha, -Kyzyl-Ozgorysh AA – 4999 ha. During the post-PIR period. seeds for the rehabilitation of degraded pasture lands have been successfully delivered to Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozoes through the Forest Service of the Ministry of Agriculture. The seeding is scheduled for spring, and the national authority will closely monitor to ensure the quality of the seeding process. (Evidence: 2023_Pasture_NDVI_comparative_analysis_2021vs2023_final)
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			Irim and Toguz-Toro districts for the construction of a bridge in Chon-Kechuu area (Total budget: about 3,700 USD). The constructed bridge provided access to summer remote pastures allowing the decrease of grazing animals in degraded pastures around settlements. The total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries is 1327, of which 352 are women. - A small grant for the construction of watering points in Kyzyl-Ozgorush pasture committee of Toktogul district (Total budget: about 9,000 USD). This intervention also contributes to decreasing degradation of pastures by ensuring access to more than 3,660 hectares of summer remote pastures, and thus redistributing livestock. The total number of direct beneficiaries is 375, of which 95 are women. Out of the four AAs, one Kyzyl-Ozgorush AA suffers from a shortage of pastures. With the largest population, they have the smallest pasture area. Consequently, there is a very high grazing pressure in some pasture areas, which is difficult to alleviate at the level of this AA. As part of the project, the areas of the four pilot pasture committees have been identified and mapped. These new maps along with the developed and introduced Electronic-Pasture committee will improve pasture management and contribute to decreasing pasture	pasture committees showcases their dedication to sustainable management practices and their ongoing commitment to improving the quality of their pastures. In 2022, the degraded pasture area was around 24,000 hectares, contrasting with a baseline of 65,000 hectares. This indicates a reduction of 60% in degraded areas. With the ongoing efforts of the pilot pasture committees implementing sustainable pasture management practices, such as livestock population control, re-seeding, and grazing restrictions in degraded plots, it is expected that within the next 3-4 years, the degraded pastures will be successfully restored. Annex: Informational note on pasture seeding.	
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				degradation (pls. see annex: Report_dev_pasture manag_plan) In addition, as stated in previous PIRs, there were created demonstration plots covering 0.36 ha on the territory of pilot aiyl aimags which serve as a model for the rehabilitation of degraded pastures. In order to improve degraded pastures, 8.0 tons of sainfoin seeds were handed over to the Kok-Irim Pasture Committee which sowed on 8 ha of pastureland. To date, the area planted with sainfoin has increased to 13 ha, benefitting 16 pasture users with 980 head of sheep and goats and 109 cattle. In addition to that, the SNP Kanachuu was also provided with 8 ton of sainfoin, which was sown in the haymaking plots. (Act of acceptance_sainfoin seeds_2019-2021).		
4. Landscape area under directly improved conservation management	Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be directly influenced by project results: - 0 ha	(not set or not applicable)	Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be directly influenced by project results: - 472,635 ha (SFM in 34,382 ha of forest (the forested area under management by Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozes),	On track 472,635 ha area of Jalal-Abad region is influenced by the project: SFM in 34,382 ha of forest: the forested area under management by Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozes: - During this reporting period, 528 hectares of forest (468.8 ha + 59.2 ha in 2021) were planted reaching the set objectives for reforestation,	Achieved 130% of the EoP target. The project focused on implementing interventions to enhance biodiversity conservation, as well as forest and pasture management, covering a total area of 614,998.5 hectares: (1) Protected areas in the primary target district including two new PAs: • SNP Alatau (new) – 56,826.4 hectares • SNP Kanachuu (new)– 30,496.5 hectares • Dashman SNR – 7,958.1 hectares • BeshAral SNR – 112,463.4 hectares • Saimaluu Tash SNP – 31,932 hectares • Sary-Chelek SNR – 23,868 hectares • Padyshata SNR – 30,560 hectares	Achieved 130% of the EoP target. During the post-PIR period, there were completed works devoted to the improvement of target protected areas. Developed management plans for SNP Alatau and SNP Kanachuu in accordance with the Guidelines for Developing Management Plans for Protected Areas of the Kyrgyz Republic. These plans received approval from the Department of Protected Areas and Biodiversity

			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.)	which was determined as 500 hectares. - Support for natural reforestation was provided on an area of 9,451 hectares, as well as new plantings on an area of about 530 ha. The project fully met the target for natural reforestation, adding another 4,000 hectares over and above the required 5,000 hectares. - SLM: pasture management plans were developed covering about 166,000 hectares of pastures, of which 136,000 hectares belong to four pilot villages (pls refer to Indicator 3 above for details). The project just recently started activities on the development of Management Plans for the SNP Aalatay and SNP Kanachuu, as well as the introduction of HCVF approaches into the management plans of Toktogul and Toguz-Torouz leskhoz, to be finalized by the end of Project. Evidence of improved conservation efforts in the target PAs and leskhoz includes the presence of snow leopards and their prey species in the SNP Kanachuu and SNP Alatai as confirmed by camera traps. SNP staff regularly reports an increase in encounters with wild animals in the protected area, while local villagers complained about cases of attack by bears on	(2) SFM: • Toktogul leskhoz – 72,324 hectares • Toguz Toro leskhoz – 54,874.5 hectares • Aksy leskhoz – 62,589.2 hectares Restoration of degraded forest (4,886 ha) (3) Implementation of SLM, including enhancement of degraded pastures of 65,361 ha: • Cholpon-Ata AA pastures – 56,494 hectares • Kok-Irim AA pastures – 31,629 hectares • Atai AA pastures – 15,741 hectares • Kyzyl-Ozgorysh AA pastures – 28,242.4 hectares. The project has significantly contributed to the enhancement of biodiversity conservation, promoting sustainable forest management, and fostering sustainable pasture management in these areas. (1) Concrete evidence of these improvements is demonstrated through measurable improvement in the METT (Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) assessments of the protected areas, increased wildlife sightings reported by local communities, and camera traps images showcasing the presence of snow leopards and their prey species. Within the Western Tian Shan protected areas, the project primarily focuses on SNP Alatai and SNP Kanachuu. Activities have been undertaken to support these protected areas, including extensive research on biodiversity, forest inventory and planning, studies on business planning opportunities, producing cartographic materials. The project is currently developing management plans for SNP Alatai and Kanachuu based on these materials and applying the participatory approach. In this regard, the project has developed Guidelines for Developing Management Plans for Protected Areas of the Kyrgyz Republic, Instruction for the development, review and implementation of program-based budgets for SPNAs of the Kyrgyz Republic and Instruction for the development of financial strategies for SNPs of the Kyrgyz Republic, which was approved by the Order of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic. These	Conservation under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic. An administrative building made from prefabricated sea-containers was installed at SNP Kan-Achuu and SNP Alatai. Additionally, three cordon houses, constructed from light materials, were built to facilitate the work of park rangers and patrols. At Sary-Chelek State Reserve, an automatic barrier with access control has been installed, ensuring transparent payment and precise tracking of visitors and vehicles. Fifteen ecotourism itineraries have been developed for the protected areas of Alatai, Kan-Achuu, and Saimaluu-Tash, primarily focusing on birdwatching and wildlife watching. Additionally, to ensure easy access for tourists seeking immersive experiences in these natural environments, foldable maps featuring these routes have been produced. They include descriptions and photographs of locations and are developed in both English and Russian. To foster strategic partnerships among governmental bodies, local self-governments, and tour operators, with a focus on enhancing the tourism potential of Toktogul Rayon, the project organized the "EcoJaratman Toktogul: Creative Solutions for Ecotourism Development" Festival in Toktogul Rayon, on
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			apiaries in the Toktogul leskhoz. (Annex: Report on Camera Traps-Rus.pdf) Based on the recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, the ichthyofauna of the Alatau and Kara-Suu lakes of the Alatau State Natural Park was additionally studied. Ichthyological studies have shown that endemic species of Severtsov's Osman and Common Marinka, as well as steadily introduced Peled, Amudarya Trout and Gegarkuni Trout, inhabit lakes Alatau and Kara-Suu. It should be noted that a new species of Gegarkuni Trout was identified during additional studies. Ichthyologist experts recommended conducting year-round monitoring in the territories identified as a result of the study. Also, there was an attempt on defining the ecological corridors of wildlife between the PAs of the Western Tian-Shan. Project consultants have identified wildlife migration routes along the mountain system of the Western Tien Shan along the Fergana, Talas and Chatkal ranges between "Beshtash", "Kulun-Ata", "Dashman", "Sary-Chelek", "Padysh-Ata" and "Besh-Aral" protected areas. However, the study's findings are not concise and need to be elaborated this study in this year .	guidelines are not only used for SNP Alatau and SNP Kanachuu but also being widely applied to other protected areas in the country. It is worth noting that the Project is closely cooperating with the EU funded component of BIOFIN Project in introducing program-based budgeting in public finance management planning process in the country. In addition to research and planning, the project has placed significant emphasis on strengthening human and technical capacities of the PAs and forestries. This includes providing training programs to enhance human capacity and empower local communities and stakeholders with knowledge and expertise in biodiversity conservation. The project has also provided support to enhance material and technical capacities of the PAs and leskhoz, ensuring resources and tools are available for effective conservation and management activities. As of November 2023, an administrative building from prefabricated sea-containers was installed for SNP Kan-Achuu. Currently, the Project efforts are underway to procure prefabricated container houses as administrative buildings and ranger-houses and furniture for SNP Alatau and SNP Kanachuu. One of the key accomplishments in 2022-2023 has been the development of 12 ecotourist itineraries within the territory of SNP Alatau and SNP Kanachuu. These carefully crafted itineraries primarily focus on birdwatching and wildlife watching, offering visitors opportunities to explore breathtaking landscapes that extend beyond the boundaries of these protected areas. Currently, the project team is actively working on publishing developed itineraries on relevant websites and preparing visual products, ensuring easy access for tourists seeking immersive experiences in these remarkable natural environments. Moreover, in order to create economic opportunities and develop ecotourism in SNP Alatau and SNP Kanachuu, four low-value projects on ecotourism were supported within the Project's Low-Value Grant (LVG) program. These projects aimed to capacitate local communities in providing services for eco-tourists and visitors (yurt	September 21, 2023. Over 200 participants, including tour operators, representatives from the Tourism Development Fund, local governments, Alatau State Nature Park, conservation nonprofits, businesses, and women's creative collectives, engaged in discussions to develop practical recommendations for sustainable ecotourism. The festival showcased the aforementioned tourist itineraries in the Western Tian-Shan Protected Areas. It served as a platform for discussions aimed at enhancing the tourist potential of Toktogul Rayon and establishing partnerships between governmental agencies, local self-governance bodies, and tour operators. This joint discussion platform outlined strategies for cooperation and integrative approaches, combining the efforts of local communities, governmental initiatives, and strategic partnerships to develop coordinated and efficient ecotourism development plans, considering the unique challenges and opportunities of the Toktogul Rayon. Evidence: - Management Plan of SNP Kanachuu - Management plan of SNP Alatau - Report on infrastructure items constructed - Ecotourism itineraries of WTS
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				The project also plans to launch an exercise to identify buffer zones adjacent to the SNP Alatau and SNP Kan-Achuu. We expect to receive a map of buffer zones with coordinated modes of use between zhayyt (pasture) committees: Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush, Kok-Irim, Atai, forest farms and with all hunting farms of Toktogul and Toguz-Torui regions.	camp, wildlife watching equipment such as binoculars, mats, and tents, etc.). These eco-tourism development interventions are expected to have a positive impact not only on the project sites but also on the entire Jalal-Abad region. Through the utilization of these eco-tourism products, it is expected that the region will witness an improvement in its tourism offerings. This, in turn, will contribute to the local economy and promote the growth and development of the communities involved. The project's focus on developing ecotourist itineraries and supporting LVG projects demonstrates its commitment to sustainable tourism practices. Overall, the project's efforts in ecotourism development and community empowerment have the potential to bring positive changes to the region, ensuring the long-term preservation of the natural environment. However, it is important to acknowledge that despite the project's successes, there are still challenges that persist in these areas, demanding further attention and intervention. Particularly, illegal herb collection in pasture lands and rapidly increasing numbers of tourists and visitors in Sary-Chelek SNR require focused efforts and appropriate interventions to address them effectively. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) has been practicing in 72,727 hectares of HCVF areas, exceeding the EoP target by 217%. This figure is consist of: SNP Alatau – 12,729.5 ha, SNP Kanachuu – 2,876.4 ha, Toktogul leskhoz HCVF – 4,7951.3 ha and Toguz Toro leskhoz HVCF - 11,170.5 ha. Restoration of degraded forest on 9,451 hectares; out of them 8,923 hectares were fenced to support natural regeneration, and 528 hectares were newly planted. The Sustainable pasture management has been implemented in 166,000 hectares, surpassing the EoP target by 113%. Annexes (evidence): - MNRETS's Order on approval of Guidelines (RUS-KYR) -Guidelines for Developing Management Plans of Protected Areas (RUS)	
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					-Instructions for Developing Financial Strategies for Protected areas (RUS) - Instructions for program-budgeting in Protected Areas (RUS) - Draft Eco-tourism Itineraries (ENG)	
5. Landscape area under indirectly improved conservation management	Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be indirectly influenced by project results: - 0 ha	(not set or not applicable)	Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be indirectly influenced by project results: - 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.)	Target achieved. Biodiversity conservation, SFM and SLM approaches are being integrated into the development agendas of the two target districts covering 944,317 ha. 2. A working commission on the Development Plan of Toktogul and Toktoguz-Toro districts for 2018-2023 was established. Meetings of the working commission were held, during which recommendations on SLM and SLM, biodiversity conservation were developed, and recommendations were submitted to the head of the district state administration. As a result, biodiversity issues were incorporated into the Development Plans of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts and approved by respective authorities (annex: Toktogul and Toguz-Toro district development plans).	Achieved for 86.5% of EoP or 816 472,2 ha (This figure will be updated during the project's terminal evaluation in mid-September, considering the areas designated for buffer and "quiet" zones, as well as the areas of nature sanctuaries located beyond the Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts of the Jalal-Abad region). The project's indirect benefits extend beyond the project pilot sites (SFM including afforested area, SLM areas under direct coverage) and target protected areas, covering the entire Toktogul district (781,500 ha), Toguz-Toro district (381,600 ha). In total, indirectly influenced area is 816 472,2 hectares. In addition, the project was active in the Aksy district, which was not part of the project scope. Particularly, the project supported walnut and pistachio plantation in Aksy leskhoz of Aksy district based on a request from the State Agency on Environmental Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic. In autumn 2022, the project team facilitated the update of the Socio-economic Development Plans for the Toktogul and Toktoguz-Toro districts for the period of 2022-2026. Through collaboration with district administrations and specially established working groups, recommendations were developed, emphasizing the importance of sustainable pasture management and the development of ecotourism alongside the socio-economic progress of the districts. The revised plans, incorporating biodiversity conservation and sustainable pasture management topics, were approved by the respective heads of the district state administrations. (Evidence: Toktogul and Toguz-Toro district development plans for the period 2022-2026). During the reporting period, the Project focused on inventorying the zakazniks-- nature sanctuaries in the	Achieved for 92.3% of EoP or 880577.2 ha. Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be <i>indirectly</i> influenced by project results: -880577.2 ha (Area of two target districts Toktogul (781,500 ha) and Toguz-Toro (381,600 ha) and ecological corridor Chatkal (64105 ha), less the area of the two SNPs (87322.9 ha), SFM land (127198.5 ha), SLM land (132106.4 ha). The project collaborated with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environmental, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic to establish an ecological corridor spanning more than 64 thousand hectares in the Chatkal mountain range of the Western Tien-Shan. This ecological corridor interconnects three protected areas and plays a crucial role in preserving biodiversity by facilitating the migration of snow leopards and the sustenance of their prey. To accomplish this, the project initially supported a field expedition aimed at conducting a comprehensive biodiversity inventory within this region. Researchers from the Institute of Biology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz

				2. In a recent meeting with the management of Toktogul District State Administration, it was revealed that Toktogul District State Administration has initiated activities on updating the Development Plan of Toktogul district for 2022-2026. The Project will take this opportunity and assist in facilitating this matter. Also, as mentioned in the previous PIR, there are some indirect indicators of positive change in biodiversity conservation. Project-supported research has shown the presence of the following red-listed species – the Desert Monitor (<i>Varanus griseus</i>), Pallas' Cat (<i>Otocolobus manul</i>), and Marbled Polecat (<i>Vormela peregusna</i>) inhabit the Aksy district of Jalal-Abad oblast in the Western Tien Shan. It is recommended to establish a zoological zakaznik on these territories to conserve biodiversity.	Jalal-Abad region. Zakazniks are specially protected natural areas with regulated economic activity aimed at conserving and reproducing specific objects of the state natural reserve fund. Kyrgyzstan has 64 sanctuaries, including botanical, geological, zoological, and complex sanctuaries. However, despite being established between 1975 and 1980, many zakazniks have not undergone a comprehensive inventory and assessment of their current state. Additionally, the external boundaries of these zakazniks have been unclear, leading to an undefined nature conservation status. To address these challenges, the Project conducted an inventory of the zakazniks of Jalal-Abad region in close collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas of the MNRETS KR, the State Agency "Cadastre," the State Enterprise on Land Management "Kyrgyzgiprozem," and local stakeholders. Through two series of field visits to the Jalal-Abad region, cartographic materials of the zakazniks were created at a scale of 1:25,000. These maps delineated the boundaries of the zakazniks and identified the land users within them. The maps were subsequently approved by the heads of the local registration bodies and land users. The zakazniks in the Jalal-Abad region that were inventoried and mapped include the Ryazan-Say state botanical zakaznik, Chatkal State botanical zakaznik, Chanach state botanical zakaznik, Kosh-Tektir state botanical zakaznik, Dzhel-Tiibes state botanical zakaznik (recommended to abolish), Kyrgyz-Gava state botanical zakaznik, Baltyrkan state forest zakaznik, Miskin-Say state forest zakaznik, Kuru-Kol state forest zakaznik, Uzun-Akhmat state forest zakaznik, Zhylgynda forest zakaznik, Chichkan zoological (hunting) zakaznik, and geological zakazniks "Kara-Zhygach Rocks," "Tegerek waterfall," and "Sogon-Tash Cave." These inventorying and mapping efforts have provided valuable information for better management and conservation of these important natural areas of Jalal-Abad region. Currently the Project is working in identifying buffer and "quiet" zones (in total more than 60000ha) surrounding the Aalatay SNP and Kanachuu SNP with the objective to enhance protection of potential habitats or migratory paths of the snow leopard and its prey species.	Republic, including botanists, ornithologists, ichthyologists, and zoologists, took part in this expedition. The total area studied encompassed about 64,105 hectares. The ecological corridor's terrain includes diverse landscapes such as forests, steppes, and alpine meadows, providing varied habitats for wildlife. These habitats will serve as a natural corridor for migration between three protected areas: State Reserve Padyshata, State Biosphere Reserve Sary-Chelek, and State Natural Park Alatau. To identify land users within the planned territory, an analysis of cartographic data and GIS technologies was conducted. Information regarding land use in the villages encompassed by the planned ecological corridor was collected according to usage plans. Community mapping, in collaboration with pasture committees, was carried out to identify land users within the corridor. Additionally, land usage in the territory passing through pastures used in the summer within settlements in three districts was determined. The study revealed that agricultural plots in the specified villages of three districts primarily function as summer pastures for cattle due to the region's geographical features, including high mountainous regions and complex terrain. A total of 40 land users were identified who exclusively use these plots for summer cattle grazing, a practice that does not conflict with the migration and reproduction cycles of wildlife.
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					The project also launched development of special land use regimes within these zones. It is important to note that the potential buffer and “quiet” zones extend beyond the boundaries of the Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts and include areas within the Aksy and Chatkal districts. The Project aims to complete this work and have results available by the end of 2023.	Following the identification of land users, a series of consultations were held with key stakeholders, including rural communities, hunting and pasture users, and district state administrations from three districts. Subsequent to these consultations, a map delineating the boundaries of the ecological corridor was developed. A memorandum of cooperation was then signed between the Department of Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision and hunting farms LLC "Okhota KG" and LLC "On-Archa." These memorandums outlined the intention to collaborate and implement joint measures for the protection of key animal species during specific times of the year and to conduct awareness campaigns on nature protection. Similar memorandums of cooperation were signed between the Department and the District State Administrations of Chatkal District, Aksy District, and Toktogul District. Consequently, all the necessary documents for the establishment of the ecological corridor were compiled and submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection for further legal support for the creation of the ecocorridor, including the publication of the resolution. The project supported the initiative of SNP Kanachyy and
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					Department of Protected areas and Biodiversity Conservation of MNRETS KR in establishing a buffer and “quiet” zone. There were established a buffer zone in 25,971 hectares adjacent to Kan Achuu State Nature Park, primarily focusing on preserving biodiversity, ensuring secure wildlife migration, and implementing specialized land use practices. Rapid biodiversity assessments uncovered vital habitats for rare plant species and essential wildlife, including the snow leopard and ibex in Kabak gorge, emphasizing the gorge's significance for wildlife migration. After the study, consultations were facilitated with land users, pasture and hunting users, local authorities, and SNP Kanachuu. Upon agreeing on the buffer zone boundary, a tripartite memorandum was signed among the Department of Biodiversity Conservation, Protected Areas, Atai and Kok-Irim districts of Toguz-Torou, and two hunting farms. This memorandum underscores collaborative efforts to conserve this critical habitat and sustain wildlife populations. In collaboration with the Department of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation under the MNRETS, the project successfully produced and installed informational signs (boards) in 15 nature sanctuaries (zakazniks). These signs were designed in accordance with recognized standards, incorporating light-reflecting
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						materials for enhanced visibility. The signs contain information about zakaznik's status, objectives, and visitor conduct guidelines. Evidences: - Folder "New Ecocorridor Chatkal" with maps of borders approved and agreed with primary land users, research report and justification by NAN KR and public consultations' participants list
6. Population of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts that have derived indirect livelihood benefits from project results (disaggregated by gender)	Toktogul District - 0 women - 0 men Toguz-Toro District - 0 women - 0 men Baseline: 2015	(not set or not applicable)	Toktogul District communities of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush - 8,979 women - 9,328 men Toguz-Toro District communities of Kok-Irim and Atai - 2,723 women - 2,909 men	Achieved. Toktogul District communities of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village – 20,595, out of them: - 9,634 women - 10,961 men Toguz-Toro District communities of Kok-Irim and Atai - 6,147, out of them - 2,930 women - 3,217 men In 2021, the First Round of the Low-value Grant Program of the Project was launched in accordance with UNDP procedures. Guidelines for the implementation of the Low-value Grants Programme, proposal application and selection criteria were developed, as well as a Low-Value Grants Committee established comprising of representatives of UNDP and national partners. The First Round of the Project's Low-value grant program was launched in October 2021: information campaign and	Achieved. Toktogul District communities of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village – 20,118, out of them: - women 11,159 - men 8,959 Toguz-Toro District communities of Kok-Irim and Atai aimaks – 6063, out of them: - women 2,937 - men 3,126 Source: 1) NSC KR, 2023. 2) Toktogul and Toguz-Toro district administration data, 2023. The Project activities have a direct and indirect positive impact on the wellbeing of the population of the Kok-Irim and Atai aiyl aimaks of Toguz-Toro district and Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush aiyl aimaks of Toktogul district. As part of the Low-Value Grant Program, the Project has supported various initiatives aimed at biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. These initiatives include the development of ecotourism as a tool for biodiversity conservation, the establishment of mini workshops for wool processing, processing and packaging of honey, the promotion of beekeeping as a sustainable form of natural resource utilization, the creation of fruit orchards, the support of vulnerable groups. In total, in 2022 the Project has funded 15 projects with a combined value of USD 199,000 (more information in Indicator 19).	110 % achieved

			consultations were held with wide participation of local NGOs and local communities in the target districts. As a result of the First Round, the Project received 16 grant proposals of total value of 130 023 USD (35 864 USD in 2019-21, of which 7 grants were approved in this reporting period of total value of 94,159 USD. However, grant agreements were signed only recently in July 2022, and the Project team is now working on transferring grant funds to grantees. Details of 7 approved grants include: 1. "Zhash-Muun" Public Association - Project "Creating affinity of residents of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush villages of Toktogul district to nature parks through knowledge and innovations", with a budget of 14,900 USD. Anticipated direct beneficiaries 420 people, including 256 women and 164 man, indirect beneficiaries - 20,595 people, including 9,634 women. 2. Public Foundation Cholpon-Ata-Alatay - Project "Ecotourism development in Cholpon-Ata area and SNP Alatay", aimed at increasing motivation for environmental protection through the creation of additional incomes from ecotourism. The total value of the project - 14,999 USD; Direct beneficiaries – 21 people, 9 man and 12 women, Indirect beneficiaries - 8,442 people, 3,992 of them women.	In addition, in 2021 necessary equipment was provided to six local communities in the target aiyl aimaks: sewing machines, ironing equipment for the local women groups "Ainuska" and "Uz-Cheber" from Atai and Kok-Irim AAs, wool-processing tools for local women "Chynar" from Kyzyl-Ozgorysh AA, bakery equipment and furniture for the community "Kyrgyz daamy" from Kok-Irim AA, fencing material for a newly created municipal park of 6 ha in the Atai AA, yurts for the local women group from Cholpon-Ata AA.	
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				3. Chaldybar Public Foundation - Project "Fruit processing (production of juice from apricots and apples)" with total budget of 10,075 USD. Direct beneficiaries – 58 people, including 35 women and 23 men; Indirect beneficiaries - 12,153 people, including 5,642 women. 4. Karasuu Public Foundation - Project "Ecotourism Management in Cholpon-Ata Agrarian Agency and SNP Alatau", with the budget of 14,967 USD; Direct beneficiaries – 25 people, including 14 women and 11 men, Indirect beneficiaries - 12,153 people, including 5,642 women. 5. Ketmen Tobo PF - Project on Development of Mountain Beekeeping in Kyzyl-Ozgorushy AA, with the budget of 14,844 USD. Direct beneficiaries – 45 people, including 23 women and 22 men. Indirect beneficiaries - 12,153 people, including 5,642 women. 6. "Kyrgyz Jaiyty" National Association of pasture users in Kyrgyzstan - Project on promoting the employment centre for rural women on wool processing "Toktogul kiyizi", with the budget of 12,194 USD; Direct beneficiaries – 20 people, 12 women and 8 man. Indirect - 8,442 people, including 3,992 women.		
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			7. PF. CAMP-Alatoo – Project “Organization of livestock processing facilities in Kyzyl-Ozgorush and Kok-Irim AA”. Budget -12,180 USD. Direct beneficiaries – 16 people, 7 women and 9 men. Indirect beneficiaries – 15,853 people, of whom 7,248 are women. The Second Round of the Low-Value Grants Program will be launched in July 2022 and completed by March 2023. In addition, to ensure the implementation of developed pasture management plans, the project allocated grants to pasture committees. Within the framework of these grants, the following infrastructure measures were implemented: 1. Construction of a bridge at Chon-Kechuu area (Total budget: about 3,700 USD). The construction of the bridge provided access to summer pastures, which will be reflected in the improvement of the condition of livestock and the condition of the pastures. It is also assumed that the development of tourism is possible in the long term. The total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries is 1,327, of which 352 are women. 2. Construction of three splits to improve the veterinary care of livestock (Total budget: about 10,600 USD). The implementation of these projects will improve animal health, reduce the transmission of diseases from sick animals		
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				to both animals and humans, as well as reduce the transmission of diseases to wild animals. The total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries is 1378, of which 1073 are women. 3. Construction of watering points (Total budget: about 9,000 USD). This event provided access to more than 3660 hectares of pastures, and the redistribution of livestock in the future will lead to a decrease in pasture degradation. The total number of direct beneficiaries is 375, of which 95 are women		
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	Achieved					Achieved
Evidence uploaded:	YES					Yes
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 2022	Cumulative progress since project start	
7. Management effectiveness of key alpine protected areas in Jalal-Abad province covering 286,099 ha	METT Score: - Alatai SNP (new PA): 17 - Kan-Achuu SNP (new PA): 16 - Sary-Chelek SBR: 59 - Padysh-Ata SNR: 45 - Besh Aral SNR: 43 - Saimaluu-Tash SNP: 29	(not set or not applicable)	METT Score: - Alatai NP (new PA): >50 - Kan-Achuu NP (new PA): >50 - Sary-Chelek SNR: >65 - Padysh-Ata SNR: >50 - Besh Aral SNR: >50 - Saimaluu-Tash SNP: >40	EoP target achieved and exceeded for the four target PAs. As of today, METT score for Sary-Chelek SNR is just by 5 scores less the envisaged EoP. In 2021, the project conducted a METT assessment in the Western Tien Shan protected areas, which resulted in the following scores:	EoP Target achieved and exceeded. The project's dedicated efforts to enhance the capacity of Western Tien Shan protected areas have yielded notable improvements in the METT scores for the target PAs. • Besh-Aral State Nature Reserve – 79 (158% of EoP) • Padysh-Ata State Nature Reserve – 63 (126% of EoP) • Sary-Chelek State Nature Reserve – 70 (107% of EoP)	121% achieved EoP Target Updated METT Score: • Alatai SNP (new PA): - 78 (156% of EoP) • Kan-Achuu SNP (new PA): 75 (150% of EoP) • Sary-Chelek SNR: 70 (107% of EoP) • Padysh-Ata SNR: 63 (126% of EoP) • Besh Aral SNR: 79 (158% of EoP)

			- Alatau State Nature Park (new) – 63 (126% EoP), - Kan-Achuu State Nature Reserve (new) – 59 (118% of EoP), -Besh-Aral State Nature Reserve – 69 (138% EoP), -, - Padysh-Ata State Nature Reserve – 55 (110% EoP), - Sary-Chelek State Nature Reserve – 60 (92% EoP), - Saimaluu-Tash State Nature Park- 53 (132% EoP). The Project conducted an assessment of Dashman State Nature Reserve, which was established in 2012 and is located in Western Tian Shan region. Its METT score is 46. The above reported improvements in METT scores occurred as part of the project's efforts in enhancing the capacity of WTS-protected areas as well as in providing additional material, technical, and field equipment. By the end of the project, the project expects to improve METT scores by a few more points. (Annex: METT_Kan-Ahuu_2021.xlsx; METT_Alatau_2021.xlsx; METT_Besh-Aral_2021.xlsx; METT_Dashman_2021.xlsx; METT_SaimaluuTash_2021.xlsx; METT_Sary-Chelek_2021.xlsx; METT_Padyshata_2021.xlsx; METT_Report_Alatau_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Besh-Aral_2021.pdf;	• Saimaluu-Tash State Nature Park – 63 (157.5% of EoP) Currently the METT assessment for Alatau SNP and Kan-Achuu SNP is being carried out by a consultant and will be available by the end of July 2023. However, it is worth noting that the EoP targets for Alatau SNP and Kan-Achuu SNP were already achieved and reported in 2021: - Alatau State Nature Park (new) – 63 (126% of EoP) - Kan-Achuu State Nature Reserve (new) – 59 (118% of EoP) In addition to target PAs, METT assessment was conducted for Dashman SNR, which was established in 2012 in Western Tian Shan region. It received 58 scores. Annexes: METT narrative reports for Sary-Chelek, Padyshata, Besh-Aral, Saimaluu-Tash and Dashman state reserves and questionnaires	• Saimaluu-Tash SNP: 63 (157.5% of EoP) Evidence: METT report for SNP Kanachuu METT for SNP Alatau
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				METT_Report_Dashman_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Kan-Achuu_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Padyshata_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Saimalu-Tash_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Sary-Chelek_2021.pdf);		
8. Status of HCVF management approach legal and regulatory framework	HCVF management approach not legally recognized, and consequently not regulated	(not set or not applicable)	HCVF management approach has legal basis, and relevant regulations are produced,	On track Due to governmental restructuring, there is a delay in progressing on this indicator. As reported in the previous PIR, the HCVF issues were integrated into the new draft of the Forest Code of the Kyrgyz Republic. However, it is still not approved and is being considered by the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic. Nevertheless, a few achievements can be reported: The Project facilitated the development of the HCVF Concept. The National Project Partner--the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic--established an Interagency Working Group (No 40-n dated 22.02.2022) to coordinate and consult on the implementation and piloting of the HCVF concept. The Project has developed a Methodology and step-by-step guidelines for the identification and determination of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and Key Biodiversity Areas with appropriate zoning and protection measures which	Achieved. Concept of HCVF is already included in the amended version of the Forest Code of the Kyrgyz Republic. Currently the developed "Law on amendments and additions to the Forest Code of the Kyrgyz Republic", where the HCVF concept is included as a separate article, has been cleared by relevant ministries and authorities and has been submitted to the Cabinet of the Ministries of the Kyrgyz Republic for consideration and approval. The Methodology and Step-by-step Guidance for Defining and Identifying HCVF and key biodiversity areas was developed and approved by the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic No.177 dated May 22, 2022. This document provides a framework for the identification and mapping of HCVF and associated conservation measures. Utilizing this tool, the process of identifying and mapping HCVF in the Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozoes was diligently conducted. By adhering to the guidelines established within the approved methodology, these specific forest areas underwent thorough assessments to determine their potential as high conservation value forests. In addition, the Project developed an Instruction on Monitoring the Condition of HCVF, which was approved by the Order of the Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic on December 12, 2022 (№ 01\1-8\416). It will serve as a tool for ongoing monitoring and assessment of the state of HCVF. Its primary objective is to predict changes resulting from natural and human factors that may negatively impact these high conservation value forests.	Achieved. Forest Code amended to include HCVF as a distinct article. Proposed law, embedding HCVF, under consideration by the Cabinet of Ministries. MoA KR approved methodology for HCVF identification (Order No.177, May 22, 2022). Successful identification and mapping of HCVF in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozoes. FS under MoA KR issued monitoring instructions for HCVF (Order No. 01/1-8/416, Dec 12, 2022).

				has been approved by the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic (No. 177 dated May 31, 2022,). (Annex: HCVF_identification_methodology_RUS.pdf; Order of the Ministry of Agriculture KR_On HCVF Methodology.pdf)	Annexes (evidence): - Order of the Ministry of Agriculture KR on approving the Instructions for Monitoring of HCVF; - Instruction for Monitoring of HCVF	
9. Existence of HCVF management measures in FMPs and level of implementation in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	HCVF management measures not incorporated in FMPs in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts 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	(not set or not applicable)	4/6 on GEF TT scale: "Step 4: The regulations are under implementation"	On track. As reported above, the work on HCVF is not completed fully. Currently, the Project has prepared ToRs on piloting HCVF in project target leskhoz. We will take the following concrete steps: identifying HCVF categories on the territory of the pilot leskhoz, mapping, developing use and management regimes for each particular HCVF category, and then integrating them into the Forest Ecosystem Management Plans of the given pilot leskhoz.	Achieved. According to the approved Methodology and step-by-step guidance for defining and identifying High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and key biodiversity areas, progress has been made in the identification and mapping of HCVF within the territory of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhoz. The completed work has resulted in the identification of four categories of HCVF in the Totogul leskhoz and three categories in the Toguz-Toro leskhoz. The HCVF area of the Totogul leskhoz, including light forest, covers 47,951.3 hectares. In the Toguz-Toro leskhoz, the HCVF area, including light forest, covers 11,170.5 hectares. Consequently, the total area of HCVF identified within the targeted forestry enterprises amounts to 59,121.8 hectares, surpassing the End of Project (EoP) target by 148%. Currently, the project is actively integrating High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) management approaches into the leskhoz management plans. Training sessions on HCVF management and conservation have been conducted for representatives from Toktogul, Toguz-Toro, and other leskhoz within the Western Tian Shan region. Moreover, the establishment of Joint Forest Management Councils is underway in both Toguz-Toro and Toktogul leskhoz. These efforts collectively aim to enhance forest management practices in the respective areas. The	Achieved. Toktogul LH identified four HCVF categories and HCVF area- 47,951.3 ha, Toguz-Toro LH identified three categories and HCVF area - 11,170.5 ha. Total HCVF area is 59,121.8 ha, exceeding the End of Project target by 148%. Integration of HCVF management into FMPs of leskhoz. JFMCs established in both Toguz-Toro and Toktogul LHs. Conducted a series of capacity-building and informational activities on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) aimed to enhance the capabilities of forestry representatives in the Western Tian Shan. Training sessions were held in the Jalal-Abad and Talas regions for forest enterprises and Protected Areas, focusing on SFM, HCVF, and Voluntary Forest Certification. These sessions incorporated three specialized educational

					outcomes of these endeavors will be accessible by the Project end (Dec 2023). modules. In July and August, four training sessions engaged 120 employees from forest enterprises, protected areas in these regions. Additional training was provided in Bishkek for the staff from the Ministry of Agriculture's Forestry Service and the Departments of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic. Practical exercises were integrated into the sessions to reinforce theoretical knowledge and cultivate practical skills. Furthermore, regional seminars and national dialogues were conducted to delve into these topics and prepare for voluntary forest certification. To enhance stakeholder engagement and decision-making transparency within pilot leskhoz, efforts focused on bolstering the Joint Forest Management Councils. In the Toguz-Torou Leskhoz, a series of meetings were conducted to discuss establishing a Joint Forest Management Council. The primary aim was to engage forestry sector workers, representatives from Protected Areas, local authorities, and other stakeholders in collaborative forest management within the targeted leskhoz by promoting the Joint Forest Management Council. In the Toguz-Toro Leskhoz, a Joint Forest Management Council (JFMC) was formed, and
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						a JFMC Regulation was developed to ensure transparent operations within the leskhoz. This move aimed to enhance its effectiveness in interacting with village administrations, academic institutions, civil society, and implementing the JFMC's Action Plan. Additionally, in the Toktogul Leskhoz, the composition of the Joint Forest Management Council was updated, and a revised Action Plan for the Toktogul Leskhoz's Joint Forest Management Council was established. Within the project, voluntary forest management certification was piloted for the first time in the Toktogul Leskhoz. International accredited experts were engaged to analyze the effectiveness of forest management and planning, sustainable forest conditions, biodiversity status, and the established forest management practices in the area. The assessment revealed that the forest management and planning strategies in the Toktogul Leskhoz aim to preserve and maintain forests with high conservation value. The forest use by leaseholders is closely monitored, ensuring no irreversible damage. Forest management practices in the Toktogul Leskhoz, conducted in compliance with Kyrgyz Republic legislation, focus on biodiversity preservation, improving living conditions for local residents, and increasing forested areas.
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						The experts acknowledged the highly skilled personnel in the leskhoz, possessing the necessary authority and responsibility for sustainable forest management. Given these circumstances, and the absence of logging for timber harvesting in the area, the experts found no obstacles for the voluntary forest certification of the Toktogul Leskhoz. Subsequently, an evaluation of forest sustainability, biodiversity status, forest use types in the Toktogul Leskhoz was carried out. The certification assessment report aligns with the Kyrgyz Republic's standard "Sustainable Forest Management System of the Kyrgyz Republic." To introduce voluntary forest certification, a draft for the National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management in the Kyrgyz Republic was developed. This standard establishes requirements for SFM aimed at ensuring high productivity and sustainability of forest ecosystems, enhancing their biological and landscape diversity, minimizing or eliminating negative impacts of forestry operations on the environment, non-exhaustive forest use, economic efficiency, and social orientation. Evidences: - Report on Piloting Voluntary Certification of SFM_ToktogulLH_RUS - Narrative report on capacity building HCVF-RUS
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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)	(not set or not applicable)	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)	Target achieved and exceeded. 8,290 hectares patrolled per week in 2021 (829% of EoP Target). The Project facilitated the preparation and signing of the Memorandum on joint anti-poaching patrols between the management of district authorities and PAs. There are three groups of non-staff rangers, consisting of 20 people at SNP Alatai and SNP Kan-Achuu. However, there are only nine people fully engaged at the moment. The Project facilitated the preparation of the patrolling plans in coordination with Toktogul leskhoz, Jalal-Abad oblast department of Ecotechnical Inspection, district state administrations, and other stakeholders. The project has provided to Protected areas of the Western Tian-Shan as well as to the Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhoz with necessary field equipment: video-registries, binoculars, tents, sleeping bags, fire prevention bags, radio (walk-ie - talkies), GPS navigators. Besides, the Project purchased and handed over to the non-staff ranger groups a field equipment (binoculars, radio (talkie), GPS), and uniforms. PA rangers together with the groups of non-staff rangers	Achieved. 4767 hectares patrolled per week (477% of EoP). From 2022 to the first half of 2023, anti-poaching and protection patrol operations were carried out by Alatai SNP, Kanachuu SNP, Toktogul leskhoz and Toguz-Toro leskhoz, covering in total 243,110 hectares in active collaboration with the Jalal-Abad regional office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic (MNRETS KR), as well as district police offices. As mentioned earlier, a significant issue that has arisen in the region during this period is the illicit harvesting of medicinal herbs in the Western Tianshan mountains. To combat this problem, grassroots NGOs have been actively involved. For instance, in the joint antipoaching raids conducted under the leadership of the Toktogul state district administration and in close collaboration with the representatives of regional offices of MNRETS, Toktogul leskhoz, and Toktogul fish association, a local NGO named Jashyl-Oroon has played a crucial role in these efforts. For instance, in April 2023 they captured poachers with about 40 sack of illegally harvested roots of Dictamnus (about 1400 kg). In addition, the composition of the Public Boards (Councils) of SNP Kanachuu and SNP Alatai were updated. The updated Public Boards contribute to effective PA management by encouraging local involvement, supporting community-led monitoring, and promoting collaborative work. Together, these factors establish a proactive setting that reduces the likelihood of illegal activities taking place. Annex (evidence): Materials of antipoaching patrols in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts Materials on new Public Board composition (list of members, meeting minutes, updated Memo between SNP and PB)	Achieved.
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			carry out regular patrolling and monitoring of the project sites. In 2021 there were 1,153 raids conducted covering an area of 3, 979,410 ha in SNP Alatai, SNP Kan Achuu, Toktogul leskhoz, and Toguz-Toro leskhoz - 8290 hectares patrolled per week. In SNP Ala-ay - 98 raids were conducted jointly with non-staff rangers, covering 341,320 ha, approximately 7110 ha patrolled per week -. In SNP Kan Ac-uu - 164 raids were carried out jointly with non-staff rangers, covering an area of 1,437,381 ha (Approximately 29945 hectares per week). In Toguz-Torj lesk-oz - 476 raids were conducted on an area of 1,770,000 ha. Approximately 36875 hectares patrolled per week. In Toktogul lesk-oz - 415 raids, covering 430,709 ha. Approximately 8973 hectares patrolled per week. High indicators of the number of raids and the area of patrols are due to the lack of checkpoints and cordons-houses for rangers. (Annex: Antipoaching_patrol_acts_2019-2021_compressed.pdf) Building the capacity of wildlife rangers and protected areas staff is crucial for conservation. Thus, the Project conducted several training activities. A group of non-staff rangers attended the study tours to		
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				SNP Khan-Tengri, State nature reserve Sarychat-Eertash, State nature reserve Naryn, and State nature reserve Sary-Chelek. Participants learned about good practices of successful protected area management with a focus on research activities, wildlife counting, and the organization of community patrols. Also, they visited SNP Chon-Kemin to learn about the community-based conservation practices, namely anti-poaching activities of the local NGO Shumkar-Too. Furthermore, representatives of non-staff rangers attended a capacity-building workshop on protected area management, conducted jointly with the Department of the Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Department. Information on these capacity building was posted on the official UNDP website and social media platforms. Besides these, to encourage conservation activities, the Project supported competition for the best wildlife ranger in SPP Alatay and SPP Kan-Achuu. The Project intends to work on strengthening the capacity of rangers and enhancing local community involvement in biodiversity conservation through joint patrolling. (Annex: FinalNarrativeReport_Capacity Building_Activity 1)		
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The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	Acheived					Achieved
Evidence uploaded:	YES					Yes
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 2022	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 leskhoz, and all other forest)	Total 0 ha out of 40,839 ha of HCVF Toktogul HCVF: 31,045 ha (5,658 ha within Alatai PA, 25,387 ha in leskhoz); Toguz-Toro HCVF: 9,794 (799 within Kan-Achuu PA, 8,995 ha in leskhoz);	(not set or not applicable)	>40,000 ha	On track. As reported above, the work on identifying HCVF in the territory of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts has just started and it is expected to be completed by March 2023.	Achieved. 188% of EoP. As noted above, the Project has identified HCVF in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhoz totaling 59,121.8 hectares. The breakdown of HCVF categories in Toktogul leskhoz is as follows: - HCVF of the 1st category: 14,634.2 hectares - HCVF of the 4th category: 30,936.2 hectares - HCVF of the 5th category: 141.6 hectares - HCVF of the 6th category: 2,239.3 hectares In the Toguz-Toro leskhoz, the HCVF area, including light forest, covers 11,170.5 hectares. The distribution of HCVF categories in this area is as follows: - HCVF of the 1st category: 1,649.3 hectares - HCVF of the 4th category: 8,979.8 hectares - HCVF of the 6th category: 541.4 hectares. In addition, forests of protected areas are classified as the First category HCVF: forest lands in the Alatai SNP cover an area of 12,729 hectares, while the Kanachuu SNP encompasses 3,354 hectares. The total area of HCVF identified within the targeted forestry enterprises and two SNPs (Alatai SNP – 12729 ha +Kanachuu SNP 3354 ha) amounts to 75,204.8 hectares, surpassing the End of Project (EoP) target by 188%. Annex: Maps of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhoz by HCVF categories	Achieved 188% of EoP.

12. Area of forest resources restored in the landscape (broken down by reforested/afforested area, vs. area under natural regeneration support	0 ha	(not set or not applicable)	4,886 ha (500 ha reforestation/afforestation, 4,500 ha supported for natural regeneration)	Target achieved and exceeded. The total area of reforestation amounts to 9,451 hectares or 193% of the EoP. 528 hectares of forest were cumulatively planted since project start (468.8 ha + 59.2 ha in 2021) reaching and exceeding the target for reforestation/afforestation of 500 hectares (105% of EoP). Support for natural reforestation was provided on an area of 8,923 hectares or 198% of EoP. The project provided fencing materials and transportation services to deliver construction materials. Below is a breakdown by target leskhoz: In Toktogul leskhoz, forest crops were planted on 152.6 ha with a mean survival rate of 74.7%. In Toguz-Toro leskhoz, forest crops were planted on an area of 100.4 ha with a mean survival rate of 74.1 %. In Aksyi leskhoz, forest crops were planted on an area of 274.8 ha, with a mean survival rate of 75%. (Annex: Act of acceptance Forest Plantations_Toguz-Toro Leskhoz_2022; Act of acceptance Forest Plantations_Toktogul Leskhoz_2022)	Target achieved and exceeded as reported in the 2022 PIR. A total of 8,923 hectares (or 193% of the EoP) are fenced to support natural regeneration, and 528 hectares are under reforestation/afforestation reaching and exceeding the target of 500 hectares (105% of EoP). During the reporting period, the project together with Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhoz representatives conducted monitoring of newly established forest plantations. The forest plantations showed promising survival rates of 65-70%, except for the Ak-Bulak site in 2 ha area. Unfortunately, extreme summer heat resulted in a lower survival rate of 40% for the third year at this location. To address this, Toktogul leskhoz replaced the deceased seedlings with 100 new walnut trees. Regular monitoring will be continued by Toktogul leskhoz and the national partner Forest Service.	Achieved.
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13. Lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided	0 tons CO2 equivalent	(not set or not applicable)	2,979,548 tons CO2 equivalent	Target on track. Lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided remain as reported in the previous PIR - 979,548 tons CO2 equivalent for reforested areas of 9,217 ha by the Project. Until the end of the life of the Project, the project plans to make accurate calculations of this figure.	On track According to preliminary estimates, the project is expected to prevent and absorb 4,905,020 tCO2-eq exceeding the envisaged EoP target of 2,979,548 tons CO2 equivalent. In 2023, the impact of the project on the carbon balance was assessed using the latest version of the EX-ACT tool. -. To date, all planned activities (afforestation, reforestation, and prevention of pasture degradation and improvement of their condition) have been completed, targets achieved and exceeded for some. Therefore, it can be assumed that the project will achieve its goals. Annexes: Narrative on mitigation potential assessment; ExAct calculations of Carbon balance	Achieved 165% of EoP. 4,905,020 tons CO2 equivalent. The project is projected to prevent and absorb 4,905,020 tons CO2-equivalent, exceeding the EoP target of 2,979,548 tons CO2 equivalent, and its impact on the carbon balance was assessed in 2023 using the latest EX-ACT tool.
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	(not set or not applicable)	e-Pasture Management System implemented by 4 PMCs in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	Target achieved -100%. E-Pasture Management System as an SLM mechanism supporting the implementation of the Pastures Law was provided to and being used by to four (4) pilot ayil aimaks of Toguz-Tor and Toktogul districts. The project analyzed the functionality of the automated E-Pasture Management system previously developed by UNDP and surveyed 11 pasture committees in Naryn, Osh and Batken oblasts regarding the use of the e-pasture system by using tailored questionnaires and SWOT-analysis tools. Having analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the installed E-pasture system, the Project	Target achieved as reported in the 2022 PIR. The project has developed and introduced the E-Pasture Management System as a mechanism for sustainable land management (SLM) to support the implementation of the Pastures Law. This system is being implemented in four pilot ayil aimaks of Toguz-Toro and Toktogul districts: the pasture committees of Kyzyl-Ozgorysh, Cholpon-Ata, Atai and Kok-Irim. This tool is a means of introducing innovative information technologies in the management of pasture resources. For the controlling authorities (Department of Pastures) this system enables the creation of a database on pasture resources and their condition, as well as allows for remote monitoring of all aspects of pasture management, including planning, load on pastures, activities to improve pastures and pasture infrastructure, and budget implementation. For the pasture committees, as local users, the E-PC system facilitates database creation, automatic data processing, fair allocation of pastures, resolution of conflicts of interest, and effective public control. These features contribute to the development of a localized pasture use plan at the community level.	Achieved.

			has developed an Electronic Jaiyt Committee software that meets modern requirements. As a follow up, the Project signed a Memorandum with the Department of Pastures of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic on introducing a new E-Pasture software for pasture management. The automated E-Pasture is designed for operational management of pastures on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. The key feature of this software is the collection and automatic data processing, which will facilitate the work of pasture committees. Also, the Department of Pastures of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, as a state body, will be able to monitor remotely the entire work of the pasture committees, including planning, pasture use, pasture improvement activities, pasture infrastructure and budget implementation. The Project has provided the pilot pasture committees with computer equipment and installed the new E-Pasture software. Also, there Project conducted a one-day training for specialists of the Department of Pastures (with the participation of 19 people, 14 men, and 5 women) with the main focus on using the E-Pasture for monitoring the performance of pasture committees. There was conducted a separate training on the use of the E-pasture	Following the introduction of the E-Pasture Committee tool, the Project dedicated efforts to enhance the capacity of its users. Hence, in 2022, the Project organized trainings specifically designed for specialists from the Department of Pastures, with a primary focus on utilizing the E-Pasture Committee system to monitor the performance of pasture committees. Additionally, one training session was conducted to provide guidance on data collection, entry, and analysis using the E-Pasture Committee system for pilot pasture committees, as well as for specialists from aiyl okmotu and Protected Areas (PAs). In the spring of 2023, a workshop-training session was conducted, targeting members of pasture committees and representatives from the Department of Pastures. The session focused on addressing practical questions and challenges that arose during the usage of the E-Pasture Committee system. The UNDP Kazakhstan Project Management Unit (PMU), which is involved in a similar biodiversity conservation project, expressed interest in the E-Pasture Committee (E-PC) tool. They were invited and took part in the training on E-PC and received video materials. During these training sessions, valuable feedback was collected regarding the usage of the E-PC tool. The tool has the potential to be implemented in other pasture committees across Kyrgyzstan, providing a replicable solution for improved pasture management. . .Annex (evidence): Report on conducted training on E-Pasture Committee	
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				with an emphasis on data collection, entry and analysis for the pilot pasture committees, specialists of aiyl okmotu and PAs, which involved 16 people, including 13 men and 3 women. To ensure sustainability, the Project developed electronic training modules and delivered them to the Pasture department and uploaded to YouTube for wider use. (Annex: Links to Training videos on E-Pasture Committee; Links to Training videos on E-Pasture Committee)		
15. Hectares of alpine grassland and forest ecosystems under improved conservation management	0 ha	(not set or not applicable)	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	Overall target of 186,536 ha achieved and exceeded (100.2% of EoP). As of today, HCVF target is 35% of EoP. Please see details below: - SFM in 12,098 ha of HVCF (forest covered land of SNP Kanachuu and SNP Alatai) – 35% of EoP target (34,382 ha); - 8,923 ha natural reforestation – 198% of EoP (4886 ha); - 166,000 ha of pasture lands of 4 target AAs and 2 SNPs – 113% of EoP (147,268 ha) The target is achieved, however the work on identification of HVCF in the target leskhoz is not completed yet.	Achieved and exceeded (134%) The End of Project target has been not only achieved but also exceeded, reaching 250,179 hectares, which is 134.1% of the target (186,536 ha): - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) has been practicing in 72,727 hectares of HCVF areas (SNP Alatai – 12,729.5 ha, SNP Kanachuu – 2,876.4 ha, Toktogul leskhoz – 4,7951.3 ha and Toguz Toro leskhoz - 11,170.5 ha), exceeding the EoP target by 217%. - 9,451 hectares of degraded forests have been restored (8,923+528 ha), surpassing the EoP target by 193%. - sustainable pasture management has been implemented in 166,000 hectares, surpassing the EoP target by 113%. The Project has launched development of Management Plans for the Alatai SNP and Kanachuu SNP by using existing materials and guiding questions for focus group discussions. Previously prepared materials, such as forest management planning materials, cartographic materials, developed ecotourism products, assessment reports on pastures, biodiversity studies, etc. were reviewed and applied.	Achieved and exceeded (134%) 250655,8 ha - - SFM has been practicing in 72,727 ha of HCVF areas (SNP Alatai – 12,729.5 ha, SNP Kan-Achuu – 3354 ha), Toktogul LH – 47951.3 ha and Toguz-Toro LH - 11,170.5 ha), exceeding the EoP target by 217%. -9,451 ha of degraded forests have been restored (8,923+528 ha), surpassing the EoP target by 193%. 9,451 hectares of degraded forests have been restored (8,923+528 ha), surpassing the EoP target by 193%. -sustainable pasture management has been implemented in 166,000 ha, surpassing the EoP target by 113%.

				In addition, Management Plans for SNP Alatai and SNP Kanachuu were not developed yet. The project just started this activity and plans to prepare unified guidelines on conservation planning and management for all protected areas. Based on that the Project will facilitate the preparation of MPs for target PAs. However, series of trainings were provided to target SNP Alatai and SNP Kanachuu on conservation topics, including law enforcement, patrolling, METT, biodiversity monitoring, et. For pasture users' management plans were developed and approved by local aiyl keneshes, pasture maps were developed, and pasture boundaries were defined. An electronic pasture committee system was developed, and the capacity of respective pasture committees increased.	By means of focus-group discussions, problems and conflicts related to accessing SNP pastures for grazing within the state natural parks have been identified, along with available resources for their resolution. Three focus groups (engaging 72 individuals in total, including 18 women) has yielded valuable opinions and suggestions from various stakeholders, leading to the identification of effective problem-solving approaches and the recognition of the need for external support. First versions of the management plans have been prepared by incorporating feedbacks from focus-group discussions, and today ongoing collaboration with park representatives and the Department of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation is underway to establish program budgets and action plans. Furthermore, the Project has facilitated the review of the composition of Public Boards of the Alatai and Kanachuu SNPs and their work plans. The Project has launched a work on identifying buffer and "quiet" zones surrounding the SNP Alatai and SNP Kanachuu, and developing special land use regimes for these areas. Results of this work are expected to be available by the end of the Project. Additionally, in response to a request from the Department of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation, the Project conducted a survey in the Sary-Chelek State Biosphere Reserve to assess local residents' and nature users' perspectives on the protected regime of the reserve. This initiative aims to develop an effective mechanism for regulating the growing number of tourists and visitors to the Sary-Chelek reserve, which resulted in environmental challenges in recent years. The Project has launched a capacity building and awareness raising campaign focused on HCVF. As part of this campaign, a training program has been developed to raise awareness on HCVF and Voluntary Sustainable Forest Management Certification specifically for the leskhozoes of Jalal-Abad and Talas regions. Information materials related to these topics have been prepared and will soon be produced.	
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					Efforts to pilot SFM certification in the Toktogul leskhoz were initiated, with results expected by the end of this year	
16. Hectares of pastureland under SLM in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	0 ha	(not set or not applicable)	147,268 ha	Achieved. 113% of EoP target of 147,268 ha. The developed plans for integrated pasture management cover about 166,000 hectares of pastures, including 30,000 hectares of pasture land of two PAs. By end of 2022, the Project will undertake a work on identifying buffer zones around pilot SNP Alatai and SNP Kanachuu.	Achieved and exceeded as reported in the 2022 PIR. The EoP target of 147,268 hectares was exceeded by 18,732 ha, registering an achievement of 113% of EoP. The integrated pasture management plans encompass approximately 166,000 hectares of pastures, which includes 30,000 hectares of pastureland within SNP Alatai and SNP Kanachuu. Work has been initiated to identify buffer and "quiet" zones surrounding the pilot SNP Alatai and SNP Kanachuu. Jointly with the researchers from the Biology Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic there is a plan to conduct an expedition to study biodiversity and migration paths. Based on obtained data and analysis buffer and "quiet" zones or ecological corridors will be identified, and special land use regimes will be developed and mainstreamed into work plans of primary land users. This work will be completed by the Project end (Nov, 2023).	Achieved. 113% of EoP target of 147,268 ha.
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)	Women: 11,702 Men: 12,237 Total: 23,939 Index = 100% Toktogul District Cholpon-Ata Village - 3,562 women - 3,802 men Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village - 5,417 women - 5,526 men Toguz-Toro District Kok-Irim Village - 1,703 women	(not set or not applicable)	Women: <11,702 Men: <12,237 Total: <23,939 Index: <100% of total population Toktogul District Cholpon-Ata Village - 3,562 women - 3,802 men Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village	EoP targets for this indicator are well on track and all residents of the two target districts (considered as affected by land degradation) have been and will continue to be engaged in relevant project activities. As of today, the population of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts is as follows: Women: 12,564 Men: 14,178 Total: 26,432 Index: 100% of population Toktogul District: 20,595 total	On track Currently the estimation is being conducted and will be available for the Terminal Evaluation in the mid of September 2023. Target ayil aimaks of Toktogul District – 20,118, out of them: Cholpon-Ata ayil aimak – 8,618, including: - 4,202 women - 4,416 men Kyzyl-Ozgorysh ayil aimak – 11,500, including: - 6,957 women - 4,543 men Target ayil aimaks of Toguz-Toro District – 6,063, out of them: Kok-Irim ayil aimak – 3,649, including: - 1,783 women	Achieved Index: 3,4% of total population is affected by pasture degradation - Women: 13846, affected 389 - Men: 12998, affected 434 Total: 26844, affected 823 Toktogul District Cholpon-Ata Village: - 4160 women (affected 120) - 4283 men (affected 154) Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village: - 6754 women (affected 108) - 5399 men (affected 113)

	- 1,782 men Atai Village - 1,020 women - 1,127 men		- 5,417 women - 5,526 men Toguz-Toro District Kok-Irim Village - 1,703 women - 1,782 men Atai village - 1,020 women - 1,127 men	Cholpon-Ata Village – 8,442, out of them - 3,992 women - 4,450 men Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village – 12153, out of them: - 5,642 women - 6,511 men Toguz-Toro District: 6,153 total Kok-Irim Village – 3,783, out of them: - 1,797 women - 1,986 men Atai Village – 2,370, out of them - 1,133 women - 1,231 men	- 1,866 men Atai aiyl aimak – 2414, out of them: - 1,154 women - 1,260 men. Despite the dedicated efforts and implementation of sustainable pasture management practices, there are still instances of degraded pasture lands in the targeted aiyl aimaks. This degradation indirectly affects the well-being of local households who rely on these pastures. According to a conducted study in 2021 on pasture conditions, it was found that a total of 24,627 hectares of pastures are currently under degradation. Specifically, within the Alatai SNP, 2,071 hectares of winter pastures are degraded, while in the Kanachuu SNP, 281 hectares suffer from degradation. Furthermore, within the Kok-Irim AA, 5,559 hectares are affected, the Atai AA has 5,760 hectares of degraded pastures, the Cholpon-Ata AA has 4,378 hectares, and the Kyzyl-Ozgorysh AA has 6,578 hectares facing degradation. Addressing and rehabilitating these degraded pastures is essential to ensure the sustainable livelihoods of local communities. It is important to highlight that a significant issue has emerged in Toktogul district - the overharvesting of medicinal herbs on pastures. This problem has been exacerbated by the lack of adequate regulatory mechanisms governing herb collection, leading to collectors exploiting the resources excessively for commercial gain.	Toguz-Toro District Kok-Irim Village: - 1711 women (affected 80) - 2053 men (affected 92) Atai village: - 1221 women (affected 81) - 1263 men (affected 75)
18. Herder/farmer income change based on benefits from micro-finance/grant program for individuals participating in the program.	- Women: N/A - Men: N/A	(not set or not applicable)	- Women: 10% increase - Men: 10% increase	On track The project has not yet conducted a quantitative survey among grantees to find out the income changes associated with receiving low-value grants from the Project. Such an exercise will be carried out towards the end of the project.	On track. In the framework of the Low-Value Grant Program, a total of 15 projects have been selected and awarded a budget of 199,361 USD or 16,426,936 Kyrgyz Soms. These projects directly benefit 754 individuals, and indirectly benefiting approximately 40,000 people. Currently, these LVG project are under implementation and will be completed by September 2023. Final results, including information on income changes for women and men will be reported in the TE.	Achieved 50% - Women: 5.02% increase - Men: 5.02% increase Herders/farmers (744 individuals (including 469 women, making up 63% of participants), saw a 5.02% boost in income from 15 Low-Value grant projects (total

			As stated above, the Project has resumed its work on the Low-value Grants Programme and signed Grant Agreements with seven (7) local communities at the time of the preparation of the PIR. The results of these small projects will be reported in the Terminal Evaluation. As also mentioned above, the Project has provided grant support in the form of procurement and provision of equipment to six local communities in the target four AAs in 2019-2021. And these projects are now being implemented. The Project purchased sewing machines, ironing equipment, and appropriate furniture for the local women group "Ainuska" from Atai AA of the Toguz-Toro district. This micro-funding has facilitated the growth of the sewing workshop and created jobs for local people. As of today, the sewing workshop provides permanent jobs for 7 local residents, of which 5 are women. According to the grantees, the project's support resulted in increased household incomes, creating employment opportunities for rural women as well as providing local residents with sewing products. Another group of local women "Chynar" from Kyzyl-Ozgorysh AA of Toktogul district engaged in the production of national wool and felting products was provided with wool-processing equipment. According to the	Project developed Guidelines for the implementation of the Low-Value Grants Program, including relevant tools such as application forms, evaluation criteria, and instructions. The selection/awarding process for the LVGs consisted of two rounds. The first round took place in September 2021, and the Grant Agreements with seven selected NGOs, totaling \$96,159, were signed in July 2022. The grant competition for the second round was held from July to December 2022, resulting in the awarding of eight Grant Agreements with amount of \$105,202. Below is a brief description of approved and ongoing 15 LVG projects: - LVG project by the "Zhash-Muun" Public Association aims to establish rapport between the residents of Cholpon-Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush villages and nature parks through knowledge sharing and innovations. With a grant amount of 14,900 USD, the project directly benefits 420 individuals, including 256 women and 164 men, and indirectly benefits 20,595 people, including 9,634 women. The project focuses on developing income-generating activities through the introduction of tour services, procurement of equipment, and increasing awareness of nature protection via ecotourism. - LVG project by the Public Foundation "Cholpon-Ata-Alatay" aims to develop ecotourism in the Cholpon-Ata area and SNP Alatay. With a total value of 14,999 USD, the project directly benefits 21 individuals, including 9 men and 12 women, and indirectly benefits 8,442 people, including 3,992 women. Activities include organizing a yurt camp, developing a website, installing information boards and a map of tourist routes, constructing a birdwatching point, organizing educational trainings, and more. - LVG Project by the Public Foundation "KaraSuu" focuses on ecotourism development and wildlife conservation. The project, with a budget of 14,967 USD, directly benefits 25 individuals, including 14 women and 11 men. It aims to improve the socio-economic situation of the rural population through ecotourism, promote nature conservation, and includes activities such as equipment procurement,	grants' sum \$199,361). The project calculated the total income from ONLY these LVG activities which reached KGS 2,992,865 (\$36,104) during 2022-2023. Compared to the baseline of Djalal-Abad oblast's average annual income of 80,064 KGS in 2021 (stat.org), participants in the LVG program received income 4,023 KGS per person per year in the initial years (2022-2023), showing a 5.02% increase. Considering that LVG grantees only started implementing the project in 2022-2023, this demonstrates an overall significant improvement in the financial well-being of the participants. Some overview of LVG projects: - Four mini-workshops specializing in sewing, wool combing, felting, and yarn production were established and equipped. Over 100 women received trainings in sewing and felting, leading to the creation of 22 jobs for rural women - Four projects aimed at developing ecotourism and enhancing environmental awareness were supported, benefiting approximately 300
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			grantees' feedback, this grant assistance gave an opportunity to increase local people's income by increasing the cost of wool and as a result the income earned by the farmers. While wool in the village costs 5 KGS/kg, the jamaat buys it back from the population for 30 KGS/kg. Besides this, the workshop employs 13 people and the majority are women. A women group "Uz-Cheber" from Kok-Irim AA of the Toguz-Toro district received sewing machinery and equipment from the Project, directly benefitting six households. The project procured bakery equipment and furniture for the community "Kyrgyz daamy" from Kok-Irim AA of the Toguz-Toro district. They produce various bakery products. Four (4) people are now employed permanently, of which 3 are women. An initiative group "Den sooluk" from Cholpon-Ata AA of Toktogul district was provided with the juice production equipment. There are 10 households engaged and directly benefitting from the grant. Also, as reported by the grantees, the juice-production business helps to sell our fruits by other local households. The project purchased fencing materials for the newly created 6 ha municipal park in the Atai AA of the Toguz-Toro district. This provided a safe environment for growing tree	capacity building for local tour guides, developing new tourist routes, and raising awareness. - "Chaldybar" Public Foundation is implementing a LVG project on fruit processing (production of juice from apricots and apples) with a total budget of 10,075 USD. The project directly benefits 58 people, including 35 women and 23 men, and indirectly benefits 12,153 people, including 5,642 women. - "Ketmen Tobo" Public Foundation focuses on promoting mountain beekeeping in Kyzyl-Ozgorush AA. With a budget of 14,844 USD, the project directly benefits 45 individuals, including 23 women and 22 men. It indirectly benefits 12,153 people, including 5,642 women. The project aims to improve the economic, ecological, and social situation of residents through the development of mountain beekeeping. Outputs include creating jobs, improving honey quality, and recognizing the brand of honey "Kyzyl-Ozgorush" as environmentally friendly. - "Kyrgyz Jaiyty" National Association of pasture users in Kyrgyzstan is implementing a project to promote an employment center for rural women on wool processing called "Toktogul kiyizi." With a budget of \$12,194, the project aims to create alternative livelihoods for vulnerable local people, particularly by establishing a wool processing employment center for rural women. The grantee has successfully set up a mini-workshop for wool processing and sewing wool products. They have also provided training to rural women, involving local artisans, traditional knowledge keepers, and experienced entrepreneurs, to enhance their skills in producing finished products. This project has significant social impact, as it empowers rural women. This initiative also has a positive environmental impact to the state of pastures. Because of the exceedingly low prices of wool, the majority of shepherds opt not to transport the sheared wool from remote pastures. Instead, they abandon it on the pastures or even resort to burning it. Consequently, these pastures become strewn with discarded sheep wool. To counter this, the established wool cleaning/processing workshop stimulates some demand for purchasing wool from shepherds.	individuals. Over 400 individuals, 80% of whom are women and youth, gained skills and knowledge in organizing and conducting equestrian and hiking tours, providing tourism services, marketing, business planning, crafting felt souvenirs, among other tourism-related aspects, through participation in more than 20 training sessions and events. Equipment and gear such as yurts, horses, optics, camera traps, and equestrian equipment were procured, and an observation platform for birdwatching was established. In the first year of implementation, the project grantees attracted and served 676 tourists, including 145 international visitors. - A mini-bakery, "Kyrgyz Daamy," was set up in Aral, provided with baking equipment by a women's initiative group in Aral. Equipment for apple processing and natural apple juice production, kurut drying, and fruit and vegetable dehydration was procured for beneficiaries in the villages of Aral, Tash-
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			seedlings. To date, more than 1,000 seedlings of various trees, including fruit trees, have been planted in the park. The initiative group has installed a drip irrigation system and plans to expand the green space in the future. This will help in the fight against climate change and will be a call for conservation and environmental stewardship for the local community. The grantees say they have not yet received any direct cash income, but they are nevertheless practicing agroforestry in the park - mowing the grass between the rows of planted seedlings. They plan to install alleys and benches in the park for villagers to enjoy. Thus, the assistance provided by a grant marked the beginning of local initiatives for the implementation of environmental protection measures. Also, 2 yurts were procured and handed over to the local initiative group from Cholpon-Ata AA of Toktogul district. Today, this group runs a yurt camp in SNP Alatai to host tourists during the warm season. The project pursues to promote ecotourism in the area by providing tourists with an opportunity to get acquainted with national customs and cuisine. There are around 10 households that directly benefit from the project.	- "CAMP-Alatoo" Public Foundation is implementing the project "Organization of livestock processing facilities in Kyzyl-Ozgorush and Kok-Irim AA" with a budget of \$12,180. As part of the project, equipment was purchased for a rural women's group, and a mini-business on milk product processing, specifically kurut, was established. This initiative benefits 16 direct beneficiaries, including 7 women and 9 men, while indirectly benefiting 15,853 individuals, with 7,248 of them being women. - Public Foundation "Ak-Sham" has implemented a project with a budget of \$14,805 aimed at creating a fruit orchard. The primary objective of the project is to reduce environmental damage and preserve biodiversity by transitioning to more profitable and sustainable forms of agriculture. As part of the project, small fruit orchards have been set up, featuring local fruit trees. Furthermore, the project includes activities to raise community awareness about alternative income sources and provides training on orcharding techniques. Through this initiative, the grantee strives to promote sustainable agricultural practices while contributing to the preservation of the local ecosystem. - "Kelechek-Aktektir" Jamaat is implementing a project with a budget of \$14,716 to support vulnerable groups in generating income without harming the environment. The main goal is to empower orphans, disabled individuals, widows, and women-led households, encouraging them to find new livelihood opportunities. The grantee has provided chicken to these vulnerable groups and trained them in poultry farming, enabling them to earn a sustainable income. Additionally, the project has focused on training participants in the production of biocompost, a valuable resource for organic farming. These efforts contribute to reducing environmental damage and promoting eco-friendly practices. - Public Foundation "Bioresurs" is implementing a project with a budget of \$8,130 to develop and promote beekeeping as an alternative source of income. The project aims to improve the social and economic standing of local people while reducing the burden on the environment and preserving biodiversity.	Kechuu, and Chaldybar. Over 30 individuals, 80% of whom are women, gained knowledge on sanitary norms in food production, marketing, and more - More than 250 hives and 300 bee colonies adapted to local conditions were procured and delivered. Seeds of honey plants were sown on degraded pastures for restoration purposes. Over 100 individuals acquired practical beekeeping knowledge and organized this activity as a profitable business and a tool for nature conservation - 45 individuals (incl. 34 women) and their families received everything necessary for chicken breeding: egg-laying breeds, California worms for biogumus production, metal nets, etc. Two incubators with a generator were purchased for sustainable project operation, ensuring chicken population reproduction - Organized fruit garden plantations in 13 hectares in Atai and Kyzyl-Ozgorush villages. Over 8,000 saplings of apple, plum, and poplar
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				- "Nur-Almat" Jamaat project, with a budget of \$15,000, focuses on developing the "Alatai Mountainous Honey" brand. This initiative aims to address honey sales issues for beekeepers by packaging and selling honey in jars with information on quality. Collaboration with the Alatai State Natural Park includes conducting training sessions to enhance beekeepers' environmental knowledge and promote conservation of natural resources. Additionally, the project includes organizing "beekeeping tourism" to attract tourists and conducting training for beekeepers on tourism services, pricing, and partnering with tourist firms. These efforts contribute to the development and promotion of the "Alatai Mountainous Honey" brand. - Public Foundation "Zhalal-Abadskaya Regionalnaya Selskaya Konsultatsionnaya Sluzhba" has a project with a budget of \$14,992. The project aims to increase income from beekeeping by providing training to local residents and establishing contacts for selling beekeeping products. Additionally, they plan to cultivate sainfoin to enhance honey and fodder production, benefiting the ecosystem. The project also aims to unite beekeepers into a cooperative by organizing informational meetings and creating groups of interested local beekeepers. The grantee also delivered series of trainings on various topics, including overwintering bees, bee diseases, honey production, and sales, to empower beekeepers and promote sustainable practices. - Public Union "Toktogul Balygy" has a project with a budget of \$7,589. Project focuses on developing a gardening in the Kyzyl-Ozghorush village area (apple, plum, and pear trees). In addition to setting up a fruit garden, the grantee conducted trainings to educate the community on maintaining the apple garden, protecting plants from diseases, and proper cultivation techniques. They are working on establishment of a local association of apple gardeners to support the development of gardening and provide assistance to low-income individuals in the village. - Public Union "Zhensovet Toguz-Toroukogo rayona" is implementing a project with \$15,000 budget. The main goal was to provide the local community in the Kok-Irim village area with pure tough felt, cleaned	trees planted and enclosed with wire fencing. More than 25 individuals, 60% of whom are women, have acquired skills and expertise in horticultural practices Evidences: Video film on LVG projects (20) Living in harmony with nature - YouTube (20) Батыш Тянь-Шань - YouTube
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					wool, and interwoven thread. The project aims to create jobs, improve the living standards of villagers, and produce environmentally friendly felt, thereby promoting the health of the local population. The project also focuses on protecting the environment by purchasing discarded and burnt wool, reducing waste, and increasing the income of farmers through the purchase of sheep wool. - "Women's Peace Bank" Public Foundation has initiated a project with a budget of \$14,970, aiming to develop eco-tourism in the Toguz-Toro Kok-Irim area. The project provides a practical training on hosting tourists, offers guiding services, and implements activities to promote eco-tourism.	
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	Achieved					
Evidence uploaded:	YES					
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 2022	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	Annual number of seizures: - 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	(not set or not applicable)	Annual number of seizures: - Snow leopard: <Baseline (at least one seizure assisted by specially trained dogs) - Snow leopard prey: <Baseline (at least one seizure assisted by specially trained dogs) - Other illegal wildlife:	On track To prevent and reduce illegal trade and smuggling of snow leopard and its prey species and other wildlife across the border, the Project continued its well-established collaboration with the respective authorities. As reported in the 2021 PIR, the Project constructed and handed over an enclosure (for four dogs) to the Manas International Airport to improve capacity on detecting illegal wildlife trafficking	Achieved. According to data of the State Customs Service under the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic, during the reporting period there have been no cases of illegal wildlife seizures at border crossings and at Manas International Airport. The enactment of a new Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on Offenses on October 28, 2021, resulted in a drastic increase in penalty sizes for offenses related to the illegal export, transportation, storage, and sale of wildlife species and their products. When compared to the provisions of the outdated 1998 Code on Administrative Responsibility, the new 2021 Code introduces a significant change, raising penalties from a range of 5 to 20 calculation indices (depending on	Achieved.

	confiscated in Issyk-Kul - Zero seizures assisted by specially trained dogs - 4 arrests related to wildlife trafficking - <50% of prosecutions resulting from wildlife trafficking arrests		<Baseline (at least one seizure by specially trained dogs) - Number of arrests = >baseline - >50% of arrests result in prosecutions	During this reporting period the following illegal cases were reported: - In 2021 there was an attempt to sell the skin of a snow leopard in Osh city. - In 2021, a snow leopard was found wounded in the head in Talas Oblast with over 70 pellets extracted from its wounds. - In 2022 there was 1 attempt of illegal transportation of snow leopard derivatives across the border. - According to the press service of the State Border Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, in 2022 at the border section in Chaldybar village of Chui oblast, Kyrgyz border guards found the skin and the skull of a snow leopard that an unknown man intended to take to Kazakhstan. - In 2022 a snow leopard was shot in Issyk-Kul Oblast, according to the press service of the Issyk-Kul Oblast Department of Internal Affairs. A gun, a snow leopard's skin, and a skull were found. (Annex. Links to external sources) In 2022, based on the recommendations of the Central Asian Workshops on Combating Illegal Trade in Wild Animals and Plants, supported by the Project in Bishkek in 2018 and 2019, a training manual "Brief Identifier of CITES Appendix Animals and	the offender's status) to a uniform 200 calculation indices for individuals and 650 calculation indices for legal entities. This substantial increase in penalties could be a key factor contributing to the reported zero seizures related to wildlife trafficking in the years following the implementation of the stricter law. In addition to the enactment of the Code of the Kyrgyz Republic on Offenses, there have been other measures taken to enforce stronger penalties for damages to wildlife. The 2020 amendment to the governmental decree on rates for calculating fines for damages caused by individuals or legal entities to wildlife in the Kyrgyz Republic serves as another example of a more stringent legal stance. This amendment to the regulation shows an increased commitment to protecting wildlife and deterring illegal activities through higher financial liabilities. Such measures most likely have played a significant role in contributing to the observed decrease in wildlife trafficking offenses in recent years. The project has fostered widespread awareness and understanding of the penalties associated with wildlife and environmental law violations. A bilingual book containing extracts from relevant codes and laws, was published and distributed among project stakeholders during the reporting period. This book outlines the legal ramifications for wildlife offenses and aims to inform local communities and key stakeholders involved in natural resource use about their legal responsibilities. By doing so, the project contributed to curbing illegal activities and enhancing wildlife protection through comprehensive education and awareness-raising. Annex: Book "Responsibility for Violating the Environmental Legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic"	
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				Plants" was developed and published. This manual contains illustrated material for identifying wildlife and plant species being transported across the customs border and falling under the CITES. The manual was designed for law enforcement, customs, and border authorities responsible for implementing CITES rules. In addition, the Project conducted a training on methods of identifying animal and plant species under CITES lists. Representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Border Service of the State Committee on National Security, the State Customs Service, responsible for the implementation of CITES, as well as NGOs academia attended the training. (Annex: Report_CITES_WTS_Training-2022)		
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	(not set or not applicable)	International agreement between Kyrgyzstan and at least one bordering country under implementation regarding at least one of the below issues: - Cooperation on law enforcement at border points	Achieved -100% Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the conservation of the snow leopard, its forage base	Achieved -100% The project supported the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) Steering Committee Meeting, which was hosted by Kyrgyzstan on October 20-21, 2022. Representatives from 12 snow leopard range countries – Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan – gathered in Bishkek to review conservation efforts and identify future priority actions aimed at preserving High Asia's ecosystems and enhancing the welfare of the region's inhabitants. This event served as a platform to discuss innovative approaches to conservation financing, climate	Achieved -100%

			regarding illegal wildlife trade - Illegal hunting by border guards - Data sharing on snow leopard monitoring	and habitat in the Western Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai was signed between the three neighboring countries Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The member countries have agreed to cooperate in preserving the snow leopard, its prey base and habitat, in studying and improving the protection of the snow leopard and its prey species within their respective countries, and in maintaining populations in a stable condition. (Annex: MoU CA_Transboundary Cooperation)	adaptation strategies, community-based conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. Participants of the meeting exchanged their experiences and shared updates about their respective countries' efforts to conserve snow leopards and relevant ecosystems. Following the GSLEP Steering Committee meeting, the range countries adopted a resolution pledging significant steps towards further countering illegal wildlife trade, enhancing the exchange of best conservation practices, strengthening intergovernmental cooperation, and fostering close interaction among various stakeholders. UNDP actively participated in the discussions surrounding the Bishkek Resolution and provided informational and logistical support to the event organization. Links: GSLEP Bishkek Resolution Press-release on UNDP website Press-release on MNRETS website Photographs	
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%)	(not set or not applicable)	Publishing of annual estimates with a 60% confidence level (the average confidence level among other snow leopard range states in GSLEP population estimate)	On track. Publishing of annual estimates with a 60% confidence will be done in 2023 before project end. The project supported the development and adaptation of the PAWS methodology for the Kyrgyz Republic - Population Assessment of the Snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan (PASK). The PAWS process, which includes PASK, will create a more accurate estimate of the global snow leopard population and thereby contribute to raising awareness for important conservation and strategic activities. The PASK methodology has been presented to the national partner (former SAEFP) for comments and feedback. But, due to structural changes that	On track. To achieve the project's target of publishing annual snow leopard population estimates with a 60% confidence level, the project team is currently engaged in organizing data collection expeditions to the Western Tian Shan. These expeditions utilize camera traps and implement the PASK methodology, which was developed with the project's support. The first of these expeditions took place in June-July 2023. Due to heavy precipitation and climatic anomalies in the mountains, the installation of camera traps was delayed for safety and accessibility reasons. Now that the traps are in place, a minimum of a 90-day operational period is essential for comprehensive data collection on snow leopards. The data will undergo thorough analysis, aiming to provide robust estimates on the snow leopard's population size and density. Taking into account the time needed for collecting, processing and analysis of the data, the final results are expected to be ready in November-December 2023 and will be reported subsequently. In addition, the Project is planning to conduct trainings on monitoring of snow leopard and its prey species for	Achieved -100% To achieve the project's goal of publishing annual snow leopard population estimates with a 60% confidence level, the project organized data collection expeditions to the Western Tian Shan. These expeditions used camera traps and implemented the PASK methodology, developed with the project's support. A total of 84 camera traps were set up in two areas of the Kyrgyz part of the Western Tian Shan. The first study area covered the entire territory of the Besh-Aral State Reserve and its adjacent areas. The second area encompassed the northern part of the Toktogul Reservoir. These two research areas were determined using Halton's iterative partitioning. The camera traps were installed in June-July

			happened in the Kyrgyz Government, the process has been delayed. Recently, the Project initiated a working meeting with key stakeholders (Ministry of natural resources, Department of PA and Biodiversity Conservation, GSLEP Secretariat, PF Ilbirs, NABU-Kyrgyzstan) to resume the process of PASK Methodology adoption. With the purchase of camera traps and with a number of workshops and trainings on PASK methodology use, accounting of wildlife has become more reliable. In 2021 for the first time camera traps recorded snow leopards in the area of SNP Alatau and Kan-Achuu. Project developed the information system Electronic Protected Areas (E-PA), which intends to serve as a unified and effective tool for protected areas management in Kyrgyzstan. E-PA is officially handed over to the national authority, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate of the Kyrgyz Republic (MNRET KR). E-PA has to contribute to decreasing the illegal wildlife trade and would serve as a platform for coordination among all responsible bodies. E-PA consists of the following sections: 1) Registry of	rangers of protected areas of Western Tian Shan and Gissar-Alay region in September 2023. As part of monitoring work, visualized Camera Trap Installation Guidelines have been developed. These guidelines detail various aspects of camera trap installation, including advice on selecting ideal locations, guidance on appropriate camera height and angle, tips for securely fastening the camera, instructions for testing the camera's functionality, image analysis, and other relevant steps. The Guidelines have been submitted to the State Department for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas of MNRETS KR for review and approval. The draft is currently being assessed and, upon receiving feedback, will be used as the operational manual for joint expeditions in the Western Tian Shan as well as other mountainous part of the country for snow leopard population monitoring. In addition to population assessments, the project aims to collect, analyze, and interpret data for integration into national databases. Moreover, an updated snow leopard range map at the national level is scheduled to be created, utilizing a digital map of snow leopard habitat in Kyrgyzstan. The comprehensive findings from these activities will be presented in December 2023 additionally, providing detailed information on snow leopard populations and their habitats. Annex: Draft Camera Trap Installation Guidelines	2023. Due to heavy precipitation and climatic anomalies in the mountains, the installation of camera traps was delayed for safety and accessibility reasons. Despite delays due to climatic anomalies, the data collected and analysed. The analysis indicates an estimated 21 snow leopards (confidence interval: 15-21) in the entire Western Tien Shan region, with varying densities related to rocky terrain levels and protected areas. For estimating snow leopard population in the Western Tian Shan with a 60% confidence level, camera traps and PASK methodology were used. As part of the monitoring work, visualized Camera Trap Installation Guidelines have been developed. These guidelines detail various aspects of camera trap installation, including advice on selecting ideal locations, guidance on appropriate camera height and angle, tips for securely fastening the camera, instructions for testing the camera's functionality, image analysis, and other relevant steps. The Guidelines is approved by the Department for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas of MNRETS KR and published. Evidences: Draft Camera Trap Installation Guidelines Narrative report_SnowLeopard_Assessment-CapacityBuilding-RUS
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			protected areas (state nature reserves, state national parks, zakazniks); 2) Database on flora; 3) Database on wildlife; 4) Database on hunting entities; 5) Database on hunters and hunting certificate register; 6) Reporting unit on forms of the National Statistical Committee of KR (form № 1 - protected areas, Form #2 - TP Hunting); 7) Biodiversity monitoring (automated reporting of registration cards); 8) Reporting forms (book-entry slips); 9) Seizure of biodiversity (limit control, processing of applications, issuing permits, reporting on hunting); 10) Reporting (consolidated reports, reports on activities); 11) Maps; 12) Register of research works; 13) Unit of e-mail notifications. After the handover, the Project, jointly with the MNRETC KR, conducted training workshops for employees of the territorial departments MNRETC, protected areas and hunting entities on the operation and usage of E-PA. Two-day training workshops were held in each oblast, in which 149 people attended. E-PA is now operational and is being used by national partners. However, there are suggestions for improving this system (e.g., developing apps to collect data on the status of biodiversity (plants) and linking it to the e-opt. The Project is currently considering this request on improving the E-PA. (Annex: Report on Training on E-PA)	Educational Material-SL Ecology and Monitoring
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The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	Achieved	Achieved
Evidence uploaded:	YES	Yes

D. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

1) 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.

[WTSPProject_GenderPlan-2023.pdf](#)

Quantum Gender Marker Rating

GEN2: gender equality as significant objective

2) 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):

Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes

Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes

Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes

Not applicable: No

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

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

The project takes active steps to address gender issues in biodiversity conservation and promote the empowerment of women across multiple domains.

The project places a significant emphasis on supporting local endeavors, especially those initiated by women that are designed to open income-generating activities, create employment, and enhance the service, production, and processing sectors in rural areas, ultimately contributing to conservation efforts. The project has supported 7 initiatives led by women in areas such as providing tourist services, milk processing and sewing, fruit gardening, bakery. Consequently, the project has facilitated the creation of opportunities for 754 individuals. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the Project has supported an initiative aimed at assisting vulnerable groups within target local communities. This Low Value Grant (LVG) project of Kelechek-Aktekir Public Foundation provides community members with an opportunity to generate income through small-scale poultry farming. As part of this effort, trainings were conducted for 45 vulnerable individuals, including widows, orphans, and people with disabilities. Additionally, each of these 45 individuals is being provided with 40 hens to support their poultry farming endeavors.

The project fostered active involvement of women in the decision-making processes of the Alatai and Kan-Achuu State Nature Parks. These Protected Areas have operational Public Councils that convene on a regular basis, drawing on the expertise of both Protected Areas personnel and volunteer inspectors to evaluate implementation of conservation practices and ensure the swift completion of environmental tasks. Currently, the Alatai Public Council and the Kan-Achuu Public Council comprises of 9 members each, of which 3 are women and 6 are men.

During creation of technical guidelines for communication and outreach products (such as photos, videos, and publications), substantial emphasis is placed on integrating gender perspectives. In particular, these outreach materials, primarily intended for the general public, aim to influence peoples consciousness and provoke a change in behavior, as well as a reassessment of their perceptions about the role of women in biodiversity conservation.

During the reporting period, a series of educational and communication events were conducted on biodiversity conservation, procedures for issuing small grants, and implementation of environmental measures in the Western Tian Shan. In total, more than 350 people participated, approximately 25% (or 87) of whom were women.

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

The active involvement of women in all aspects of the Project's conservation efforts in the target areas has several positive impacts on the project's environmental and resilience outcomes. Women's active involvement and participation in outreach, awareness-raising activities and community engagement initiatives helps promote

sustainable practices, responsible behavior towards the environment, and increased support for conservation efforts within the community. Supporting women-led initiatives and providing low-value grants further contributes to the project's environmental and resilience outcomes.

Women's unique roles in community and family cultivate a balanced approach to both preservation and welfare. While projects led by men often prioritize economic goals, women-led initiatives seamlessly integrate conservation with community well-being, underscoring the vital role of gender inclusivity in achieving sustainable outcomes.

In the project's target areas, women have joined the Joint Patrol Groups. The project has empowered women, supporting their election to the Advisory Councils of the Alatai and Kan-Achuu nature parks. Moreover, women have been at the forefront of environmental education, playing pivotal roles in promoting ecotourism. Deliberate efforts have been made to emphasize gender perspectives in visual communication, with a dedicated video series underscoring women's crucial role in biodiversity conservation. All videos uploaded on UNDP YT channel "Ecosystems and Biodiversity" <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOu-CsdLaS7THAd4jUTsWYmhWFXtGWbch>

Women-led initiatives often prioritize community-based conservation approaches, sustainable livelihoods, and the protection of natural resources. By providing capacity building support and grants, the project empowers women to drive positive environmental change, enhance resilience, and contribute to sustainable development in their communities.

By leveraging the knowledge, preferences, ideas, and contributions of women, the project benefits from diverse perspectives, improves the effectiveness of conservation actions, raises awareness within local communities, and supports women-led initiatives that promote sustainable practices and conservation efforts.

E. Risk Management

A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

CO Programme Officer: Has the Atlas/Quantum Risk Register been updated during this reporting period?
Yes
NCE RTA: Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in Risk Register and risks included in the project's risk tab in PIMS+) undertaken in the reporting period and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project's risk tab in PIMS+.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

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 (GEF-6 projects only). If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file below. Note that any change to the project's SESP categorization should be confirmed by the Project Board and by the NCEW PTA (and NCEW safeguards team). SESP revised June2023.docx
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F. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.

In this concluding period of project implementation, the project's knowledge management approach focuses on generating best practices and lessons learned and actively dissemination of KM products to project stakeholders. In this reporting period, the project produced the following KM products in line with the project's KM approach:

1. The Project developed "Guidelines for Developing Management Plans for Protected Areas of the Kyrgyz Republic".. These guidelines provide a framework for development of detailed and comprehensive management plans for protected areas in the Kyrgyz Republic. They outline the key steps and considerations involved in designing effective management strategies. The guidelines cover aspects such as stakeholder engagement, identification of conservation objectives, land-use plans, monitoring and evaluation, and community participation.
2. Camera Trap Installation Guidelines have been developed for Protected Areas rangers and conservation practitioners. The guidelines detail various aspects of camera trap installation, including advice on selecting ideal locations, guidance on appropriate camera height and angle, tips for securely fastening the camera, instructions for testing the camera's functionality, image analysis, and other relevant steps. The Guidelines have been submitted to the State Department for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas for review and approval. The draft is currently being assessed and, upon receiving feedback, will be used as the operational manual for joint expeditions in the Western Tian Shan for snow leopard population monitoring.
3. "Methodology and Step-by-Step Guide to Identifying High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) and Key Biodiversity Areas" is an insightful knowledge product designed to aid policy makers, foresters, conservationists, and other relevant stakeholders. It aims to enhance the strategic conservation of forests that hold high ecological, socio-economic, and landscape value, or that are significant for the preservation of biodiversity. The methodology provides comprehensive information on various categories of forest protection, forest management processes, and the monitoring and inventory of forests within the Kyrgyz Republic. It delves into the international categories of HCVFs and offers interpretations that have been specifically adapted to the Kyrgyz context. Moreover, the guide offers a detailed, step-by-step procedure for identifying HCVFs and outlines the general requirements for their effective management. For each type or subtype of HCVF, the guide introduces a decision-making algorithm that involves certain steps. This knowledge product serves as an essential guide for stakeholders involved in forest management and conservation. The product is intended to help them make informed and effective decisions to protect the value of forest ecosystems. In addition, the project developed "Instruction on Monitoring the Condition of HCVF" that serves as a tool for ongoing monitoring and assessment of the state of HCVF. Its primary objective is to predict changes resulting from natural and human factors that may impact these high conservation value forests.
4. The informational video on the significance of implementing the High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) concept in Kyrgyzstan is also considered a knowledge product aimed at informing policymakers, foresters, conservationists, CSOs, and wider audience. The video features representatives from the Forest Service sharing initial steps of integrating the HCVF concept into practice, which became possible with support of this UNDP/GEF project.
The video covers the first steps in adopting HCVF, including additions to the national forestry legislation and development of the aforementioned methodology for identifying HCVFs and key biodiversity areas and establishment of an Interdepartmental Working Group for this purpose. It introduces the viewer to the international HCVF classification system and discusses how it has been adapted to suit the conditions in Kyrgyzstan. The film explores the vital role of forests in human life and ecosystems, and how the implementation of HCVFs can help the government balance forest use and conservation. By implementing this concept, Kyrgyzstan demonstrates its continued commitment to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Produced in Kyrgyz, Russian, and English, the video has been published on various UNDP Kyrgyzstan information platforms, and was presented at various meetings at the level of relevant partner ministries and departments. It is a tool for disseminating knowledge, promoting understanding, and guiding best practices in the field of forest conservation and biodiversity preservation.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgAvUvAcOOE>
5. The informational video on conservation-focused livelihood projects in local communities of Western Tian Shan offers valuable insights for policy makers, conservationists, community leaders, and other stakeholders. It emphasizes the empowering role these projects play for women and youth, fostering their status as change

agents within their communities. The film sheds light on the transformational stories of these communities, showcasing the value of their contributions to biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource practices. Additionally, the video explores how these initiatives stimulate local economic development, establishing a direct link between conservation efforts and economic viability. It features success stories of local individuals who, through these projects, have identified new income sources, thus contributing to poverty alleviation and economic development. The video further underscores the role of these projects in education and raising awareness, enhancing local understanding of conservation issues and fostering a stronger conservation ethic. This video functions as an inspiring and informative knowledge product. It highlights mutual benefits of conservation-focused livelihood projects for conservation efforts and local communities, particularly when these initiatives actively involve women, youth, and other key groups.
Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUIHH1XwHDs>

6. An Automated System "Electronic Pasture Committee"; (EPC), developed under the UNDP/GEF project, is an innovative knowledge product in the field of pasture resource management. It significantly increases the efficiency and transparency of pasture management, enhancing the health of these ecosystems. The EPC system provides a valuable tool for the Department of Pastures and Breeding Livestock, aiding in the creation of a comprehensive pasture resource database and enabling remote oversight of pasture committee workflows. For local pasture committees, the EPC system simplifies data processing, ensures fair pasture distribution, and assists in conflict resolution. This automated system exemplifies how technology can optimize resource management, improve stakeholder communication, and foster sustainable practices.

A training session on the use of the EPC took place on May 10-11, 2023, in Bishkek. The participants included representatives from the Department of Pastures and Breeding Livestock, UNDP, local pasture committees, ayil okmotu, projects pilot territories. This session served as a knowledge transfer platform, enhancing the ability of the project's stakeholders to effectively use and benefit from the EPC system. The project not only shared generated technical expertise on pasture management during this training, but also promoted a more comprehensive understanding of sustainable pasture management practices, fostering shared stewardship of these critical resources.

As a knowledge product, fifteen ecotourism itineraries have been crafted for the protected areas of Alatau, Kan-Achuu, and Saimaluu-Tash, with a special focus on birdwatching and wildlife observation. Complementing these itineraries, foldable maps have been created to facilitate easy access for tourists eager to explore these natural environments. These maps are not just navigational tools but comprehensive guides, enriched with detailed descriptions and vivid photographs of the locations. They are developed in both English and Russian to cater to a diverse range of tourists. This dual-language approach ensures broader accessibility and enhances the user experience. These maps are available at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cjimmrgtf3e5jyx1hdwun/h?rlkey=7qwif849kns4z1r7b6mf8z2q&dl=0> offering a comprehensive and immersive insight into the region's unique biodiversity and landscape.

Informational and educational materials have been developed together with SLF for middle schools. These materials are designed for conducting open lessons on the topic of "The Snow Leopard and Its Role in the Ecosystem" in the Kyrgyz language, specifically tailored for middle school biology teachers (7th grade). The proposed educational materials, once approved by the Ministry of Education, will be offered for use as supplementary resources. These resources can be recommended to educational institutions for open lessons, serving as optional, yet enriching, educational content. Upon approval, these materials are set to be distributed among middle school teachers across Kyrgyzstan, enhancing their teaching toolkit with engaging and informative content about this ecological subject.
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/fltq4jguy5ytdperc6z8/h?rlkey=ex6y8emxp5gn41sr6w5o7tndq&dl=0>

On September 22, 2023, a training session was organized for biology and geography teachers of middle schools in the Toktogul Rayon, covering various aspects of eco-education. The training provided a comprehensive overview of current and projected trends in climate change, the importance of biodiversity conservation, particularly in the Alatau State Nature Park, and opportunities for enhancing eco-education potential. Recommendations were given to improve the effectiveness of educational initiatives. The session emphasized the critical role of ecological upbringing of the younger generation. Participants were shown educational videos and received books developed as part of the WTS project. The event served as one of the directions of knowledge management, aiming to equip educators with the necessary tools and information to foster environmental awareness and stewardship among students.

An information booklet on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), and voluntary forest certification has been developed jointly with KAFLU. The booklet gives an overview of these concepts. SFM refers to forest management in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, aiming to maintain a balance between three main aspects: economic, social, and ecological. HCVF are forests of significant importance due to their high ecological, socio-economic, and landscape value, or their value for biodiversity conservation. Forest certification is a process where the quality of forest management is assessed against a certain standard. If the quality meets the standard, a certificate is issued to the forest management organization. The booklet is intended for forestry professionals, environmental educators, policymakers, and

stakeholders involved in forest management and conservation. It aims to provide them with comprehensive knowledge and understanding of sustainable forest management practices, the significance of High Conservation Value Forests, and the process and benefits of voluntary forest certification. This resource is designed to support informed decision-making and promote best practices in forest stewardship and biodiversity conservation. An electronic version is available at https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/eohrnejgxin2hg8jdo9u9/SFM_Booklet.pdf?rlkey=9j1ccd334y2xg8s10qru30hx2&dI=0.

2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)

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

Over the project implementation period, the project team has undertaken comprehensive communication efforts to bolster biodiversity conservation. Special attention was given to preserving key wildlife species, especially the endangered snow leopard. We promoted the potential of ecotourism within the Western Tian Shan protected areas, emphasizing its dual benefits for nature and the local economy.

One of the primary areas was to increase awareness about High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), ensuring widespread understanding of their crucial role among the general public. Alongside this, we conducted campaigns to acquaint the public with the principles of sustainable forestry.

The project released a series of video stories, produced photo, and generated textual content intended to convey to the wider audiences and project stakeholders the core ideas related to environmental conservation - from biodiversity preservation to eco-education. Anti-poaching was another critical focus. We described its harmful consequences and showcased measures being taken to combat it. Furthermore, we consistently shared findings from ongoing scientific research, highlighting their role in shaping conservation policies.

Our team also actively communicated the merits of projects contributing to enhancing the conservation-oriented livelihoods of local communities. We also highlighted the pivotal role of women in conservation efforts, leadership, and community initiatives, underscoring their indispensability in sustainable development endeavors.

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.

The project team has been advancing the project's objectives, promoting its work and conveying key messages through targeted outreach to wide audiences. Below is a list of URLs of press releases, stories and posts shared via UNDP website, news outlets and social media platforms. .

1. https://undpeurasia.exposure.co/conserving-kyrgyzstans-alatai?fbclid=IwAR29few6KcfHP7tvFcZ1jF3ENtInVVV45zvfe6cWtjo6Szc7S1tqeA-N_E
2. <https://twitter.com/UNDPEurasia/status/1268854268821475331>
3. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2971814579581098?__tn__=-R
4. <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPEurasia/photos/a.136298873173/10157412469983174/?type=1&theater>

Story about Alatau PA ranger N.Mamyrov

5. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/articles/2020/06/the-more-environmentalists-there-are--the-more-sustainable-our-n.html>
6. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2971330146296208?__tn__=-R
7. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/06/the-more-environmentalists-there-are--the-more-sustainable-our-n.html>
8. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/articles/2020/06/the-more-environmentalists-there-are--the-more-sustainable-our-n.html>
9. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CBDK8piD4FR/>

Western Tian Shan walnut and coniferous forests expanded by 300 hectares

10. <http://kabar.kg/news/za-3-goda-svyshe-200-tys-seiantcev-orekha-fistashki-sosny-popolnili-lesnoi-fond-dzhalal-abada/>
11. <http://www.agro.kg/ru/news/23695/>
12. <http://ru.siluxgc.com/html/R1413/202005/24669936702656.shtml>
13. <https://www.timesca.com/index.php/news/22512-kyrgyzstan-walnut-and-coniferous-forests-of-western-tian-shan-expanded-by-300-hectares>
14. <http://en.kabar.kg/news/walnut-and-coniferous-forests-of-western-tian-shan-expanded-by-300-hectares/>

15. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/the-walnut-and-coniferous-forests-of-the-western-tian-shan-expan.html?fbclid=IwAR2Be0uYGLQ2UtJRJxk6YsRaTGlgEezKhPhppBPVbIDZAtvq3gkSR5yp-E>
16. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/the-walnut-and-coniferous-forests-of-the-western-tian-shan-expan.html>
17. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/the-walnut-and-coniferous-forests-of-the-western-tian-shan-expan.html>
18. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2947220832040473?__tn__=-R
19. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CAPvMpggvkA/>
- Western Tian Shan Protected Areas received office equipment
20. <https://fauna.kg/2020/05/22/mezhdunarodnyj-den-biologicheskogo-raznoobrazija/>
21. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2938003092962247?__tn__=-R
22. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1263789223343198214>
23. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/parks-and-reserves-of-the-western-tien-shan-received-office-equi.html>
24. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/parks-and-reserves-of-the-western-tien-shan-received-office-equi.html>
25. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/05/parks-and-reserves-of-the-western-tien-shan-received-office-equi.html>
- Restoration of degraded forests in the Western Tian Shan
26. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2930978413664715?__tn__=-R
27. <https://fauna.kg/2020/06/18/%d0%b1%d0%b8%d0%be%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%b7%d0%bd%d0%be%d0%be%d0%b1%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%b7%d0%b8%d0%b5-2020/>
- Construction of enclosures for canine service
28. <https://fauna.kg/2020/05/23/sovместnyj-proekt-gaooslh-i-proon/>
29. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/photos/a.153455198083731/2935130309916192/?type=3&theater>
- Awareness trainings on development of Protected Areas
30. [https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3001661049929784?_cft__\[0\]=AZUQ2rUS0yyZto-6ebp3Z8Fcfi33wo01LFEEcmOCTCgYWtEIN3l_CC6a1y2LTSQB19Z5PVU0U_LSTRwnIKdgWLFVfJShMh0KwSjv4Fo2nFSLFB8y_CnYdBL2YJA12XrFEK35VQikqXV1mVd19IBbMV2&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3001661049929784?_cft__[0]=AZUQ2rUS0yyZto-6ebp3Z8Fcfi33wo01LFEEcmOCTCgYWtEIN3l_CC6a1y2LTSQB19Z5PVU0U_LSTRwnIKdgWLFVfJShMh0KwSjv4Fo2nFSLFB8y_CnYdBL2YJA12XrFEK35VQikqXV1mVd19IBbMV2&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R)
- 'The Western Tian Shan is preparing for the winter 'census' of wildlife'
31. https://kaktus.media/doc/417272_proon_snabdila_egerey_v_zapovednikah_binokliami_i_spalnymi_me_shkami.html
32. <https://sport.kg/supernews/59431-pomosch-parkam-zapadnogo-tian-shanja.html>
33. <https://fauna.kg/kg/2020/07/24/%d0%b7%d0%b0%d0%bf%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%bd%d1%8b%d0%b9-%d1%82%d1%8f%d0%bd%d1%8c-%d1%88%d0%b0%d0%bd%d1%8c-%d0%b3%d0%be%d1%82%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b8%d1%82%d1%81%d1%8f-%d0%ba-%d0%b7%d0%b8%d0%bc%d0%bd%d0%b5%d0%b9/>
34. <https://fauna.kg/2020/07/24/%d0%b7%d0%b0%d0%bf%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%bd%d1%8b%d0%b9-%d1%82%d1%8f%d0%bd%d1%8c-%d1%88%d0%b0%d0%bd%d1%8c-%d0%b3%d0%be%d1%82%d0%be%d0%b2%d0%b8%d1%82%d1%81%d1%8f-%d0%ba-%d0%b7%d0%b8%d0%bc%d0%bd%d0%b5%d0%b9/>
35. <https://world.einnews.com/article/521813946?lcf=DPqmbq1c-rNH4puD-nO5bi4C3VT2fG1L0aYGT6PGpW4%3D>
36. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/07/rangers-received-gears-and-optics.html>
37. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/07/rangers-received-gears-and-optics.html>
38. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/07/rangers-received-gears-and-optics.html>
39. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/photos/a.153455198083731/3076432069119348/?type=3&theater>
40. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1283355998556770304?s=09>
- Fire safety
41. <https://eco.akipress.org/news:1634448>
42. https://kaktus.media/doc/417630_kyrgyzstanskih_lesnikov_i_egerey_naychili_polzovatsia_rancevymi_ognyetshiteli.html
43. <http://kabar.kg/news/dlia-egerei-i-lesnikov-kyrgyzstana-proveli-treningi-po-pozharnoi-bezopasnosti/>

44. <https://fauna.kg/2020/07/24/%d1%83%d1%81%d0%b8%d0%bb%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%b8%d0%b5-%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%b6%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%bd%d0%be%d0%b9-%d0%b1%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d0%bf%d0%b0%d1%81%d0%bd%d0%be%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b8-%d0%b2-%d0%bb%d0%b5%d1%81/>
 45. <https://fauna.kg/2020/07/24/%d1%83%d1%81%d0%b8%d0%bb%d0%b5%d0%bd%d0%b8%d0%b5-%d0%bf%d0%be%d0%b6%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%bd%d0%be%d0%b9-%d0%b1%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d0%bf%d0%b0%d1%81%d0%bd%d0%be%d1%81%d1%82%d0%b8-%d0%b2-%d0%bb%d0%b5%d1%81/>
 46. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/07/fire-safety-in-tian-shan.html>
 47. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/07/fire-safety-in-tian-shan.html>
 48. <https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/07/fire-safety-in-tian-shan.html>
 49. <https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/photos/a.153455198083731/3092601934169028/?type=3&theater>
- World Nomad Games 2018 and the UN #BeatPlasticPollution campaign
<http://kabar.kg/news/sekretariat-igr-kochevnikov-na-trekh-iazykakh-vypustil-pamiatku-kodeks-povedeniia-turista/>
https://kaktus.media/doc/379136_ostalsia_odin_den._gotov_li_kyrgyzstan_k_otkrytiu_iii_igr_kochevnikov.html
52. Asiatv.kg/2018/08/30/вик-2018-памятка-для-гостей-всемирных-игр/
 53. <https://www.kp.kg/online/news/3219942/>
 54. <https://parusk.info/novosti/156586-pamjatka-dlja-gostej-vsemirnyh-igr-kochevnikov.html>
 55. <http://culture.akipress.org/news:1467969>
https://24.kg/obschestvo/94638_pamyatka_dlya_gostey_vsemirnyh_igr_kochevnikov/
<http://eco.akipress.org/news:1468302&from=kgnews&place=findpage>
<http://eco.akipress.org/news:1468181&from=kgnews&place=findpage>
 59. <http://kabarlar.org/news/101479-iii-vik-barsovaya-yurta.html>
 60. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1037226973976772613>
<https://www.facebook.com/worldnomadgames2018/posts/575205959563868>
 62. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1038012678235742214>
 63. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1037398073947967488>
 64. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1036873970035949568>
 65. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1036501079817629697>
 66. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1036490862329585664>
 67. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1036247670975815681>
 68. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1036220999111507969>
 69. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1036164284043145216>
 70. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1036209331593797632>
 71. <https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1035450720730918914>
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433. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUIHH1XwHDs>

434. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8lgE9zxGFU>

435. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N15xRRjuZKg>

436. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUj7HaXNq6o>

437. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t34uq45lkd0>

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439.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4lZsAaFhPw
440.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1fiPPAf5QA
441.	https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/pfbid02drwWFP3wyYtzHfaUb1dwQpNoppfzWbRfMsoTaqPRCZbvNiPuzywnhX64AxykzgF3l
442.	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=490045576516622
443.	https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/pfbid034wjCb7sknTr1zTwYRUxF6Bz3kiYyfr94kZXrbhQg6594Q8FcxBRAkhrKnFiuLQ2l
444.	https://www.instagram.com/p/CkDgWEuMlrd/?igshid=ZjA0NjI3M2I=
445.	https://www.instagram.com/reel/CkDHHyigTM9/?igshid=ZjA0NjI3M2I=
446.	https://www.instagram.com/p/CkCvsX-l2cd/?igshid=ZjA0NjI3M2I=
447.	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6990144566611820545
448.	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7007547553562939392
449.	https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1601983408959258624?s=20&t=BBEQwFJhtHKJd3L2tZvsg
450.	https://twitter.com/undpkg/status/1600728906218102785?s=20&t=BBEQwFJhtHKJd3L2tZvsg
451.	https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/videos/588584906365138
452.	International Snow Leopard Day
453.	https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/pfbid03bXJQ3oxA1xQUfw48bxWKRhzsqwPXZSTN5PWVdzcvGrxs1RdYowcRexZSecqEm5ml
454.	https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/pfbid0HZrxoqwg7VVJk6MKEhZXLANUcuRYrRXKWUW9ebreW359XSpBgMeTTgD1eGB3J1Tl
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461.	https://x.com/undpkg/status/1716367185021481124?s=20 EcoJaratman Toktogul Festival
462.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Uzy9GMY35E&feature=youtu.be
463.	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=693288029046514
464.	https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/pfbid02CbsetBoq7ZHGXaeP9PHk8amTpTA485xSLSo7A71m15ov4WzzacDecyD5DaCfGk9Yl
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468.	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7112342455793913856
469.	https://www.undp.org/ru/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/create4-ekozharatman-toktogul-kreativnye-resheniya-dlya-razvitiya-ekoturizma
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480.	https://www.undp.org/ru/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/kyrgyzstan-prinamaet-aktivnye-deystviya-po-vnedreniyu-konceptii-lesov-vysokoy-prirodookhrannoy-cennosti
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483.	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7100346874343133184
484.	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7100690842482339840
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486.	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7099620773014716416
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488.	https://www.undp.org/ru/kyrgyzstan/news/%D0%B5%D0%B3%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%88%D0%B8-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B6%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D1%8B-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%BE-%D1%82%D1%8F%D0%BD%D1%8C-%D1%88%D0%B0%D0%BD%D1%8F
489.	https://x.com/undpkg/status/1707353132294914227?s=20
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492.	https://x.com/undpkg/status/1694205567055626289?s=20
493.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKB80hKRAIo&feature=youtu.be
494.	(20) Батыш Тянь-Шань - YouTube
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496.	https://www.undp.org/ru/kyrgyzstan/blog/landshaftnaya-svyazannost-klyuch-k-ustoychivomu-sokhraneniyu-bioraznoobraziya-v-zapadnom-tyan-shane
497.	Кыргызстан принимает активные действия по внедрению концепции лесов высокой природоохранной ценности United Nations Development Programme (undp.org)
498.	https://www.facebook.com/kyrgyzafllu/posts/690851033084733?ref=embed_post
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500.	https://www.facebook.com/100070019892371/posts/pfbid033BrYTVrBeFGtdUr8MmTGLtmGP3BiooJgP9t5JLphF37Ee4UL7dgVHCcwDHXzRmAvI/
501.	https://www.facebook.com/eliza.akzholtoeva.1/posts/2254802314709603?ref=embed_post
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506.	https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=566883318918348&set=a.504702338469780&type=3&ref=embed_post
507.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xUIHH1XwHDs
508.	https://www.facebook.com/100005395688036/videos/891329549333725/
509.	https://forest.gov.kg/ru/testirovanie-po-razrabotke-programmnyx-biudzetov-lesxozov
3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.	
	Jashyl muras EN.mp4
	LVPC EN.mp4

G. Stakeholder Engagement

(A) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.

(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.

Stakeholder Engagement Progress

Throughout the reporting period the project team has actively engaged with various stakeholders, as initially identified in the Project Document. The diversity of the stakeholders –including government agencies, target PAs and leskhozoes, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and research institutions – has facilitated a multifaceted approach to achieving the project goals.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic (MNRETS KR) (former State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic) have played a significant role in steering the project in accordance with national conservation and sustainable development goals. Their contribution has been instrumental in aligning our project activities with existing regulations and ensuring our outcomes align with national priorities. Particularly, the Department of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation of the MNRETS KR has played a key role in guiding the Project in applying the methodological tools for conservation management planning to the non-pilot protected areas of the country. They also helped in preparation of technical specifications for procurement of prefabricated container houses for the two SNPs, in preparation of terms of references for consultancy services for estimating snow leopard population in the Western Tian Shan and facilitating the process of developing of the management plans of SNP Kanachu and SNP Alatai.

The "EcoJaratman Toktogul: Creative Solutions for Ecotourism Development" festival, held on September 21, 2023, was a notable event in stakeholder engagement, bringing together over 200 participants from diverse sectors. The event was designed to explore the development of Toktogul Rayon through the lens of ecotourism and a creative cluster. The diverse group of participants included tour operators, representatives from the Tourism Development Fund, local government bodies, the Alatai State Nature Park, leskhozoes (forestries), conservation organizations, businesses, local museums, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and women's creative groups. The festival served as a dynamic platform for discussions focused on enhancing the tourist potential of Toktogul Rayon and fostering partnerships between governmental agencies, local self-governance bodies, and tour operators. The joint discussion platform delineated strategies for cooperation and integrative approaches. It highlighted the need for combining efforts of local communities, governmental initiatives, and strategic partnerships to develop effective and coordinated ecotourism development plans. These plans were designed to address the unique challenges and leverage the opportunities in Toktogul Rayon, demonstrating the critical role of inclusive stakeholder engagement in regional development.

The National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic (NAS KR) has been actively involved in lending their expertise to develop evidence-based strategies for conservation efforts and resource use in the project areas. This year the project is strengthening its cooperation with the NAS, namely the project works with an expert team from the Institute of Biology of NAS KR to conduct expedition to Chatkal and Kanachuu mountains in order to explore biodiversity and migration paths for further identification of ecological corridors or buffer and "quiet" zones in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts of Jalal-Abad region.

Partnership with international and national NGOs such as GSLEP, WWF, SLT, NABU, Ilbirs, the Association of Forest and Land Users and CAMP Alatau have contributed substantially to promoting sustainable land and forest management practices, snow leopard conservation efforts and building capacity of the project's local stakeholders. In addition, the project also cooperates with the Public Foundation Rural Development Fund by attending its discussions and consultations with local communities in Chychkan gorge of Toktogul district.

Local communities have been involved by the Project through pasture management committees, district administrations, local self-government bodies, local jamaats and CSOs. They have been crucial in ensuring that the project approach is context-appropriate and responsive to local needs. The community engagement has also promoted local buy-in by means of regular communications, understanding their needs, concerns, and perspectives, and involving them in decision-making processes. One of the outcomes of the project's engagement efforts include the establishment of dialogue platforms with local communities and newly elected Public Councils for Kan-Achuu and Alatai State Nature Parks. These platforms and councils have facilitated effective communication, inclusive decision-making, and have fostered trust among local communities and park staff.

Active engagement of local community groups--who are implementing conservation-focused livelihood projects--fosters their empowerment, contributes to sustainable livelihoods, local buy-in, improves local capacities for biodiversity conservation. Many of these projects place a strong emphasis on women empowerment. By involving women in the design, management and execution of projects, the project's stakeholder engagement activities do more than just improve their economic status - they ensure that women have a significant voice in local decision-making processes concerning conservation and resource use. Furthermore, the inclusion of youth in these initiatives equips them with invaluable skills and opens opportunities, fostering the growth of future conservation leaders.

Challenges observed in this reporting period:

In recent years, substantial administrative reforms have significantly impacted the status and functional duties of the project's key national partner, now known as the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision (MNRETS). Previously, it functioned as the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), then as the State Committee on Ecology and Climate and finally was transformed into the Ministry. Concurrently, the forestry sector was detached from the SAEPF and brought under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic (MOA KR), undergoing a transformation from being designated as the State Forest Agency to later becoming the Forest Service within the MOA KR. With the initiation of nationwide legal reforms in 2021 and following political and administrative changes, the project faced significant challenges in maintaining smooth and constant communication and contacts with key government stakeholders. These reforms altered the composition of the Project Board (or Steering Committee) and the Protected Areas management staff, while the institutional evolution of the Ministry brought about changes in its mandate, priorities, and operating procedures. To tackle challenges arising from the abovementioned changes affecting the national stakeholders, the project team adjusted communication approaches, tailored on information sharing, held frequent meetings with MNRETS and Forest Service representatives, and ensured their participation in decision-making processes (such as developing terms of references and specifications, discussion of project activities) effectively restoring collaboration with the national stakeholders.

H. 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.