

2022 Project Implementation Report (PIR)



Snow Leopards in Tian Shan

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A. Basic Data

Project Information				
UNDP PIMS ID	5411			
GEF ID	6958			
Title	Conservation of globally important biodiversity and association land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain ecosystems and support to sustainable livelihoods.			
Country(ies)	Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyzstan			
UNDP-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	5th PIR			
GEF Fiscal Year	FY22			
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 SAEPF 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 Togustorous districts.

Project Contacts	
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Ms. Monica Liana Moldovan (monica.moldovan@undp.org)
UNDP-NCE Programme Associate	Ms. Gulsah Isik (gulsah.isik@undp.org)
Project Manager/Coordinator	Umut Zholdoshova (umut.zholdoshova@undp.org)

UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Mr. Daniyar IBRAGIMOV (daniyar.ibragimov@undp.org)
UNDP Country Office Deputy Resident Representative	Ms. Monica Rijal (monica.rijal@undp.org)
UNDP Regional Bureau Desk Officer	Ms. Ozlem Altug (ozlem.altug@undp.org)
GEF Operational Focal Point	Ms. Dinara Kutmanova (scec.kg@gmail.com)
Project Implementing Partner	Mr. Almaz Musaev (musaev@fauna.kg)
Other Partners	Mr. Chyngyz Kochorov (chyngyz@globalsnowleopard.org)

B. Overall ratings

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	low

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.

Desc		

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 2021	Cumulative progress since project start
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	applicable)	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) is a halling a large of the sign of	Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) data in 2020 following numbers of fauna in Jalal-Abad province are recorded: - Snow leopard (Panthera uncia): 33; - Ibex (Capra sibirica): 5897; - Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 95; - Tian Shan white clawed bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus): 234 As Department for biodiversity	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 EoFtarget); - Ibex (Capra sibirica): 6725 (138% of EoFtarget); - Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos): 110 (275% of EoFtarget); - Tian Shan white-clawed bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus): 297 (116% of EoFtarget)

	isabellinus): 197; <4%			annual deviations are a natural process associated with processes in nature such as death by age and illness, attacks by other predators (wolves and bears) and migration to other territories. In January 2021, Supervisory Board meeting at SAEPF was conducted with participation of partners, specializing on Snow Leopard conservation. As a result, project partners divided territories of Kyrgyzstan to conduct snow leopard population estimation, with WTS project covering Zhalal Abad region. The project worked on adoption of PAWS method by SAEPF and by the end the project team expects new, more substantiated data on the number of both snow leopards and other indicator animals.	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. 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
significant flora in Toktogul	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:	(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:	Despite the fact that the 2nd National Forest Inventory has been completed, to date, the State Institution "Kyrgyzlesoohotstroystvo" has not processed all the field data yet. We hope to receive processed summary data on forest categories in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts by the	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

schrenkiana)	Ha - Category 1:	Ha - Category 1: 2,225.1	next PIR period, if the project	will be ready by the end of 2022.
	2,025.1 (47%)	Ha – Category 2: 1,956.3	extension which is planned to be submitted gets approved.	
1,72 Ha –	Ha – Category 2: 1,728.3 (40%) Ha – Category 3: 528.4 (12%)	Ha – Category 3: 100.4 Ha – Category 4: 0	There for Status of globally significant flora remain at the 2019 level as reported in the previous PIR:	Hence, the status of globally significant flora stays at the 2019 level as reported in the previous PIR already exceeding anticipated EoP targets:
	Ha – Category 4: 0 (0%)	- Juniper (Juniperus sp.) – Total = 7,171.8 ha:	- Semenov's fir (Abies Semenovii) – 4,930.5 Ha	- Semenov's fir (Abies semenovii) - 4,930.5 Ha (115% of EoP target)
	- Juniper	Ha - Category 1: 1289.1	- Juniper (Juniperus sp.) - 9,204.6 Ha	- Juniper (Juniperus sp.) - 9,204.6 Ha (128% of EoP target)
	(Juniperus sp.) – Total = 6,847.3 ha:	Ha – Category 2: 4,701.7	- Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) – 4,322.2 Ha	- Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) - 4,322.2 Ha. (103% of EoP target)
	Ha - Category 1: 694.4 (10%)	Ha – Category 3: 1,181.0 Ha – Category 4: 0		(100% of Eor larger)
	Ha – Category 2: 4,254.9 (62%) Ha – Category 3: 1,898 (28%)	- Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) – Total = 4,202.6 ha:		
	Ha – Category 4: 0	Ha - Category 1: 1,745.7		
	(0%)	Ha – Category 2: 2,456.9		
	Delietenmes	Ha – Category 3: 0		
	- Relict spruce (Picea schrenkiana) – Total = 2,125.5 ha:	Ha – Category 4: 0		
	Ha - Category 1: 850.6 (40%)			
	Ha – Category 2: 1,048.8 (49%)			
	Ha – Category 3:			

	226.1 (11%) Ha – Category 4: 0				
Area of degraded pastureland in four target	(0%) 65,361 ha (estimated based on relevant	(not set or not applicable)	0 ha (decrease of 65,361 ha)	Round tables were held to conduct joint activities aimed at	On track.
A/As in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts - Cholpon-Ata - Kyzyl-Ozgorush - Kok-Irim - Atai				preserving biodiversity, sustainable management and use of pastures in the pilot regions. Together with the directorates of the SNPs, local administrations and pasture committees a regulation has been developed called	With the aim of introducing and implementing the Sustainable Land Management approach 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)
				committees on biodiversity conservation through improved pasture management". For effective implementation of the plan and for resolving general issues of interaction, a Regulation on interaction between the SNPs and the pasture committees was	conducted; - a geo-botanical survey of pastures conducted; - pasture areas identified; - pasture maps developed; - a database of pasture users created.
				The main tasks of the IWG are to develop joint plans for the	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.

implementation, preparing in the implementation of activities. In total 35 people took part in the round tables, of women.

According to undertaken studies, there is around project proposals, and assisting 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:

which 26 were men and 9 were Report_Livestock_grazing_impact_to_biodiversity)

the development of a joint pasture management plan with representatives of the SNP, local self-government bodies, deputies of the local kenesh, pasture committees and pasture users. To develop plans for the management and use of pastures, cartographic materials were prepared, the internal boundaries of pastures were determined, and calculations of the capacity of pastures were carried out for each site and season. In total, four plans for the management and use of pastures have been developed. The plans were agreed upon and approved by the Directorate of the SNP and the Chairman of the pasture

To decrease the degradation of pastures and to Two day seminars were held on 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-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.

The developed plans cover about 166 thousand hectares of pastures, of which 30 thousand hectares are pasture lands of

committee.

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

				hectares belong to the four pilot aiyl aimaks (villages). According to the plans, more than 200 pasture users graze livestock on these pastures. However, it is still impossible to say specifically about the achievement of this indicator. The developed plan should contribute to the restoration of pastures. This should be confirmed by the assessment of the condition of the pastures, which is carried out within the framework of the contract with NGO CAMP Alatoo and the independent expert of the project N. Kilyazova. The first assessment results will be ready by November 2021.	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 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
					the haymaking plots. (Act of acceptance_sainfoin seeds_2019-2021).
Landscape area under directly improved conservation management	Area of Jalal-Abad province for which improved biodiversity, forest, and land management measures will be	applicable)	improved biodiversity,		On track 472,635 ha area of Jalal-Abad region is influenced by the project:
	directly influenced by project results:		by project results: - 472,635 ha (SFM in 34,382 ha of forest (the	l	SFM in 34,382 ha of forest: the forested area under management by Toktogul and Toguz-Toro

- 0 ha			Ö	leskhozes:
	_		on 8,923 hectares, as well as	
		•	new plantings on an area of about 470 hectares. The project	
		, .	lana fullu usast tlan mand of matumal	- During this reporting period, 528 hectares of
			and a manufaction of the large and all the small	forest (468.8 ha + 59.2 ha in 2021) were planted reaching the set objectives for reforestation, which
	·		4.000 has also so the amount of	was determined as 500 hectares.
	pasture	elands (65,361 ha	5,000 ha.	was determined as 500 flectares.
		h is degraded		
		elands). In addition,		- Support for natural reforestation was provided on
		(0 - 000	Developed Integrated pasture	an area of 9,451 hectares, as well as new
			management plans are based	plantings on an area of about 530 ha. The project
			af a a at one a sa al fa a a a t la sa al	fully met the target for natural reforestation,
	districts		·	adding another 4,000 hectares over and above
				the required 5,000 hectares.
			In 2020, a number of trainings	
			and workshops were organized	- SLM: pasture management plans were
			for the staff of the protected	developed covering about 166,000 hectares of
			areas of the Western Tian	pastures, of which 136,000 hectares belong to
			O	four pilot villages (pls refer to Indicator 3 above for
			Conservation, Management of Protected Areas, Basics of	details).
			Hunting, Monitoring and	
			Research Work in Protected	
			Areas, Sustainable	The project just recently started activities on the
			Management and USE of FA	development of Management Plans for the SNP Aalatay and SNP Kanachuu, as well as the
			Nesources. Training on	introduction of HCVF approaches into the
			monitoring and research in PAs	management plans of Toktogul and Toguz-Torouz
			was conducted at Sary-Chelek PA. Also, exchange visits were	leskhozes, to be finalized by the end of Project.
			organized to get acquainted	
			with the successful practice of	
			managing protected areas in	Evidence of improved conservation efforts in the
			,	target PAs and leskhozes includes the presence
			-133,	of snow leopards and their prey species in the
				SNP Kanachuu and SNP Alatai as confirmed by camera traps. SNP staff regularly reports an
				Carriera traps. Sive stail regularly reports an

The first ichthyological studies showed that endemic species of osman and marinka, as well as the stably introduced peled Amurdarya trout, live in the reservoir of Lake Kara-Suu. Ichthyology experts recommended carrying out year-round monitoring in the areas identified as a result of the study.

Border Service "Alatay" regularly conducts antipoaching raids throughout the lake using a motorboat. provided by the project.

increase in encounters with wild animals in the protected area, while local villagers complained about cases of attack by bears on 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 Alatay and Kara-Suu lakes of the Alatay 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 The hunting service of the State Peled, Amudarya Trout and Gegarkuni Trout, inhabit lakes Alatay and Kara-Suu. It should be noted that a new species of Gegharkuni 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 .

The project also plans to launch an exercise to

					identify buffer zones adjacent to the SNP Alatay 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.
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.)	According to the project document, the improved management plan was supposed to introduce new concepts for Kyrgyzstan. Concepts such as HCVF with special management and use regimes had to be introduced into management plans. Also, buffer zones for forest enterprises, and migration corridors for wildlife between PAs had to be defined. These zones should also have special regimes of use, agreed by land and forest users. To implement the above-mentioned concepts, relevant regulations must be developed. The project is late with the facilitation of this process due to the restructurization of SAEPF and Covid pandemic, so we were not able to start developing management plans yet. We expect to adopt the regulations by the end of the year, after which we will begin the process of developing plans for improved conservation	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). 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

				management. However, we have some indirect indicators showing positive changes in biodiversity conservation. The project supported the initiative to study the habitat of the gray Varane lizard. Based on the results of visual observation and the installation of camera traps in the Aksy region / Avletim and Uch-Korgon ayil okmotu / and Nooken region / Dostuk ayil okmotu /, new habitats of grey vanane were established. These territories also contained rare animals listed in the Red Book, such as Pallas's cat. In order to preserve biodiversity in these territories, it is advisable to organize a zoological reserve.	
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	(not set or not applicable)	Toktogul District communities of Cholpon- Ata and Kyzyl-Ozgorush - 8,979 women - 9,328 men	Although grant proposals have been obtained and approved, Covid-19 pandemic postponed full implementation of the grant component for a while. Local restrictions to conduct any kinds of meetings restricted project travels to the pilot areas,	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 - 0 women - 0 men Baseline: 2015	Toguz-Toro District communities of Kok-Irim and Atai - 2,723 women - 2,909 men	approved project proposals, to support local business, which promotes eco-friendly business. In this regard, the project purchased equipment at a total amount of 35 864 USD for wool processing (1), small juice processing workshop (1), organization of seasonal yurt guesthouse, sewing workshops (2), bakery.	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
Baseline: 2015			In 2021, the First Round of the Low-value Grant
		processing workshop (1), organization of seasonal yurt guesthouse, sewing workshops (2), bakery.	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
		resumed its works on microgrants component and is working in accordance with guidelines approved by UNDP Country Office for the full launch of the program.	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 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
		planned to be conducted in August and the results will be reflected in the next reporting period.	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.
		in the pilot area is animal husbandry, and the vast majority of households keep livestock. Livestock farming is	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",

	food. Accordingly, sustainable pasture management is key to the economic well-being of the local population. Sustainably Managed Pastures - Sustainable Economic Income.	4. Karasuu Public Foundation - Project
		"Ecotourism Management in Cholpon-Ata Agrarian Agency and SNP Alatay", with the
	- 2,972 men 75 people were directly	budget of 14,967 USD; Direct beneficiaries – 25 people, including 14 women and 11 men, Indirect beneficiaries - 12,153 people, including 5,642
	involved in the development of pasture management plans, of which 21 were women.	women.
	In addition, to ensure the	5. Ketmen Tobo PF - Project on Development of Mountain Beekeeping in Kyzyl-Ozgorushy AA, with the budget of 14,844 USD. Direct

implementation of the developed plans, grants were allocated for the pasture committees within the framework of the project. Within the framework of these grants, the following infrastructure measures were implemented:

Construction of a bridge at Chon-Kechuu area (Total budget: about 3700 USD).

The construction of the bridge provided access to summer pastures, which will be reflected 7. PF. CAMP-Alatoo – Project "Organization of 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 1327, of which 352 are women.

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 to both animals and humans, as well as reduce the transmission of diseases to wild animals. The total number of direct and

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.
- 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:

Construction of a bridge at Chon-Kechuu area (Total budget: about 3,700 USD).

The construction of the bridge provided access to indirect beneficiaries is 1378, of summer pastures, which will be reflected in the

			which 1073 are women. 3. Construction of watering points (Total budget: about 9000 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.	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 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:	On track			
Evidence uploaded:	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 2021	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	pandemic, the assessment of METT in the protected areas of the Western Tian Shan was not able to complete. But given the support of the project in equipping with field communication means / walkietalkies, binoculars, video recorders, photo traps and gpsnavigators / and the results of the trainings on biodiversity conservation and PA management, it is expected that the METT will be assessed closer to the planned estimates. Also, the project conducted series of trainings on capacity building of PA employees during 2020, which was implemented by PF Camp Ala Too and according to the	In 2021, the project conducted a METT assessment in the Western Tien Shan protected areas, which resulted in the following scores: - Alatay State Nature Park (new) – 63 (126% EoP),
				preliminary assessment conducted by the project specialist, the METT score will reach/exceed the indicator.	- 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 Wester 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_Alatay_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_Alatai_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Dashman_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Dashman_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Kan-Achuu_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Padyshata_2021.pdf; METT_Report_Saimalu-Tash_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,	indicator has not changed. The developed Law on amendments and additions to the Forest	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.

still uncertainty about the composition of the Cabinet of Nevertheless, a few achievements can be Ministers of the Kyrgyz reported: Republic. Today, within the cabinet of ministers, issues of biodiversity and forestry are The Project facilitated the development of the divided between two bodies: Ministry of Agriculture and HCVF Concept. The National Project Partner--the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic--Water Resources and the established an Interagency Working Group (No Committee for Ecology and 40-n dated 22.02.2022) to coordinate and consult Climate under the Cabinet of on the implementation and piloting of the HCVF Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. concept. The regulations on the departments have just been The Project has developed a Methodology and adopted, and the project plans step-by-step guidelines for the identification and to launch the following works in determination of High Conservation Value Forests the second half of 2021: (HCVF) and Key Biodiversity Areas with 1. To approve the HCVF appropriate zoning and protection measures which has been approved by the Order of the Concept by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic (No. relevant division 177 dated May 31, 2022,). 2. Development and adoption of a resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz (Annex: Republic on HCVF. HCVF identification methodology RUS.pdf; 3. Development of a Order of the Ministry of Agriculture KR On HCVF methodology for determination Methodology.pdf) of HCVF. The likelihood of accepting the concept before the end of the project is 70%. The project is in process of discussion of this issue with national partners,

				which express readiness to work in this direction. The project is preparing ToR for local expert to facilitate adoption 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 Implementatio n 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"	in the second half of 2021. The first documents are expected to be adopted by the end of 2021. The developed regulations will serve as the basis for the development of management plans for protected areas and forestry, which is planned for early 2022.	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 leskhozes. 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.
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	km covered per day by	(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	covering 5-6 thousand hectares and about 50-60 km are covered by rangers, team (3-4 people). We can consider that the minimum coverage required	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

(game) reserve (65,551)	activities)	management and objectives is	and PAs.
territories in Toktogul and	253711100)	achievable for rangers and	
Toguz-Toro districts, out of		protected area managers.	There are three groups of non-staff rangers,
the 315,090 ha total SNP,		·	consisting of 20 people at SNP Alatay and SNP
leskhoz, and game reserve)			Kan-Achuu. However, there are only nine people
Joseph James Good Toy		2020 provided by the pilot	fully engaged at the moment.
		protected areas and 2 forestry	
		enterprises, within the	
		framework of nature	The Project facilitated the preparation of the
		conservation and biodiversity	patrolling plans in coordination with Toktogul
		monitoring activities, huntsmen	leskhoz, Jalal-Abad oblast department of
		and foresters covered:	Ecotechnical Inspection, district state
			administrations, and other stakeholders
		Total 2,923,134 ha; on average	, administrations, and other standifficiers.
		each patrol covered up to 2500	The project has provided to Protected areas of the
		hectares, in total for 2020 1128	Western Tian-Shan as well as to the Toktogul and
		raids, on 251,175 hectares of	Toguz-Toro leskhozes with necessary field
		the pilot territory.	equipment: video-registries, binoculars, tents,
		Connector building training	sleeping bags, fire prevention bags, radio (walk-ie
		Capacity building training	- talkies), GPS navigators. Besides, the Project
		workshops were held:	purchased and handed over to the non-staff
		environmental protection	ranger groups a field equipment (binoculars, radio
		activities, anti-poaching	(talkie), GPS), and uniforms.
		activities, technical safety and	(tainto), or o), and annothio.
		first aid, basic information on	
		the use of camera traps, fire	
		safety in 2018 and 2019. In	PA rangers together with the groups of non-staff
		2020, a number of training	rangers carry out regular patrolling and monitoring
		seminars were organized for	of the project sites. In 2021 there were 1,153 raids
		the rangers of the protected	conducted covering an area of 3, 979,410 ha in
		areas of the Western Tian	SNP Alatai, SNP Kan Achuu, Toktogul leskhoz,
		Shan: Basics of biodiversity	and Toguz-Toro leskhoz - 8290 hectares
		conservation, management of	patrolled per week.
		protected areas, the basics of	
		hunting, monitoring and	
		research work in protected	In SNP Ala–ay - 98 raids were conducted jointly
		areas, sustainable	with non-staff rangers, covering 341,320 ha,
		management and use of PA	approximately 7110 ha patrolled per week
		resources.	approximatory / 110 ha patrolled per week

The community patrols supported by the project demonstrated good results.

Two (2) groups (one in each PA) of volunteer rangers (4 groups in total) of 20 local residents were created in Toktogul and Toguz-Toros districts. Voluntary teams of rangers have joined the conservation efforts of two protected areas. To increase the effectiveness of their antipoaching activities, they, like the rangers, were equipped with uniforms and the necessary technical equipment.

Among the freelance rangers, there were originally two female rangers from Toguz Toro and Toktogul regions who participated in all ranger activities and are very active in raising awareness and environmental education of the communities. Currently, one of the female rangers has been involved to the Kan-Achuu PA as a research assistant.

Volunteer inspectors participate in patrolling along with rangers, performing security and biotechnical activities.

Volunteer inspectors provide support to the PA staff, participate in the accounting of

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 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

wild animals and, together with Shumkar-Too. the rangers, carry out biotechnical and fire-fighting activities. Furthermore, representatives of non-staff rangers attended a capacity-building workshop on Inspector volunteers from 2 protected area management, conducted jointly pilot PAs regularly participate in with the Department of the Biodiversity all capacity building training Conservation and Protected Areas Department. workshops. Information on these capacity building was posted The volunteer inspectors were on the official UNDP website and social media provided with sleeping bags, platforms. tents, binoculars for their efficiency. Besides these, to encourage conservation activities, the Project supported competition for For the first time, video the best wildlife ranger in SPP Alatay and SPP recorders and GPS were Kan-Achuu. purchased for anti-poaching patrols under the project. The Project intends to work on strengthening the According to the rangers, the capacity of rangers and enhancing local use of these devices has community involvement in biodiversity increased their safety in the conservation through joint patrolling. fight against poachers and their detention, when poachers see DVRs, they behave differently. (Annex: FinalNarrativeReport Capacity In 2020, 121 raids were carried |Building_Activity 1) out in the Alatay and Kan Achuu PAs by volunteer inspectors of the Alatay and Kan Achuu PAs on the territory of 714 thousand hectares. In 2021 one violation case during raid was registered for the amount of 29,260 KGS, which had to be reimbursed to the Alatay PA. The case is under review. In Kan Achuu PA issued one violation case and

This indicator currently remains On track.

unchanged due to the

reorganization of the SAEPF

structure. However, there are

certain agreements with the

11. Area of sustainably

and Toguz-Toro districts

(broken down by HCVF in

PAs, HCVF in leskhoz, and

managed forest in Toktogul 40,839 ha of HCVF

Total 0 ha out of

Toktogul HCVF:

(not set or not >40,000 ha

applicable)

As reported above, the work on identifying HCVF

in the territory of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro

all other forest)	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);				districts has just started and it is expected to be completed by March 2023.
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)	In the Toktogul forestry enterprise, forest cultures were planted on an area of 120.6	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.
				project, forest cultures were	The project provided fencing materials and transportation services to deliver construction materials.
				pandemic and restricted access	Below is a breakdown by target leskhozes: In Toktogul leskhoz, forest crops were planted on 152.6 ha with a mean survival rate of 74.7%.

				remained same - 8,923 ha.	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)
13. Lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided	0 tons CO2 equivalent	*	2,979,548 tons CO2 equivalent	Lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided remains as in 2020. As it was reported in 2020 the project estimated avoided lifetime indirect GHG emissions of 979,548 tons CO2 equivalent for reforested areas of 9,217 ha by the Project.	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.
				However, during the reporting period about 170 ha of new forest area has been planted. Also, we assume that developed pasture management plans will improve the condition of pastures. The data on the biomass of pasture vegetation, which we expect to	

				receive soon will allow us to recalculate the amounts of CO2 avoided. We expect significant increase of this indicator.	
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	applicable)	e-Pasture Management System implemented by 4 PMCs in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts	electronic pasture committee based on an analysis of the functioning automated E-pasture system previously developed by UNDP. For the analysis, surveys were conducted in focus groups of pasture committees on the use of E-pasture system. For the survey, questionnaires were prepared, which were analyzed using the SWOT analysis method. To assess the functioning of the E-pasture system, a survey was conducted aiming 11 pasture committees in Naryn, Osh and Batken regions where E-pasture systems were installed. 2. The analysis of the conducted studies showed that in the pilot territories, E-pasture systems were installed in the period from 2014 to 2016. In the first years after the installation of the E-pasture, the pasture committees actively used this system, they entered	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 aiyl 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 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

automated E-pasture system.
The main reasons for not using this system have been identified:

- lack of software and technical support of IT specialists;
- no transfer of material assets to the pasture committees, previous management and pasture committee members did not transfer installation discs and step-by-step instructions for the program
- loss of the access key to the program;
- in almost all ayil aimaks computers are used by local administration specialists.
- 3. Having analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the installed E-pasture in 11 ayil aimaks, the CAMP Alatoo PF has developed a prototype of a new E-pasture that meets modern requirements. The state body represented by the Pasture Department should / must take responsibility as a supervisory authority. Therefore, several meetings were held with the director of the Pasture Department Mr. Kerimaliev, and the specialists

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 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.

has developed a prototype of a new E-pasture that meets modern requirements. The state body represented by the Pasture Department should / must take responsibility as a 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)

of the department. The main
ideas were presented and the
prototype itself, how it will
function, who is responsible,
and the role of the pasture
department. The Pasture
Department represented by the
director Mr. Kerimaliev fully
supported this prototype. On
the basis of the developed
prototype, a technical
assignment for platform
developers was prepared and a
tender was announced on the
basis of which a contract was
issued. Currently, NGO CAMP
Alatoo is working on the
development of an automated
E-pasture, at the moment the
following types of work have
been completed:
- Developed a module for
adding and editing pasture
committees with their operators;
- Reference books have
been developed and included,
including list of all settlements
in Kyrgyzstan with the ability to
edit;
Cuit,
Prepared a
preliminary version of the
administrative panel for
administrators

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	The developed integrated pasture management plans cover about 166 thousand hectares of land, which is based on pasture carrying capacity approach and can be considered as SLM practices. However, the project is late with relevant amendments and additions to Kyrgyz regulations, where the HCVF concept have to be introduced, which will be bases for forest management plan development. Project is planning to achieve it by 2022.	 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 leskhozes is not completed yet. 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
					Based on that the Project will facilitate the preparation of MPs for target PAs.

					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.
16. Hectares of pastureland under SLM in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts		(not set or not applicable)	147,268 ha	The developed plans for integrated pasture management cover about 166 thousand hectares of pastures, including 30 thousand hectares of pasture land of two PAs.	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.
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	- Women: 11,702 - Men: 12,237 - Total: 23,939	(not set or not applicable)	 Women: <11,702 Men: <12,237 Total: <23,939 Index: <100% of 	The below numbers represent the population in the target districts that will be engaged in relevant project activities and after the consultations with the local communities it was concluded that all their	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:

of total population increases or decreases)	- Index = 100%	total population	livelihoods are affected by land degradation in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts.	Women: 12,564
		Toktogul District	Toktogul District, residents of	Men: 14,178
	Toktogul District	Cholpon-Ata Village	Ozgorush villages total –	Total: 26,432
	Cholpon-Ata Village	- 3,562 women		Index: 100% of population
	- 3,562 women	- 3,802 men	- 9,879 women	
	- 3,802 men		- 10,287 men	Toktogul District: 20,595 total
		Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village	Toguz-Toro District, residents	Cholpon-Ata Village – 8,442, out of them
	Kyzyl-Ozgorush	- 5,417 women	of Kok-Irim and Atai villages, total – 5,836	- 3,992 women
	Village	- 5,526 men	- 2,864 women	- 4,450 men
	- 5,417 women - 5,526 men			Kyzyl-Ozgorush Village – 12153, out of them:
		Toguz-Toro District		- 5,642 women
		Kok-Irim Village		- 6,511 men
	Toguz-Toro District	- 1,703 women		
	Kok-Irim Village	- 1,782 men		Toguz-Toro District: 6,153 total
	- 1,703 women			Kok-Irim Village – 3,783, out of them:
	- 1,782 men	Atai village		- 1,797 women
		- 1,020 women		- 1,986 men
	Atai Village - 1,020 women	- 1,127 men		
				Atai Village – 2,370, out of them
	- 1,127 men			- 1,133 women
				- 1,231 men
				.,251

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	As noted above, the alternative livelihood program is still pending. The first results of the alternative livelihood program are expected by the end of 2021.	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.
					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 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 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.

The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track	,			
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 3					
Strengthened national cap	acities for snow leopa	rd conservation	on, promoting Kyrgyz reg	ional and global cooperation, a	and setting the scene for up-scaling
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2021	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 confiscated in Issyk-Kul - Zero seizures assisted by specially trained dogs	(not set or not applicable)	Annual number of seizures: - Snow leopard: <baseline (at="" -="" <baseline="" arrests="" assisted="" by="" dogs)="" illegal="" least="" leopard="" number="" of="" one="" other="" prey:="" seizure="" snow="" specially="" trained="" wildlife:="">baseline - >50% of arrests result in prosecutions</baseline>	Construction of an open-air cage (for 4 dogs) for the canine service at the Manas International airport is submitted with the Project's support. During this reporting period there were no reports of illegal trade of snow leopard and snow leopard prey. However, there was one case of illegal importation of 10 predatory birds of Peregrine Falcon and Gyrfalcon into the territory of Kyrgyzstan through Manas International Airport. Also, on November 22, 2020, at Manas International Airport, the Department of Internal Affairs	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 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.

- 4 arrests	officers detained foreigners	
related to wildlife	attempting to illegally carry five	
trafficking	Falcons.	- In 2022 there was 1 attempt of illegal
		transportation of snow leopard derivatives across
- <50% of		the border.
prosecutions resulting		
from wildlife trafficking		
arrests		- 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.
		100.000
		(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 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	Kyrgyzstan and	(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 regarding illegal wildlife trade - Illegal hunting by border guards - Data sharing on snow leopard monitoring	been no progress on the signing of the memorandum from the Kyrgyz side. A draft Memorandum of Cooperation on the conservation of the snow leopard is being coordinated with the government of Kyrgyzstan. Political instability, as mentioned above, is also one of the brakes in progress on this issue. In 2020, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic initiated the UN General Assembly resolution "Nature knows no boundaries: transboundary cooperation is a key factor in	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 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.

	provided technical and expert support (both international and domestic) to the development of this draft resolution	(Annex: MoU CA_Transboundary Cooperation)
	This year, the UN General Assembly unanimously supported the initiative of	
	Kyrgyzstan to conserve biodiversity at the global level. The resolution initiated by the country is one of the few specialized UN documents	
	covering the issues of transboundary interaction between UN member states in the field of ecology. The	
	adoption of the resolution on a unanimous basis and becoming one of the co-sponsors of the new resolution of 60 states of	
	the world is a confirmation of the support of the Kyrgyz Republic by the international community in promoting the	
	issues of combating climate change, preserving biodiversity and sustainable development. The resolution is aimed at strengthening transboundary	
	cooperation on biodiversity conservation with the rational use of natural resources based on the principles of sustainable	
	development and the implementation of the 2030	

				Agenda. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 April 2021. Transboundary cooperation is a key factor for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use. It emphasizes the importance of conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems for the achie vement of all the Sustainable Development Goals	
data in Kyrgyzstan as indicated by estimated accuracy and timeliness of	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%)	applicable)	confidence level (the average confidence level among other snow leopard range states in GSLEP population estimate)	which trainings are planned. Regular meetings are	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

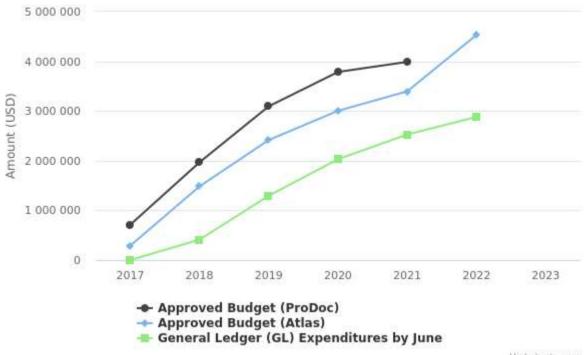
	progress of E-PNA system implementation. The project supported development and adaptation of the PAWS methodology for the Kyrgyz Republic. The methodology has been presented to SAEPF for comments and feedbacks. However, there is no clear answer, mostly due-to structura changes that happened in the Kyrgyz Government. We expect that methodology to be accepted soon.	
		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 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 (bookentry 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)
The progress of the objective/outcome can be	n track	

described as:	
Evidence uploaded:	YES

D. Implementation Progress

Cumulative Disbursements



Highcharts.com

Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	72.23%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	72.23%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June:	2,880,903

Key Financing Amounts

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

Key Project Dates

Project duration	60 months
PIF Approval Date	Jun 4, 2015
CEO Endorsement Date	Dec 27, 2016
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Mar 17, 2017

Date of Inception Workshop	Dec 7, 2017
First Disbursement Date	Jun 6, 2017
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Oct 15, 2019
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Dec 6, 2019
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Mar 31, 2023
Original Planned Closing Date	Mar 16, 2022
Revised Planned Closing Date	Jun 30, 2023

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2021 to 1 July 2022)

Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.

The Project has been extended until the end of June 2023.

To date, about 40% of the project activities have not yet been commenced, while other 30% are either in progress or require refinement. The following crucial outputs are remained to be launched and delivered: the development of management plans for the two PAs; PAs financial sustainability through designing and introducing ecotourism development mechanisms; the incorporation of HCVF approaches into the management plans of the pilot leskhozes; the identification of buffer zones and their management regimes; the clarification of zakazniks' status.

These delays were caused by the followings:

- COVID-19-related restrictions affected the timely launch of most of the activities, particularly launching the Low-Value Grant program, which had a snowball effect on the implementation of other project activities.
- There have been delays in the realization of most of the project activities because of the government's reorganization. Thus, in May 2021, the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was transformed into the State Committee on Ecology and Climate of the Kyrgyz Republic, then in December 2021 into the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic. At the same time, the forestry sector was moved apart to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic. These caused delays in the implementation of HCVF activities, the estimation of snow leopard population, etc.

This factor also led to the need to re-establish the Project Board and thus no PB meetings were held during the reporting period. The Project Board has recently been established by the Order of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technological Surveillance of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In addition, there have been frequent changes of key officials that the project has been working with. Just one example, a director of the SNP Kanachuu was changed three times within one year.

Another reason is also the change of project manager - the project manager has changed three times during the project implementation.

At the moment the project team reviewed all outstanding project products and prepared an updated project work plan using an adaptive management approach. As a new project coordinator, I believe that with the UNDP management support all planned activities will be completed in a timely fashion and of high quality.

However, there are still many challenges and difficulties in front of the Project, such as increasing prices for construction materials and works, seasonal nature of planned local level works (such as plantations) long and rather complicated procurement procedures, unstable economic situation, a new wave of COVID-19, etc.

CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance

And with the account of no cost extension granted until June 2022, I believe that with proper planning and coordination with the government, we should be able to complete the remaining project's activities in a timely and quality based manner. Specific measures include;

- 1. Constant coordination with the government to make sure that the project responds to government's priorities as outlined in the project document;
- 2. Regular support from the CO in terms of procurement handling and finance disbursement;
- 3. Strengthening of the project team with a project assistant and thematic/topic-based IC's, to implement project's individual components;
- 4. Undertake regular field visits and monitoring Missions;
- 5. Regular conduct of the Project Board to report on the progress and introduce corrections as necessary.

NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.

During the reporting period there have been no major delays towards key project milestones. However, due to the impact of the political changes as well as the on-going COVID-19 pandemic related limitations, the project has been granted a no-cost extension until June 30, 2022. The Project Manager has developed a detailed step-by-step plan for the remaining implementation period that will hopefully allow to complete all outstanding activities by project closure.

The RTA recommends the following:

- Continue monitoring the implementation progress and adaptively manage risks in close consultation with the UNDP CO and the RTA, especially with regard to the risk of securing political support for the high end results. The project should seek to promote continuous advocacy involving the UNDP senior management and high level governmental decision makers.
- Capitalize in much as possible on the Project Board members' involvement for securing political support towards the high end project results; hold on-line or in-person project Board meeting

(if conditions allow) that could be focused specifically on the achievement of high end results, political support for official approvals/institutionalization of project results, pledged co-financing and preparatory exit strategy points. Then, follow the meeting's conclusions/next step closely with the PB members.

- Revise and update the SESP considering the feasibility of re-classification of the risks that are rated Low, as recommended by the RTA in the last year's PIR; harmonize SESP and ATLAS Risk Register; include the mitigation measures in the AWP.
- Develop a detailed procurement plan with a monthly/weekly break down of activities (linked to AWP and project indicators), closely monitor contracts and timeline of submission of deliverables. Keep track on the expenditures and budget use and ensure that as activities roll out so does the budget delivery.
- Ensure that the project's supported pastures and forest management plans include SMART indicators in order to keep track on the results and the GEB; Work closely with the partners (e.g. Pasture Committees; forestry units) to monitor progress measured by these indicators. The TE will verify/confirm the claimed results.
- Start planning for the upcoming Terminal Evaluation (to be completed by March 31, 2023) well in advance.
- Start the preparation of the project's exit strategy and enlist the support of the Project Board members in its development and implementation, with a view of ensuring sustainability of the project results.

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E. Project Governance

Dates of Project Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.

(not set or not applicable)

F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2022 Development Objective Progress Rating	2022 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Role	2022 Overall Assessment
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	This is the fifth and final PIR for this project aiming at conservation of globally important biodiversity and associated land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain ecosystems. To achieve its objective, the Project is structured around three outcomes: (1) Conservation and sustainable management of Key Biodiversity Areas within the landscape; (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; and (3) Strengthened national capacities for snow leopard conservation, promoting Kyrgyz regional and global cooperation, and setting the scene for up-scaling.
	The project was initially designed as a five-year project. However, following the approval of the project extension request in October 2021, the project duration has been extended by 15 months. The revised expected operational closing date is now 30 June 2023.
	The project is in its concluding phase of implementation. The Project Manager has assessed that the cumulative progress at the objective level and for each of the three Outcomes is on track while acknowledging that the Project is currently facing significant challenges with about 40% of the planned project activities not yet started.
	Last year, both RTA and UNDP CO granted the project the Moderately Unsatisfactory rating for DO progress. This year, the UNDP Country Office has rated progress towards the DO as 'Satisfactory' stating that with proper planning and coordination with the government counterparts, the Project should be able to complete pending activities in the remaining time. This is somewhat optimistic in this RTA's view considering the country had yet another political upheaval in this reporting period, in October 2021, which triggered a complete overhaul of the government, another wave of major structural changes within the government, and further delays of already outstanding project activities from the previous reporting period. Importantly, the project will have a Terminal Evaluation in February-March 2023, meaning the project technically has only 7 months to go before the TE. As evidenced by the reported progress in the 2022 PIR, the project considerably improved its performance and succeeded in catching up on many outstanding activities from last year despite persisting challenges which were beyond the project's control. Considering the reported progress by June 30, 2022, RTA assesses that the end of project targets (EoP for several indicators will likely not be fully achieved by the closure date. Given this, RTA considers the Moderately Satisfactory rating be justified.

Progress towards the development objective: Moderately Satisfactory

Progress towards achieving the project objective is monitored and measured through six indicators. Four indicators are reported as having already exceeded their EoP targets, and two remain on track for achievement by EoP. Overall progress towards the development objective is therefore assessed as Satisfactory.

Key highlights under objective level include:

- According to the 2021 inventory data of key wildlife species an increase in the numbers is observed across all four globally significant species in Jalal-Abad province, reaching and exceeding EoP targets for Ibex, Golden eagle and Tian Shan white-clawed bear. The reported data shows a positive population trend for Snow leopard, the numbers increased from 33 to 44 in this reporting period, which is 89% of EoP target. The project plans to conduct by project end a joint inventory using the PASK Methodology that provides a more accurate estimate of snow leopards.
- Indicator 2 on the status of globally significant flora in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts was already reached in 2019 exceeding envisaged EoP targets for the three listed species: Semenov's fir, Juniper and Relict spruce.
- As for Indicator 3 on decreased area of degraded pastures in the four pilot aiyls in target districts, the project reports that pastures management plans were developed for 136,000 hectares, of which 24,000 hectares were identified as degraded. To support implementation of developed pastures plans, the project provided a small investment support for infrastructural improvements (construction of a bridge to ensure access to better pastures and repair of watering points) and piloted sustainable pasture restoration approaches at 13 ha for replication in all four aiyls. Overall, the project is on track for this indicator as the project has set an important base for long-term pasture improvement. However, a decrease of 65,361 ha of degraded pastures (EoP target) will most likely be registered post project given the implementation of pastures plans just started.
- On the landscape area under directly improved conservation management (Indicator 4), the project reports that 472,635 ha (100% of EoP) area of Jalal-Abad region is now influenced by the project including: (a) SFM in 34,382 ha of the forested area under management by Toktogul and Toguz-Toro leskhozes through (i) management plans; (ii) support for natural reforestation provided on an area of 9,451 hectares (189% of EoP), as well as new plantings on an area of about 530 ha (106% of EoP), (b) SLM in 166,000 hectares covering pastures and forestlands (113%) of EoP; and (c) sustainable PA management covering 286,099 ha: 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 leskhozes, to be finalized by project end. It is strongly recommended that the project will work closely with the Pasture Committees and monitor the degree of

the implementation of pastures management plans and assess the results/impact by making sure that these plans include SMART indicators in order to determine the progress towards the achievement of the GEB. The

same principle applies to the forest management plans.

- EoPs for indicators 5 and 6 have been achieved this reporting period by (1) bringing 944,317 ha of landscape under indirect conservation management and (2) delivering indirect benefits to the local population in the two target rayons through development of pasture management plans and small grant support to assist with implementation of the plans. Among other accomplishments and good progress, the inclusion of biodiversity conservation issues in Development Plans of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts, which were approved by respective authorities, is considered a major project achievement that will contribute to the sustainability of the project results.

Regarding Outcome 1 on conservation and sustainable management of key biodiversity areas within the Snow Leopard landscape, the METT scores for the four target PAs (Indicator 7) already exceeded envisaged EoPs while the METT assessment for the Sary-Chelek SNR came very close to its EoP target (60 vs 65). This improvement in METT scores occurred as part of the project's efforts in enhancing the capacity of target PAs as well as in providing additional material, technical, and field equipment. The project will have a final METT assessment in 2023 and expects further improvement in METT scores of target PAs. Project progress towards attainment of Indicators 8 and 9 on HCVF are interlinked and delayed due to another round of restructuring within the government. HCVF related amendments to the new Forestry Code are pending and await approval. Yet, the project produced key elements for a sustainable HCVF management framework in the country: HCVF Concept developed and Interagency WG established that will oversee piloting the HCVF concept; a methodology and step-by-step guidelines for the identification and determination of HCVF and Key Biodiversity Areas with appropriate zoning and protection measures developed and approved. PM has developed a step-bystep plan on how to proceed in the remaining time to ensure attainment of HCVF related indicators, but he also acknowledges the risks related to unstable economic situation in the country and a new COVID wave, which are outside the project's direct control and could affect end project results. EoP target for Indicator 10 on average number of hectares covered per week by anti-poaching patrols has been achieved and exceeded the originally envisaged level 8 times reaching 8,290 hectares patrolled per week in 2021. Overall, progress under this Outcome is assessed as Moderately Satisfactory (MS) considering that two of the four indicators depend on the approval of HCVF related amendments.

Outcome 2 aims at enhanced ecosystem resilience and habitat connectivity in Western Tian Shan. It is a complex outcome containing eight indicators and progress towards this outcome is closely linked to implementation of Outcome 1. The project reports the achievement of four out of eight Outcome level indicators. The project is progressing--though not without hurdles--towards the envisaged end target of 40,000 ha of HCVF officially recognized and sustainably managed areas after the adoption of proposed amendments to the Forest Code (Indicator 11)- pending due to recent government restructuring and thus delayed review and approval of proposed amendments. The progress towards this Indicator is directly

based on the improvement in Indicators 8 and 9 related to HCVF, which have not yet been achieved. While waiting on the parliament's approval, the project went ahead with piloting the approved HCVF concept in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro forestries. HCVF identification activities in target forestries are expected to be completed by project end. The project exceeded by far its targets on reforestation/afforestation and support to natural regeneration (Indicator 12) on

9,451 hectares (193% of EoP) and 8,923 hectares (198% of EoP) respectively. Lifetime indirect GHG emissions avoided (Indicator 13) remains as per 2020, i.e. of 979,548 tons CO2 equivalent for reforested areas of 9,217 ha by the Project. Before the terminal evaluation, the Project will carry out an additional calculation using the FAO Ex-ACT method, and it is expected that the GHG emissions avoided will increase. E-pasture management system (Indicator 14) as an SLM mechanism that supports implementation of the approved Pasture Law was developed and is being used by pasture users in the four pilot aiyls of the two target districts (EoP achieved 100%). Cumulatively, the target of 186,536 ha of alpine grassland and forest ecosystems under improved conservation management (Indicator 15) has been achieved and exceeded (100.2% of EoP). In term of categories, only the HCVF related target is still below the anticipated level (35% of EoP), but the other two (natural reforestation and alpine pasturelands/grasslands) have been achieved and exceeded their respective EoP levels. Similarly, the target of 147,268 ha of pasturelands under SLM in the two target districts (Indicator 16) have been achieved and exceeded with the development of pasture management plans covering 166,00 ha. The work is ongoing to engage in the relevant project activities the population whose livelihoods are affected by land degradation (Indicator 17). The PMU estimates that it will eventually involve 26,432 (12,564 women and 14,178 men) residents from two target districts, the Toktogul District and the Toguz-Toro District. Unfortunately, progress towards improving the herders and farmers income by 10%, based on benefits from the microfinance or grant program (Indicator 18), cannot be assessed at this stage. The low-value grants program is ongoing, and its impact hasn't been assessed yet. The assessment results will be available by project end though the percentage increase in farmer/herder income will most likely be not available given that the baselines have not been established in the Result Framework. A mixed progress has been observed under this Outcome. The likelihood of achieving the envisaged end progress for Indicator 11 is of a particular concern. This RTA has some reservations on whether the HCVF related indicator amendments will be approved by project end and 40,000 ha of HCVF areas will be officially recognized and covered by SFM. Considering that the Outcome will most likely be achieved with major shortcomings (with respect to HCVF areas under sustainable management) an overall Moderately Satisfactory (MS) rating is granted for this reporting period.

Under Outcome 3 on strengthened national capacities for snow leopard conservation, overall good progress is observed. This reporting period five cases of snow leopard poaching have been registered and four cases prosecuted (Indicator 19). The project continued to improve capacities of key government counterparts on identifying and detecting illegal wildlife trafficking by developing a training manual on CITES and conducting a training on methods of identifying CITES flora and fauna species. 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. By signing a MOU between the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the conservation of the snow leopard, its forage base and habitat in the Western Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai the project successfully achieved the EoP target for Indicator 20. Annual estimates with a 60% confidence level of snow leopard monitoring data (Indicator 21) are not available yet but will be reported by project end. In the previous reporting periods, the project developed the PAWS methodology for the Kyrgyz Republic, namely the Population Assessment of the Snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan (PASK), which will create a more accurate estimate of the global snow leopard

population. While PASK's approval is pending, the project proceeded with capacity building trainings for target PA staff on the use of PASK methodology and the purchase of camera traps. Also, the project developed E-PA (electronic PA) application for target PAs as a unified and effective tool for protected areas management in Kyrgyzstan and conducted trainings on how to use E-PA for employees of the territorial departments MNRETC, protected areas and hunting entities. In summary, out of 3 indicators for this Outcome, one is fully achieved and two seems to be on track though the registered progress for Indicator 21 has some downfalls (pending approval of PASK methodology). Overall progress is considered on track and assessed as Satisfactory (S).

This project carries a UNDP gender marker GEN-2, meaning it is a gender-targeted project expected to contribute to gender equality significantly. The attention that the project pays to gender mainstreaming continues to be impressive. The Results Framework contains gender-disaggregated indicators, and the project monitors and collects the disaggregated information by gender. Specific gender related activities in the 2021/22 workplan included (i) the support for 7 projects initiated by women's associations in the field of clothing production, ecotourism development and the opening of a bakery; (ii) engagement of women in the decision-making process through Public Councils of the Alatai and Kan-Achuu State Nature Parks (new parks created with the project's support); (iii) mainstreaming gender perspectives in the communication and outreach products (photos, videos and publications) targeting general audience and contributing to a behavior change and reconsideration of their views on the role of women in the field of biodiversity conservation

The project team continues to perform well in terms of communication and knowledge, as well as stakeholder engagement. To date, the Project has produced excellent information products to raise awareness of stakeholders and emphasize the Project's visibility. The Project has released numerous communication products through channels, including YouTube videos, newsletters, magazines, social media, websites, TV channels, books, and brochures. In addition, the Project set up Facebook pages for both new SNPs: Alatai and Kan-Achuu. Similarly, the project has been successful on generating, documenting and distributing its lessons learned and best practices via study tours, video tutorials, knowledge exchange workshops, trainings and roundtables, video- and photo- stories. The project should continue the KM activities and sharpen focus on consolidating lessons learned to inform future programming.

During this reporting period, the project published and distributed among relevant stakeholders a CITES Species Identification Guide, a bilingual compendium of regulatory and legal acts on violations of environmental legislation aimed at raising awareness among the general public, and a book on the biodiversity of the Western Tian Shan targeting experts/specialist in environmental protection, nature management, environmental education, ecotourism and a general public.

Implementation progress (IP): Moderately Satisfactory

The project is implemented by a good technical team of professionals bringing

together a broad range of skills and knowledge in protected areas, forestry and pasture management, biodiversity conservation, local livelihood, and capacity development areas. The Project has undergone some staffing changes, and a new, highly dedicated and technically competent project manager has been appointed since early 2021.

The project is implemented with good participative approaches and good partnerships with key stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan. In the face of the political challenges and follow-up restructuring in the government, the project has been very proactive and effective, capitalizing on any feasible opportunity to renew cooperation with the Ministry for Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Oversight of the Kyrgyz Republic, a successor of the Committee on Environment and Climate under the Cabinet of Ministers and the State Agency on Environment and Forestry, and secure approval of the E-PNA platform, which was pending since the past reporting period. The project is also benefiting greatly from a positive relationship dynamic with the Department of Pastures, regardless of its changing subordination, who is interested in dissemination of the project results, including the Electronic Pasture Committee Platform. The participative and collaborative approach used by the project team is conducive for this good engagement and will certainly be contributing to the sustainability of project achievements over the long term.

The project held one on-line Project Board meeting in this reporting period, in October 2021 to approve the project's no-cost extension request for 15 months in line with the MTR recommendation and one in August 2022 (although outside the current reporting period). It is strongly recommended that the project team capitalizes more on the PB members' support especially for the achievement of higher end project results, pledged co-financing and involvement in the development/implementation of the exit strategy and project's sustainability of results.

The Project has an overall PIR risk rating of 'Low', which remains unchanged since the last reporting period. There are currently no "high" risks tracked in the Atlas Risk Register. Two "substantial", one "moderate", and six "low" risks are monitored and tracked. In the past reporting period, new risks related to the political changes in the country and the related structural changes were included in the Risk Register. The PMU and the UNDP CO monitor, manage, and update the risk through the UNDP's Atlas Risk Register, with some shortcomings. The ATLAS Risk Register should be updated quarterly or as needed. During the former reporting period, the RTA strongly recommended to review and possibly re-assess the SESP and risk significance for some risks in the UNDP Risk register. The overall SESP rating remains 'moderate' with five risks outlined. Similarly, the formal SESP review was recommended by RTA upon approval of project extension, but the PIU and CO did not pursue this recommendation.

The risks linked to the COVID-19 pandemic remain active and are an ongoing threat that requires careful monitoring and adaptive management.

The project has no risks in the PIMS+ dashboard given the project has no major delays in achieving its key milestones. The project will have a terminal evaluation in February-March 2023 with the final TE report and relevant Management responses to be finalized by end of March 2023. The project team

is strongly advised to initiate the recruitment process as soon as possible due to existing challenges with availability of international/national consultants and in view of potential COVID-related restrictions.

Project delivery stands at approx. 72%, with US\$ 2,880,903 disbursed (out of a total GEF grant of US\$ 3,988,575) since the project start until 30 June 2022. In the last PIR, disbursement stood at around 63%, with about US\$ 2.5 million utilized, meaning that approx. US\$ 355,000 were disbursed from July 1,2021 to June 30, 2022, which is low, and indicative of the ongoing challenges faced by the project as noted in the DO section. The project currently has a remaining budget of approx. 1.1 million that needs to be utilized until June 30, 2023. The Project Manager and UNDP CO noted in their respective overall assessments that a detailed workplan has been developed for the remaining time. In addition, RTA strongly advises to develop a detailed procurement plan with a monthly/weekly break down of activities and monitor contracts (both for goods and services) and timelines of deliverables.

In summary, the overall IP rating is rated as Moderately Satisfactory (MS) on the following grounds. While the current cumulative delivery is on track, the annual delivery rate remains low. The project needs to substantially improve its financial delivery pace to disburse remaining 28% of the GEF funding (approx. 1.1 million). Also, reported mobilized co-financing is about 50% of the cofinancing amounts committed at CEO endorsement the project team should continuously involve the UNDP CO and senior management's support in order to organize round table meetings with high level decision makers and remind the key project partners of their financial commitment, in order to ensure full disbursement and recording of the pledged co-financing. Finally, the project continues to operate in a highly volatile economic and political environment that may hamper project's implementation in the final year of implementation and thus prevent from attaining its envisaged results. In this regard the project is advised to involve the Project Board members and UNDP senior management in regular high-level meetings, discussing the progress towards the high-end results and towards the project objective, flagging the risks and advocating for political support/official approvals and institutionalization of the project's results.

The RTA recommendations for the remaining implementation period:

- Continue monitoring the implementation progress and adaptively manage risks in close consultation with the UNDP CO and the RTA.
- Capitalize in much as possible on the Project Board members' involvement for securing political support towards the high end project results; hold on-line or in-person project Board meeting (if conditions allow) that could be focused specifically on the achievement of high end results, political support for official approvals/institutionalization of project results, pledged co-financing.
- Devise a detailed procurement plan with a monthly/weekly break down of activities (linked to AWP and project indicators), closely monitor contracts and timeline of submission of deliverables. Keep track on the expenditures and budget use and ensure that as activities roll out so does the budget delivery.
- Ensure that the project's supported pastures and forest management plans include SMART indicators in order to keep track on the results and the GEB; Work closely with the partners (e.g. Pasture Committees; forestry units) to monitor progress measured by these indicators. The TE will verify/confirm the

results.

- Start planning for the upcoming Terminal Evaluation (to be completed by March 31, 2023) well in advance.
- Start the preparation of the project's exit strategy and enlist the support of the Project Board members in its development and implementation, with a view of ensuring sustainability of the project results.

UNDP Country Office Programme Officer

The project objective is "to promote a landscape approach to protection of internationally important biodiversity, and land and forest resources in the Western Tian Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan". This is being achieved through the delivery of three expected outcomes: Conservation and sustainable management of Key Biodiversity Areas within landscape (1); 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 (2); Strengthened national capacities for snow leopard conservation, promoting Kyrgyz regional and global cooperation, and setting the scene for up-scaling (3).

This is a project supported by UNDP, the GEF, and the Government of Kyrgyzstan. It is funded by a grant from the GEF of USD 3,988,575 and a total co-financing of USD 24,5129,183; including a cash contribution from UNDP (TRAC) of USD 100,000, parallel funding of 5,427,383 from UNDP, a contribution from the government of USD 18,064,800 (national government and local governments of Toktogul and Toguz-Toro), and USD 927,000 from other bilateral Partners and NGOs. The total financing of the project is USD 28,507,758. The project started in January 2017 and its duration is 5 years to be completed by December 2021. It is implemented under the "Direct Implementation Modality (DIM)". The implementing partner is the recently reorganized Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technological Surveillance of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Key Results thus far;

- The project has introduced the Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (METT) methodology and a guide to conduct METT assessment, which was officialized by the Ministry Order.
- The project procured critical equipment to Rangers to better monitor and surveil fauna and flora in the two new State National Parks (SNP) as well as equipment to facilitate their fieldwork, including riding horses and camping equipment.
- The project has been introducing the High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) concept in the forestry sector and a methodology to apply this concept to forests in Kyrgyzstan should be approved in 2021 and has supported forest planting on some 500 ha.
- The project has supported the revision/improvement of the existing electronic pasture management system as well as the use of this revised System by herders/farmers.
- First round of low value grants ("green" grants") has been awarded to NGO via a competitive process (for an amount of 109K), and the second round of low value grants has been announced in August f 2022, that will support local NGO's in mainstreaming "green grants in the project's pilot areas for

another 100,000 USD.

- UNDP has supported of procuring an open-air cage for 4 dogs for the service to improve the control of illegal wildlife trade at the airport.
- UNDP has been supporting national stakeholders, including the GSLEP Secretariat, to participate in consultation meetings with Central Asian countries for the development of a Memorandum of Cooperation on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard and its habitat.
- UNDP supports the development of a Snow Leopard Monitoring database and a monitoring methodology to monitor the Snow Leopard population, including the procurement of 50 camera traps.

A series of information products were developed and used by the project in various fora to raise awareness about wildlife conservation, particularly Snow Leopard conservation.

Challenges;

The project has been no cost extended (beyond its anticipated official closure date of March 2022) for a period of 15 months until 30 June 2023 to meet the project goals and accomplish remaining key tasks. The CO has also confirmed that the Project Management Costs will not exceed the originally approved PMC costs in the project budget

As also noted in the Project Manager's assessment, the project implementation has been delayed because of two main reasons:

- 1. The Covid-19 Pandemic, which has placed physical movement restrictions to the project pilot areas causing cancellation of trainings and other project's events in 2021-middle of 2022;
- 2. And political instability in October 2021, that , which resulted in the change of the President and switch from a Parliamentary to Presidential system; this, in turn, triggered complete overhaul of the government, with the project's main partner (within a span of less than a year, the former State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry has become a state committee for environment and climate change of the Kyrgyz Republic, and has then been turned into a Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technological Surveillance of the Kyrgyz Republic.)

As a result of such political change, the State Agency's functions had been split between the two state institutions – the aforementioned Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technological Surveillance of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Regions' Development. Consequently, new appointments of the relevant heads of respective departments has not been an easy and instant process, which in turn delayed approval of some of the project's key products and, additional time was needed to engage into talks with regard to project's further plans.

As mentioned in one of the previous sections of the PIR, and with the account of no cost extension granted until June 2022, I believe that with proper planning and coordination with the government, we should be able to complete the remaining project's activities in a timely and quality based manner. Specific measures include;

1. Constant coordination with the government to make sure that the

project responds to government's priorities as outlined in the project document;

- Regular support from the CO in terms of procurement handling and finance disbursement:
- 3. Strengthening of the project team with a project assistant and thematic/topic-based IC's, to implement project's individual components;
- 4. Undertake regular field visits and monitoring Missions;
- 5. Regular conduct of the Project Board to report on the progress and introduce corrections as necessary.

Project Manager/Coordinator

The main objective of the Project "to promote a landscape approach to the protection of internationally important biodiversity, and land and forest resources in the Western Tian Shan mountains in Kyrgyzstan" is under progress.

As indicated in previous sections, the Project had achievements as well as faced challenges and delays. The main results are the followings:

- Increased capacity of protected areas in the Western Tian-Shan: the Project conducted a series of training for PAs' staff, purchased and transferred necessary equipment to the PAs;
- Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (METT) methodology and a guide to conducting METT assessment were introduced. The results of the METT assessment conducted in 2021 show an increase in METT scores of the seven PAs of Western Tian-Shan (attached).
- Sustainable land and forest management approaches and biodiversity conservation issues were incorporated into the development plans of the Toguz-Toro and Toktogul districts and approved by respective authorities (evidence attached).
- Pasturelands of four target aiyl aimaks were studied by the Project (geobotanical survey, study on impacts of livestock grazing to biodiversity, pasture resources, etc.) and mapped (reports attached);
- Pasture management plans were developed for the four target pasture committees;
- e-Pasture Management System was implemented in the four target a\a;
- To decrease degraded pastures local communities were provided with grant support on improving pasture infrastructure (construction of a bridge, construction of livestock watering points, mobile fencing for veterinary services, rangeland grass seeds);
- Forest planted area reached 528 hectares (468.8 ha + 59.2 ha in 2021), while another 8,923 hectares of forest lands were supported/fenced for natural regeneration;
- To support local livelihoods, the project supported small projects, which promote eco-friendly businesses such as wool processing (1), small juice processing workshop (1), organization of seasonal yurt guesthouse (1), and sewing workshops (2), bakery (1).
- Launched the First round of the Low-Value Grant Program, following the procedures;
- Launched the work on promoting the HCVF approach;

- Capacity increased for preventing\suppressing the illegal trade of snow leopard and its prey species: developed manual and training were delivered; an enclosure for service dogs was constructed;
- Developed and transferred to the national partner an information system Electronic Protected Areas (E-PA);
- Project supported the development and adaptation of the PAWS methodology "Population Assessment of the Snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan (PASK)" PAWS methodology for the Kyrgyz Republic.

However, as indicated earlier, the Project has been experiencing delays due to the following reasons:

- COVID-19-related restrictions affected the timely launch of most of the activities, particularly launching the Low-Value Grant program, which had a snowball effect on the implementation of other project activities.
- The government's reorganization. In May 2021, the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic was transformed into the State Committee on Ecology and Climate of the Kyrgyz Republic, then in December 2021 into the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic. At the same time, the forestry sector was moved apart to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic. These led to changes of key officials within the partner entities (key officials, contact persons in the Ministry, the target PAs, and local authorities).
- Weather restrictions. One of the project sites the SNP Kan-Achu in the Toguz-Toro district is inaccessible in the winter season with heavy snow for the security reasons.

As already mentioned earlier, currently we are working on resuming and accelerating project activities and with the support of UNDP management, we plan to achieve the project targets in duly quality and on time.

However, there are still many challenges and difficulties in front of the Project, such as increasing prices for construction materials and works, inaccessibility of Toguz-Toro district in winter time, seasonal nature of planned local level works, long and rather complicated procurement procedures, unstable economic situation, a new wave of COVID-19, weather restrictions, etc.

GEF Operational Focal point	(not set or not applicable)
Project Implementing Partner	(not set or not applicable)
Other Partners	(not set or not applicable)

G. Minor Amendments

A) Results Framework
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to the 'Results framework'
(not set or not applicable)
B) Components and cost
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Components and cost'
(not set or not applicable)
C) Institutional and implementation arrangements
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Institutional and implementation arrangements'
(not set or not applicable)
D) Financial management
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Financial Management'
(not set or not applicable)
E) Implementation schedule
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Implementation schedule'
(not set or not applicable)
F) Executing Entity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity'
(not set or not applicable)
G) Executing Entity Category
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity Category'
(not set or not applicable)
H) Minor project objective change

No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'minor project objective change'
(not set or not applicable)
I) Safeguards
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Safeguards'
(not set or not applicable)
J) Risk Analysis
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Risk Analysis'
(not set or not applicable)
K) Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
No
Provide a description of the change to GEF project financing up to 5%
(not set or not applicable)
L) Co-financing
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing'
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing' (not set or not applicable)
(not set or not applicable)
(not set or not applicable) M) Location of project activity
(not set or not applicable) M) Location of project activity No
(not set or not applicable) M) Location of project activity No Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity
(not set or not applicable) M) Location of project activity No Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity (not set or not applicable)
(not set or not applicable) M) Location of project activity No Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity (not set or not applicable) Other
(not set or not applicable) M) Location of project activity No Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity (not set or not applicable) Other No Please provide a description of other types of minor amendments that do not fall under any of the above categories. For example, minor changes to the project's Gender Action Plan and/or
(not set or not applicable) M) Location of project activity No Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity (not set or not applicable) Other No Please provide a description of other types of minor amendments that do not fall under any of the above categories. For example, minor changes to the project's Gender Action Plan and/or gender activities can be captured here.

H. 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.

(not set or not applicable)

Atlas 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 is consistently implementing measures to address gender issues in the field of biodiversity conservation and empowerment of women in various areas.

- 1. As part of supporting local initiatives, women's ones to open income-generating activities, create jobs and develop the service, production and processing in rural areas, thereby contributing to conservation efforts, were considered as a priority. In total, the project supported 7 projects initiated by women's associations in the field of clothing production, ecotourism development and the opening of a bakery. Thus, within the framework of the project, 400 people have been provided with jobs to date, of which 44 are women.
- 2. The project promoted women engagement in the decision-making process of the State Nature Parks. Public Councils of Alatai and Kan-Achuu State Nature Parks are operational and meet regularly with participation of the Protected Areas staff and volunteer inspectors to review the park's implementation of conservation measures and to facilitate the eff¬ective implementation of the environmental tasks. To date, Alatai Public Council has 9 members 4 women and 5 men, while Kan-Achuu Public Council is represented by 10 members, including 4 women and 6 men.

- 3. High priority in the development of technical specifications for the production of communication and outreach products (photos, videos and publications) is given to the requirements of mainstreaming a gender perspective. The communication and outreach products are aimed mainly at general audiences and are intended primarily to contribute to people's consciousness, behavior change and reconsideration of their views on the role of women in the field of biodiversity conservation.
- 4. As part of the low-value grants component, in July 2022, awareness meetings were held with local communities in the pilot villages of the project in Toktogul and Toguz-Toro districts. During the meetings, the project staff provided information on the conditions of the competition and the procedures for submitting grant applications. Particular focus was placed on ensuring the participation of women in these meetings and encouraging their participation in the grant competition.
- 4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.

The project has been supporting the active involvement of women in all aspects of conservation efforts of the Alatai and Kan-Achuu Protected Areas, from their design to implementation and evaluation. This gender-responsive approach helps to ensure that the knowledge, preferences, ideas, and contributions of women enhance effectiveness of conservation actions, anti-poaching activities, and outreach events with local communities, thereby providing the project's environmental and resilience outcomes.

I. Risk Management

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

CO Programme Officer: Has the Atlas 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+.

The Project has an overall 'Low' PIR risk rating which remains unchanged since the last reporting period. There are currently no "high" risks tracked in the Atlas Risk Register. Two "substantial", one "moderate", and six "low" risks are monitored. In the past reporting period, new risks related to the political changes in the country and the related structural changes were included in the Risk Register. The PMU and the UNDP CO monitor, manage, and update the risk through the UNDP's Atlas Risk Register, with some shortcomings. The ATLAS Risk Register should be updated for 2022 and SESP revised. During the former reporting period, in 2021 PIR, RTA strongly recommended to review and re-assess the risk significance for some risks in the UNDP Risk register. The overall SESP rating remains 'moderate' with five risks outlined. The SESP review was recommended by RTA upon approval of project extension, however the PIU and CO didn't pursue this recommendation.

The project team manages the risks through ATLAS Risk Register and takes the steps needed to mitigate the identified risks to the extent feasible. This is especially so given the circumstances and the force majeure nature of the two critical risks currently affecting the project implementation. However, while risk mitigation measures are underway, these risks should be captured and monitored through the Risk Register. In addition, the SESP must be revised and updated as soon as possible, as the "Low" ratings do not realistically capture the potential risks and safeguards triggered.

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.

If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file below.

(not set or not applicable)

1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?

No

If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period

please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.

(not set or not applicable)

2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks become more severe and/or has the project's SESP categorization changed during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to substantial/high.

Nο

If any existing social and/or environmental risks have become more severe and/or if the project's SESP categorization has changed during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it. Note that any change to the project's SESP categorization should be confirmed by the Project Board and by the NCE PTA (and potentially cleared by the NCE safeguards team).

(not set or not applicable)

3) Have any social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared or updated, and/or has the SESP been updated in the reporting period, as required? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.

No

If yes, please upload the document(s) above using the FILE LIBRARY button. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.

(not set or not applicable)

4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?

No

If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.

(not set or not applicable)

5) Is this project on track with the preparation and/or implementation of all safeguards measures required for compliance with the UNDP SES?

No

If no, please explain:

The recommendations of the RTA during the former reporting period, related to updating the SESP in alignment with the evolving UNDP approaches on the SESP policies, have not been implemented and these need to be addressed as soon as possible. Revision of SESP and potential reclassification of the risk ratings (all rated Low) is strongly recommended.

The Country Office and the PMU are asked to ensure that the following is done by the end of this year (2022):

- 1. All existing risk mitigation measures should continue to be applied as appropriate, with the project team continuing to manage these during implementation and identify and manage any newly emerging risks in consultations with the CO and the RTA, as needed. 2. Update the Atlas Risk Register and re-assess the risk significance of some of the risks currently rated as "low", Likewise, re-assess the risk categorization and sub-categorization for some of the risks in consultation with the RTA.
- 3. Hire a SESP expert and revise the SESP through the appropriate process to ensure that the existing risk classification are realistically reflecting the realities and the UNDP SESP requirements; assess and identify any newly emerging SES risks and ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are in place before any activity that has triggered the SES standards can commence.
- 4. Once the SESP has been formally revised, update the Atlas Risk Register accordingly, paying particular attention that all SESP risks are included in the Atlas Risk Register and that their risk significance matches in both systems.
- 5. The risks linked to the COVID-19 pandemic are an ongoing threat that requires careful monitoring and adaptive management. The project team and the CO should continue to follow all official instructions from the government, UNDP, and the UN and abide by all national and UNDP-mandated health and safety measures.
- Update the Stakeholders Engagement Plan as needed.

J. 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.

The project's knowledge management approach focuses on best practices and lessons learned that are created as part of the project and can be used to improve project's products, outputs and impact.

Best practices and lessons learned have been actively disseminated via the following tools developed during the period from early 2020 to present:

- Study tours with participation of environment ministry officials, Western Tian Shan Protected Areas staff, and community beneficiaries to Protected Areas of Central Tian Shan and Naryn Provinceю During the study tours, rangers and staff of the Western Tian Shan Protected Areas (Alatai, Kan-Achuu, Sary-Chelek, Dashman, Besh-Aral, Padysha-Ata, and Saimaluu-Tash) exchanged experience and learned methods for monitoring populations of wild mountain ungulates and the snow leopard, as well as mastered methods for assessing damage from natural and anthropogenic factors and the principles of organizing community patrols for anti-poaching measures. In practice, environmentalists conducted a census of wild ungulates, determined the age and sex composition of animals, and estimated their habitat. The study of these methods is critical in conserving biodiversity, since the observation of natural processes is the main form of collecting scientific data on the territory of specially protected natural areas. Also, the participants had a chance to learn the basics of environmental legislation, measures for ensuring fire safety, and how to navigate with Google Earth and GPS-navigator during anti-poaching field trips; More information on study tours is available at the following links - https://www.undp.org/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/alatairangers-master-google-earth-and-gps and https://www.undp.org/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/sarychatertash-argali-watching
- Video tutorials for kids on the snow leopard, their role in ecosystem and significance for biodiversity;
- Peer-to-peer knowledge exchange during workshops, round tables and training sessions;
- Video- and photo-documented stories.

During the reporting period, an important task was to develop and implement mechanisms for tourism development, given that ecotourism represents an important source of income for the PAs, which can ensure financial sustainability. However, the above activities have not been initiated until now and much effort is required from the Project Team. Nevertheless, until the end of the project we will make every effort to achieve results.

The project's Communication Consultant supports knowledge sharing and dissemination through the publication of knowledge products, dissemination of knowledge content during events, stakeholder engagement through a variety of channels including social media, and regular updating of the project's webpage at UNDP Kyrgyzstan website.

The following knowledge products have been developed and published during the reporting period:

- 1. CITES Species Identification Guide developed for law enforcement, customs and border officials responsible for enforcing CITES. It provides detailed information for the identification of species protected under CITES (uploaded).
- 2. A bilingual compendium of regulatory and legal acts providing for responsibility for violations of environmental legislation, designed to carry out awareness-raising activities (uploaded).
- 3. A book on the biodiversity of the Western Tian Shan which contains information on Specially Protected Nature Areas the Sary-Chelek State Biosphere Reserve, Besh-Aral, Dashman and Padysha-Ata State Nature Reserves, Alatai, Kan-Achuu and Saimaluu-Tash State Nature Parks. The book includes appendices with the data on the region's flora and fauna. For specialists in the field of ecology, environmental protection, nature management, environmental education, eco-tourism and a wide audience (uploaded).

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.

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.

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Western Tian Shan rangers' stories

- https://undpeurasia.exposure.co/conserving-kyrgyzstansalatai?fbclid=lwAR29few6KcfHP7tvFcZ1jF3ENtTlnVVV45zvfe6cWtjo6Szc7S1tgeA-N_E
- https://twitter.com/UNDPEurasia/status/1268854268821475331
- https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/2971814579581098?__tn__=-R

4. https://www.facebook.com/UNDPEurasia/photos/a.136298873173/10157412469983174/?type=1&theater

Story about Alatai 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

- 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
- 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=IwAR2Be0uYGXLQ2UtJRJxk6YsRaTGlqEezKhPhppBPVbIDZAtvq3gkSR5yp-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

- 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/park s-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/par ks-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/par

ks-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/sovmestnyj-proekt-gaooslh-i-proon/

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https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/09/day-of-forest-workers-2020.html

Photo exhibition "Save me!" Your Nature"

389.

https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/11/photo-exhibition-of-western-tian-shan-biodiversity.html

390.

https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ky/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/11/photo-exhibition-of-western-tian-shan-biodiversity.html

391.

https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/ru/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/11/photo-exhibition-of-western-tian-shan-biodiversity.html

392. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3422097187886166

393. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3368867663209119

CITES and new enclosure for customs' service dogs

394. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3441129735982911

395. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3359127857516433

396. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3177440985685122

397. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3279488175480402

Alatai and Kan-Achuu Protected Areas

398. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3476784315750786

399. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3400919376670614

400. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3275546175874602

401. https://www.facebook.com/undpkg/posts/3168893643206523

3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.

Publication_CITES Species identifyer_RUS.pdf
Publication_Legal-acts-for_protected areas_KYR.pdf

Publication_SPNA_eng.pdf

K. 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.

The implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is in progress.

As reported in the previous PIR, there have been some challenges in cooperation with the projects' implementing partner. As a result of the adoption of the new Constitution and subsequent government overhaul/reshuffling launched by the new government, some functional uncertainties of the newly established Committee on Environment and Climate under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic emerged. The Committee succeeded the previous State Agency on environment and forestry under the government of the Kyrgyz Republic. In particular, the developed E platform was not accepted last year by the Committee given that technical issues have not been resolved at the time, and due to the new appointments of the heads of respective departments, which are key partners of the project. This delayed discussions of the e-PNA and required additional time for the new appointees to learn the needs of the e-PNA.

However, and as the Committee grew into a fully-fledged Ministry for Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Oversight of the Kyrgyz Republic, and as soon as the functions and responsible persons of the Ministry were reconfirmed, the project quickly moved to strengthen cooperation with the Ministry and finalized acceptance of the E-PNA Platform in the first half of 2022.

Having said that, one must also note a positive dynamic in cooperation with another state partner on this project. In particular, the project has a good working/business relationship with the Department of Pastures under the Ministry of Agriculture under the government of the Kyrgyz Republic; the Department has been merged with the Water Resources and other units last year as a result of the governmental reshuffling, that further added to complexities related to unclear roles and responsibilities of this state partner. Overall, the Department is strongly interested in the dissemination of the project results, including the Electronic Pasture Committee Platform that's been supported by the WTS project across the country.

The project also continues its partnership with CSO/NGOs: ARIS, CAMP Alatoo, community-based organizations working on biodiversity conservation in the two target districts are the project's partners on anti-pouching, joint patrolling and monitoring and other related activities at the community level. Also, there has been a UNV in the project's team who works as community mobilizer and has been of great help to the project in terms of project's expanded coordination and avoidance of overlap/duplication.

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L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

- (HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.
- (S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.
- (MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.
- (MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.
- (U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.
- (HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

- (HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.
- (S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.
- (MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.
- (MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.
- (U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.
- (HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.