

Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan
United Nations Development Programme



Project document
Republic of Kazakhstan

Project title: Creation of conditions for the reintroduction of the Turan tiger and assistance in the preservation of natural, historical and cultural objects of the Ulytau mountain range

Project number: 00111147

Implementing Partner: Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Responsible Partners: United Nations Development Programme; the Republican Public Association "QazaqGeography"

Start date: December 21, 2021. **End date:** December 31, 2025.

Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting Date: 23 July 2021

Brief description

The project is aimed at creating a sustainable base for the reintroduction of tigers in historical habitats, including the Ile-Balkhash State Nature Reserve, preserving the natural and historical and cultural heritage of the Ulytau mountain range and adjacent territories, and promoting tourist sites in this unique region. The project's main results will be a comprehensive improvement in the state of the river delta ecosystems. Ile and the Southern Balkhash region, strengthening the Ile-Balkhash State Nature Reserve and the Ulytau State National Natural Park being created, developing a network of protected areas and tourism in the Ulytau region, raising the level of environmental awareness of the population and informing all stakeholders, creating a basis for joint management of ecosystems on the territory project activities with benefits for biodiversity conservation and local communities.

Result (UNSDCF / CPD, RPD or GPD): Country Programme Result 2021-2025: Result 3.2: By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, especially the most vulnerable, will benefit from increased resilience to climate change, sustainable environmental and clean energy management, and sustainable rural and urban development. Target result(s) with a gender marker: GEN 2	Total resources required:	USD 4,877,180	
	Total resources allocated (2021):	USD 1,079,716	
		UNDP (parallel financing):	USD 367,103
		Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan:	USD 712,613
	Required resources (2022-2025):	USD 3,797,464	
		UNDP (parallel financing):	USD 1,102,022
	Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan:	USD 2,695,442	

Agreed (signatures):

Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan	UNDP in the Republic of Kazakhstan
Daniyar Turgambayev, Deputy Chairman of Forestry and Wildlife Committee, MEGNR	Yakup Beris, Resident Representative DocuSigned by: <i>Yakup Beris</i> 8E6A8E9378F0463...
Date:	Date: 21-Dec-2021

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFA	Administrative and financial assistant
PAR	Project annual report
SNNP	State National Natural Park
SNR	State natural reserve
PIU	Project implementation unit
FWC	Forestry and Wildlife Committee
PB	Project Board
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
PM	Project Manager
MEGNR of RK	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
NPC	National Project Coordinator
LA	Legislative acts
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PAs	Protected Areas
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CGB	Central Government Budget
RK	Republic of Kazakhstan
UNDP CO	UNDP Country Office
PTA	Project territorial application
FR	Feasibility report
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan has been paying great attention to the problems of biodiversity conservation, including within the framework of various long-term targeted programs. The current Concept for the transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a "green economy" sets the priorities for reforming the main sectors of the economy of Kazakhstan, such as energy, agriculture, waste management, water sector, in order to ensure sustainable development of the country. The concept raises the issues of conservation and effective management of forest ecosystems, fisheries and biodiversity in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. The strategy "Kazakhstan-2050" defines a new political course of the state, sets clear guidelines for building a stable and effective model of the economy based on the country's transition to a "green" path of development.

One of the key areas of biodiversity conservation is the creation and development of a network of specially protected natural areas (PAs) and the restoration of populations of endangered species. These issues were included, among others, in the last operating Sectoral Program "Zhasyl Damu" for 2010-2014, which was aimed at creating conditions for the preservation and restoration of natural ecosystems. Within its framework, it was planned to create 13 PAs, of which 5 have been created to date; the pace of development of the PAs network has slowed down. According to the amendments made to the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 30, 2013, No. 1434 "On approval of the Basic provisions of the General scheme for organizing the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan" (PP RK dated May 12, 2017, No. 256), the following target indicators have been set for the preservation and development of the PAs network of the republic: bringing the area of PAs by 2030 - up to 28.1 million hectares (10.3%), by 2050 - up to 35.6 million hectares (13.0%). It should be borne in mind that the share of lands included in PAs with the status of a legal entity (reserves, nature reserves, national parks, not counting botanical gardens) is still less than 3% of the country's territory.

The new medium-term strategic document is the Strategic Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2025, in which, within the framework of Objective 7. "Conservation of biological diversity", it is envisaged that in order to preserve endemic, rare and endangered species, unique reference sites and natural ecosystems, work will continue to increase the acres of protected areas. In the period until 2025, it is planned to create two more national parks, three natural reserves and bring the area of specially protected natural areas of Kazakhstan to 10-12% of the country's area. These goals are fully taken into account in the Concept for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030, developed within the framework of the GEF / UNDP / EWRM RK Project in 2015-2019. The same Concept and the plan of measures for its implementation provide for the restoration of endangered and extinct species in Kazakhstan, including the Przewalski horse, tiger and others. It should be noted that Kazakhstan has been actively working in this direction for a long time and has a unique world-class experience in the restoration of the kulan and Bukhara deer. Currently, on behalf of President K. Tokayev, the development of the National Project "Zhasyl Kazakstan" is underway, which also plans to include the development of the PAs network and various aspects of biodiversity conservation.

The proposed project is fully consistent with current national priorities and focuses on two areas of high conservation value - the reintroduction of the tiger and the conservation of natural, historical and cultural sites of the Ulytau mountain range, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 15 and 13.

Tiger reintroduction

At the beginning of the twentieth century, about 100 thousand tigers, belonging to 9 subspecies, lived on earth. By the third millennium, only about 3.5 thousand animals remained, while 4 subspecies became extinct. The Turan subspecies of the tiger lived on the territory of Kazakhstan, which completely disappeared from the face of the Earth in the 1970s. The catastrophic decline in the number of tigers in the world was the reason for the creation of the "Tigers Alive Initiative" (TAI) - an international program of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for the conservation of tigers, launched with the support of the World Bank. As part of this Initiative, in 2010 in St. Petersburg, the International Forum on the Conservation of the Tiger on Planet Earth was held at the level of heads of government. Within the framework of the forum, the Global Tiger Restoration Program was adopted, which provides for a doubling of the number of tigers in nature by 2022. It was at this forum that Russia and Kazakhstan announced the start of work on tiger restoration in Central Asia. The area of the possible restoration of the tiger was chosen on the

southern shore of the lake. Balkhash in the area of the delta of the river. Or to the east of it. The total area of tiger habitat is over 1 million hectares. This makes it possible to count on the possibility of creating a population of at least 100, up to a maximum of 200 tigers in the Balkhash region. Thus, the restoration of the tiger in the Balkhash region will be a significant contribution to the Global Tiger Restoration Program.

WWF Russia, which is preparing reintroduction together with Kazakhstan partners, with the participation of leading international and Kazakhstan experts, has developed a detailed long-term "Program for the reintroduction of tigers in Kazakhstan". The program was agreed at an extended meeting of the STC FWC with the participation of the leadership of the FWC and the MOA RK. For its implementation, in September 2017, a **Memorandum was signed between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, represented by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan A. Myrzakhmetov, and the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**, represented by General Director M. Lambertini. Kazakhstan has undertaken obligations to create the Ile-Balkhash nature reserve and other necessary steps, WWF - to coordinate the program and attract additional funds from international funders.

In order for reintroduction to become possible, the condition of the tugai forests must be significantly improved, the fodder base must be dramatically increased (including the reintroduction of Bukhara deer and kulan, with an annual import of up to 40-50 individuals of each species within 5 years). The tiger restoration program in the Balkhash region is designed for at least 15 years and will consist of the following main stages:

1. Turan tiger habitat preparation;
2. Reintroduction of tigers into wild;
3. Monitoring the state of the tiger population, based on the results of which a strategy of activities and further actions to restore and preserve the species will be developed.

At all stages of the program implementation, it is planned to pay special attention to the hydrological regime of the river. Or, first of all, water intake in China and Kazakhstan. The program for the restoration of the tiger in the Balkhash region creates another important argument in favour of signing an agreement between Kazakhstan and China regulating the use of water resources in the basin of the river Ili.

Long-term work plans include a significant transformation of the environment and economic activities in the region, aimed at restoring a complex of disturbing components of the coastal ecosystem. The well-being of the tiger, as a flagship species at the top of the trophic pyramid, will become an indicator of the health of the restored ecosystem and a symbol of the unprecedented conservation success of the Republic of Kazakhstan. If successful, this will be a global achievement and a demonstration of Kazakhstan's potential as a country capable of undertaking the most complex ecosystem conservation and restoration projects.

The activities envisaged by the Program are in full compliance with the Concept for the transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a green economy, adopted by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated May 30, 2013, No. 577. In particular, the proposed activities will directly contribute to the implementation of section 3.7: "Conservation and effective management of ecosystems".

The government of Kazakhstan has already taken steps to make it possible to implement the program. With the active support of the UNDP / GEF / FWC project of the Ministry of Agriculture RK "Increasing the sustainability of the system of protected areas in desert ecosystems through the promotion of biodiversity-compatible sources of livelihood in and around protected areas" in 2017, the State Natural Reserve "Ile-Balkhash" with an area of 415,164 (Figure 1) was created, 2 hectares, in 2018 - the Kapshagai-Balkhash ecological corridor with an area of 973,765 hectares. For both territories, UNDP projects developed justifications; in 2017-2018, systematic work was carried out with the deputy corps, which contributed to the accelerated protection of these areas. In 2021, the tiger is included in the List of rare and endangered species (Red Book of RK).

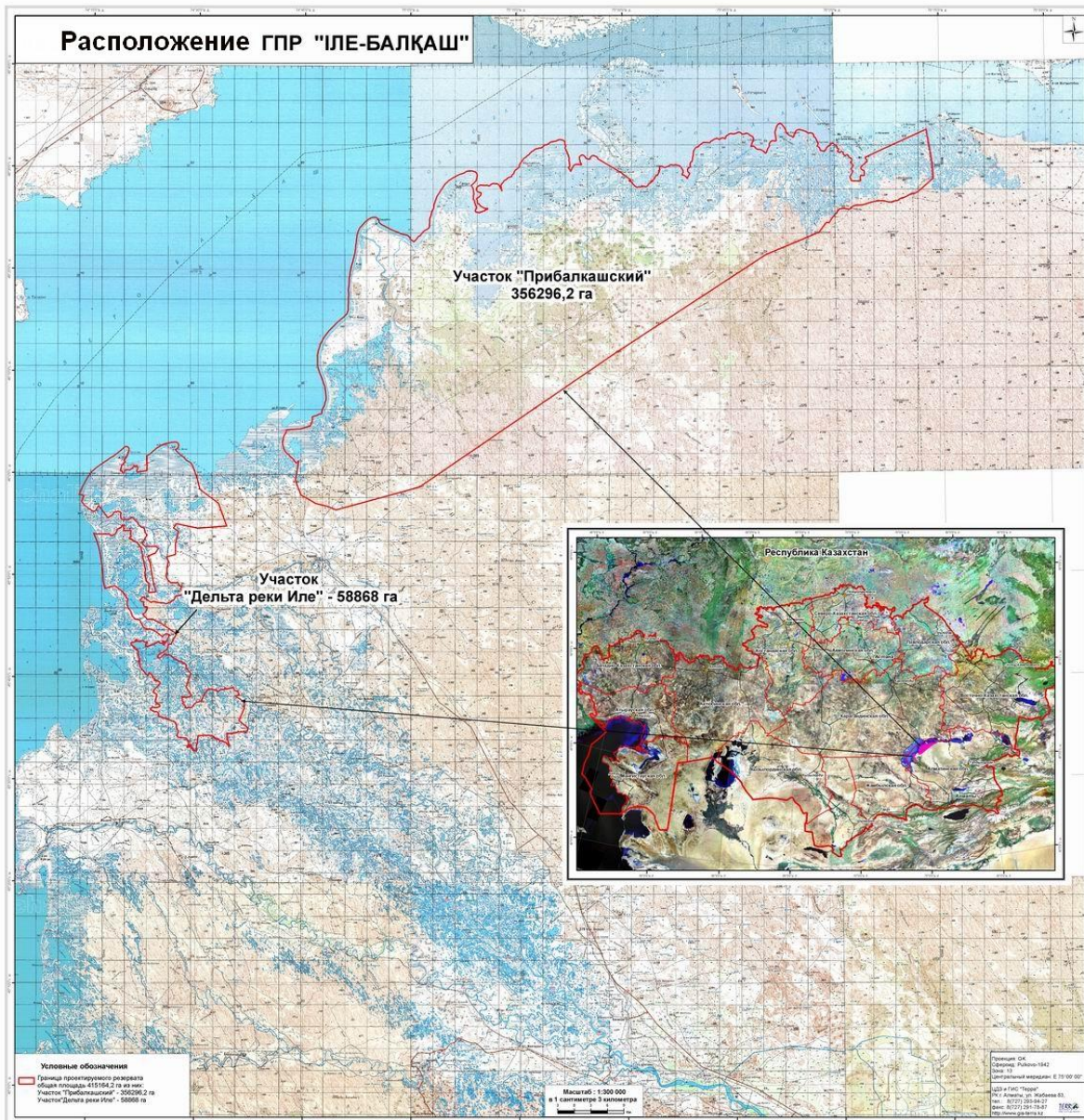


Figure 1 - **Location of the Ile-Balkash SNR.** Two sites of the SNR include part of the Ile River delta and part of the southern shore of Lake Balkhash with adjacent areas, with different habitat types.

The work on the tiger reintroduction program is actively supported by WWF Russia with the attraction of funds from international donors. WWF is directly involved in the accelerated development of the material and technical base of SNR Ile-Balkhash, construction of cordons, training of personnel, and monitoring of key species and ecosystems. The project is also supported by Kazakhstan non-governmental and state organizations: QazaqGeography, Association for the conservation of biodiversity of Kazakhstan, Institute of Zoology, Akimat of Almaty region and others. QazaqGeography played a significant role in promoting WWF's tiger program at the government level and in accelerating the inclusion of the species on the Red Data Book of RK.

At the same time, at present, the ecosystems of the Ili River delta and adjacent areas are in a significantly transformed state, the tugai forest is mainly suppressed, and its recovery is sharply slowed down, the capabilities of the created reserve are not enough for full control of the territory and restoration work for ecosystems and the population of ungulates. The local population, with very limited incomes, makes extensive use of natural resources, including illegally, which requires a lot of work to change the psychology of people by offering alternative sources of income.

The proposed project of the tied grant is designed to ensure the successful completion of the preparatory stage of the reintroduction program and to support, first, the work to strengthen the

capabilities of the Ile-Balkhash reserve, to restore the ecosystems of the Ile River delta and the food base of the tiger, and to involve the local population in environmental activities.

Ulytau

The Ulytau Mountains are unique natural, historical and cultural area of Central Kazakhstan. It is located in the geographical center of the country and is closely related to the history of the Kazakh people. The monuments that Ulytau keeps in itself date back to the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras. In total, there are about 636 monuments on the territory, 282 of which are included in the historical and cultural map of the fund of the Ulytau Museum-Reserve. They are of great cognitive and educational value. Among the monuments, one can note the mausoleums of Zhoshy-khan, Alasha-khan, the graves of the Sufis on the top of Aulie-Ata, petroglyphs, ancient settlements, unique tumulus with ridges and others, which provides a constant influx of tourists. Natural complexes are typical for this geographic zone; a number of species of animals and plants that are included in the lists of rare and endangered ones live here. Landscapes are not only unique but very picturesque and have high landscape and aesthetic values; Ulytau and Arganaty - mountain forest oases in the dry steppe zone.

The territory is suitable for the organization of various forms of recreation and tourism, the organization of environmental education on it. Currently, the flow of tourists is growing, which, on the one hand, requires its regulation in order to preserve the unique natural landscapes, on the other hand, it creates excellent opportunities for the development of the national park, receiving income from the organization of recreation, etc. Infrastructure for tourism and recreation is being developed in the village of Ulytau; the development of the tourism sector is included in the development plans for the Karaganda region and the development plans for the Ulytau region. This unique place must not only be preserved but all components of the ecosystem, including the wild ungulates that lived here, must be restored. This will be of great propaganda and educational value.

Currently, there is the Ulytau State Nature Reserve (integrated) with an area of 19,300 hectares, located on the lands of the state forest fund and protected by the forces of the State Institution "Ulytau Economy for the Protection of Forests and Wildlife", which includes only a small part of the territory subject to conservation.

The design of the State National Natural Park (SNNP) "Ulytau" began in 2011 as part of the "steppe project" of the GEF / UNDP / Government of the RK. In 2012, the RPA "Association for the conservation of biodiversity of Kazakhstan" (ACBK), based on the results of field surveys, developed a natural scientific justification (SJ) for the creation of the SNNP "Ulytau" (54459 hectares) and the adjacent Ulytau-Arganatinsky nature reserve (147960 hectares). At the same time, the maximum possible SNNP territory, which will consist of two sections, is very limited and insufficient for full-fledged protection of such species as argali, birds of prey, etc. Therefore, a nature reserve is needed that connects SNNP sites and also covers the entire southern part of the Ulytau lowlands. The reserve, created without the seizure of land, should be transferred to the management of the national park and constitute, in fact, a single whole with it. As a result, the total area of the territory protected by the national park - including its own and the reserve, excluding the protected zone - will amount to 202,419 hectares.

On the basis of the scientific justification and the state ecological expertise, the regional akim B. Abdishev made a reservation of land for the creation of a national park (54459 hectares) and a nature reserve (147,960 hectares) (Resolution 01/03 of January 6, 2014) (Figure 2).

So far, only SNNP FR has passed the examination. At the International Tourism Forum "Ulytau-2019" on August 24, 2019, President Tokayev gave a protocol instruction to the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources to ensure the opening of the Ulytau National Natural Park, make proposals to promote the Ulytau region as one of the centers of historical and cultural tourism and develop proposals for positioning Ulytau as an international ethnographic center.

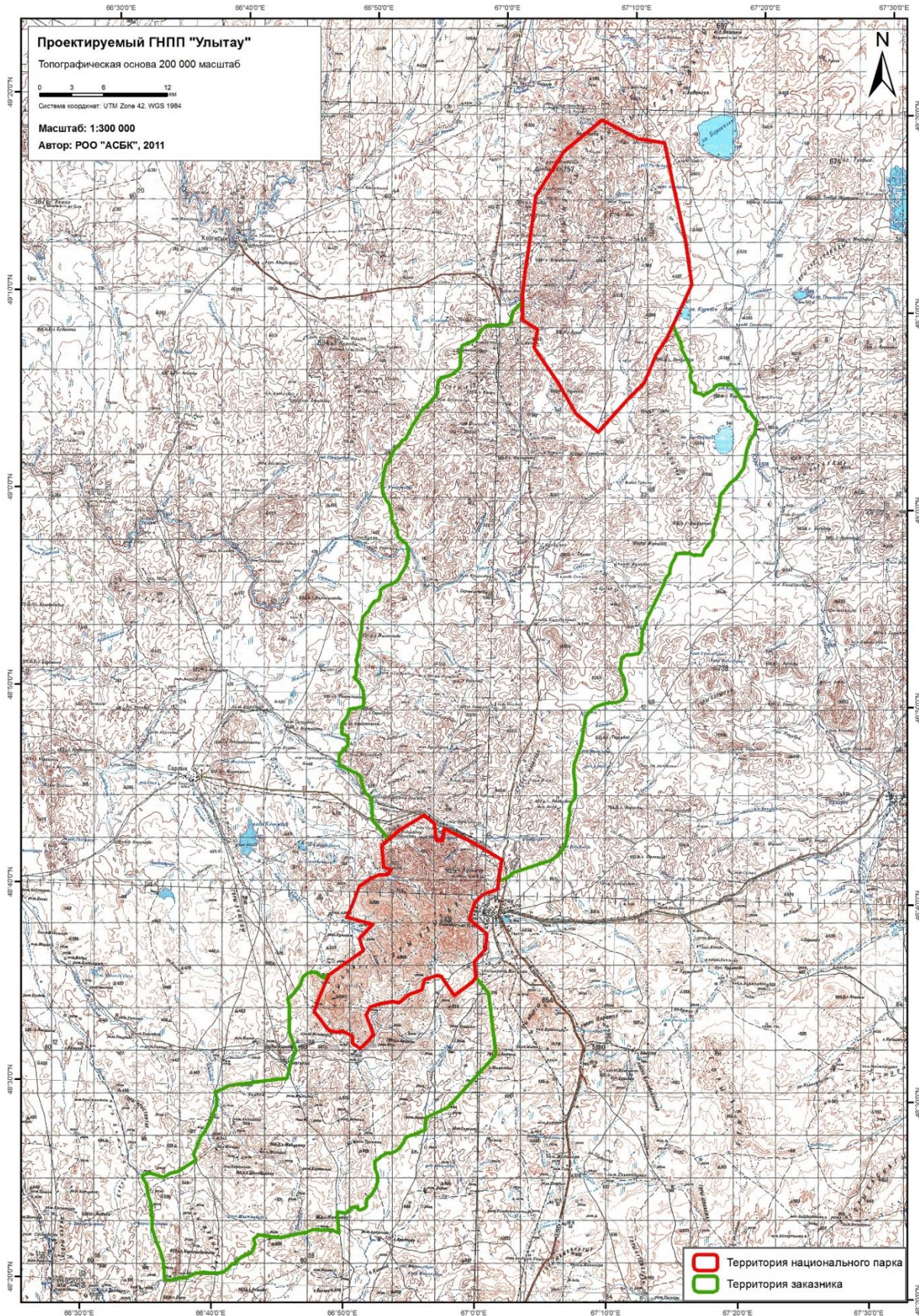


Fig. 2 - Designed SNNP Ulytau (red outlines) and Ulytau-Arganatinsky Nature Reserve (green outlines).

The Republican state budget-supported enterprise "National Historical, Cultural and Natural Museum-Reserve "Ulytau"" has 25 sites with a total area of 147,246 hectares a visit center opened in 2020 is constantly working to promote the historical and cultural heritage for both tourists and the local population.

In Ulytau, the RPA "QazaqGeography" (KNGS) has been actively working since its foundation in 2013. In 2014-2015, it conducted 2 expeditions to promote the tourism and environmental potential of the region and is now supporting the creation of the Ulytau National Park at the government level. The Society continues to work in the region, supporting the publication of guidebooks, the work of the Ulytau Museum-Reserve and intends to do so in the future.

Currently, the draft Decree on the creation of the State National Natural Park "Ulytau" is in the Government of the RK; it is planned in 2021.

As noted, project assistance will be needed to accelerate the start of SNNP activities and enhance its capabilities. For the full preservation of ecosystems and key species, it is necessary to support the early creation of the Ulytau-Arganatinsky reserve. It is very important to determine and develop the tourism potential of the region as a whole, taking into account the permissible loads on ecosystems, as well as strengthening the capabilities of the Ulytau Museum-Reserve, organizing its joint activities with SNNP, working with the local population and involving it in the tourism sector with an increase in income.

In both regions - Balkhash and Ulytau districts - there are **gender problems**, which are reflected in the lower incomes of women employed mainly in the household, in their less access to possible sources of additional income. One of the objectives of the project is to contribute to solving gender problems through the development of tourism (tertiary sector) at the PTA, with additional training of women and their involvement in alternative types of business that reduce pressures on the environment and biodiversity.

II. STRATEGY

The project "Creation of conditions for the reintroduction of the Turan tiger and assistance in the preservation of natural, historical and cultural objects of the Ulytau mountain range" is aimed at supporting work in two directions, which should demonstrate Kazakhstan's ability to fulfil the largest environmental, cultural and educational tasks of global and regional significance.

The goal of the project is to create a sustainable base for the reintroduction of tigers in historical habitats, including the Ile-Balkhash State Nature Reserve, to preserve the natural and historical and cultural heritage of the Ulytau mountain range and adjacent territories, and to promote tourist sites in this unique region. To achieve it, the project will carry out a comprehensive improvement of the state of the river delta ecosystems. Ile and South Balkhash region, strengthening SNR "Ile-Balkhash" and the created State National Natural Park "Ulytau", development of the PAS network and tourism in the Ulytau region, raising the level of environmental awareness of the population and informing all stakeholders, creating a basis for joint management of ecosystems on the territory project activities with benefits for biodiversity conservation and local communities.

The directions in which the project will work are territorially separated (Balkhash district of Almaty region and Ulytau district of Karaganda region), but they are united by a common strategic approach - the development of specially protected natural areas and improvement of ecosystems with the involvement of the local population, a wide range of national and international partners, with the involvement of the best available national and international expertise.

UNDP will use all the experience and lessons learned in the course of many years of work on major projects for the conservation of biodiversity in Kazakhstan. According to the **Theory of Change (ToC)**, successfully demonstrated in past projects, in order to achieve the ultimate goal, steps will be taken to change the basic attitudes, so that the local population has an interest in the development of PAs and the conservation of biodiversity. The approved UNDP way is to promote the development of alternative types of business, with the obligatory consideration of gender issues. Both regions are very promising for the development of tourism, which, with the support of the project, will become the main driver of the first changes. Changes in employment and livelihoods will spur local communities and PAs to work together and dramatically accelerate the achievement of project objectives.

Another level of basic change is to strengthen the capabilities of existing PAs, both in terms of logistical support and in improving the skills of their staff and improving management. This will entail an increase in the efficiency of their functions and provide an opportunity to perform the most complex tasks associated with the enrichment of ecosystems through the reintroduction of valuable species of animals - kulan and tugai deer in the Ile-Balkhash SNR and, in the future, argali in the future, the Ulytau SNNP,

as well as by restoring and expanding forest plantations. Only sustainable biocenoses rich in forage resources will make possible the subsequent reintroduction of the tiger.

In order for the above-mentioned basic changes in local communities to become possible, targeted active environmental advocacy will be carried out on the ground, environmental education and the development of visitor centers (including the Ulytau Museum-Reserve), training of local residents with the mandatory widest possible participation of women. To ensure success and reduce risks, all project activities involving targeted impacts on ecosystems or development with increased pressures on biodiversity will be supported by scientific justification. To increase the effect of the creation of SNNP "Ulytau", actions will be taken to create the Ulytau-Arganatinsky reserve, which will entail an increase in the number of valuable species of animals, will have a positive effect on the preservation of landscapes.

One of the mechanisms for involving local communities in PAs governance is the Coordination Councils (CC); At the same time, the CC at the pilot reserves and national parks, created in accordance with the norms introduced in the LRK on PAs in 2017, work formally. The Ile-Balkhash reserve will analyse the work of the CC, revise its composition and the Statute on the CC, including taking into account the issues of gender equality in accordance with the best international practices, for SNNP Ulytau - the development of the Statute, determination of the composition and assistance in the start of the CC.

All this will contribute to the development of tourism while preserving biodiversity and historical and cultural heritage, developing regions and increasing the well-being of the local population, especially women who are actively involved in the service sector and local production.

The key element of the strategy is to use the experience and capabilities of all the most significant partners who are already actively working in the regions - WWF Russia, SNR Ile-Balkhash, QazaqGeography, the Ulytau Museum-Reserve. With WWF and QazaqGeography, attracting additional donor financial resources, issues of joint work will be carefully worked out and agreements will be concluded to ensure synergy and maximize the effect of investment.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIP

Expected Results

The project's main results will be a comprehensive improvement in the state of the ecosystems of the river delta. Ile and South Balkhash region to a level that provides the possibility of reintroduction of the tiger, strengthening the SNR "Ile-Balkhash" and the created State National Natural Park "Ulytau", developing the PAS network and tourism in the Ulytau region with improving the state of biodiversity and historical and cultural monuments, increasing the level of ecological awareness of the population and informing all stakeholders, creating a basis for the joint management of ecosystems in the project area with benefits for biodiversity conservation and for local communities.

Actions to achieve these results will be guided by three pillars that are directly aligned to these goals. The fourth component of the project will be its coordination and monitoring, which will have to ensure its effective implementation.

Project components

Component 1. Creation of the necessary conditions for the reintroduction of tigers on the basis of the Ile-Balkhash State Natural Reserve

The area of operation of the first component of the project is the Ile-Balkhash reserve, as well as the nearby Balkhash and Karoi reserves, the Kapshagai-Balkhash ecological corridor and separate areas of the state forest fund in the Southern Balkhash region; the total area of the PTA - about 1,500,000 ha, including the key site (reserve) - 415,164.2 ha.

Component 1 should create a sustainable basis for tiger reintroduction and make a significant contribution to the extremely important and ambitious conservation task - the restoration of ecosystems in the pilot territory. If successful, it will become a world-class achievement and a demonstration of the capabilities of Kazakhstan as a country capable of carrying out the most complex projects for the preservation and restoration of ecosystems. Within its framework, the capabilities of the Ile-Balkhash reserve will be strengthened, targeted actions will be taken to improve the food base for tigers with the reintroduction of new species and to restore floodplain forests. Preparation and implementation of reforestation, as well as restoration of ecosystems in general, will be a direct contribution to the National Project "Zhasyl Kazakstan" and to the transition to a "green economy".

The project will actively cooperate and coordinate its actions in the work on this component with WWF Russia attracting additional funds from international donors. The objectives of the project are highlighted taking into account the work already done by WWF and future joint actions with their synergy. The project's contribution will be the contribution of the RK Government to the achievement of the objectives of the international tiger reintroduction program.

Target 1.1. Increasing human resources and strengthening the material and technical base of SNR "Ile-Balkhash"

Activity 1.1.1. Building the capacity of specialists from the reserve and regional nature conservation institutions on tiger reintroduction (training, learning experiences and internships), as well as on the maintenance of equipment, monitoring, etc.

Activity 1.1.2. Monitoring of ecosystems and fauna

Activity 1.1.3. Strengthening the material and technical base of the reserve (scientific, field equipment, office equipment, equipment for repairing equipment, etc.)

Activity 1.1.4. Construction of observation towers

Activity 1.1.5. Development of a master plan, design and estimate documentation for a visit center of the Ile-Balkhash reserve

Target 1.2. Formation of conditions for the restoration and improvement of the tiger's food potential

Activity 1.2.1. Reintroduction of Bukhara deer and kulan in order to ensure a stable forage base (justification, scientific support, enclosures for overexposure and catching, transportation, performance monitoring)

Activity 1.2.2. Creation of conditions for increasing the number of ungulates and other mammals (scientific support, biotechnical measures, creation of watering places, construction or restoration of wells, etc.)

Target 1.3. Creation of a sustainable basis for the restoration of the floodplain forests of the Balkhash region.

Activity 1.3.1. Elaboration of measures and submission of proposals to improve the hydrological regime of the Ile River in order to preserve and restore fish resources and floodplain tugai forests as a potential tiger habitat.

Activity 1.3.2. Strengthening measures to prevent forest fires and illegal logging (including organizational measures, training, technical support).

Activity 1.3.3. Creation of a permanent forest nursery for local deciduous species on the basis of the Kurtinskoye forest protection institution.

Activity 1.3.4. Development of proposals for the formation and implementation of the National Project "Zhasyl Kazakstan" and strengthening of reforestation activities by planting forests.

The planned activities are aimed at changes that will cause positive and significant changes in the overall situation with biodiversity and ecosystems, with the obligatory concomitant implementation of component 3 on working with the local population.

Component 2. Improvement of the condition, protection and use for scientific, cultural and recreational purposes of objects of natural and historical and cultural heritage of the Ulytau mountain range and adjacent territories

According to the theory of changes, the project's actions in Ulytau will influence a whole range of factors that ensure the achievement of the main goal - the preservation and promotion of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the region with an increase in the level of well-being of the local population. It is necessary to connect the two sections of the national park being created with an additional already designed Ulytau-Arganatinsky reserve, for the creation of which FR will be developed. The emergence of the reserve will essentially create a single protected area with an area sufficient to preserve large animals and rare birds of prey. Interaction with the existing National Historical, Cultural and Natural Museum-Reserve "Ulytau" and its support are important, which is absolutely necessary for the promotion and successful preservation of cultural heritage sites and monuments of history and

architecture. After the creation of the national park, its interaction with the museum-reserve should be established, modern management plans should be developed for both protected areas.

For the development of tourism in the region, systematic work should be carried out on planning, determining recreational loads, a complete analysis of the market and the development of promising routes, including not only Ulytau itself, but objects throughout the Ulytau region, for the distribution of tourist flows.

Finally, the development of tourism, according to modern concepts and world practice, is impossible and undesirable without the active involvement of the local population; in this direction, work will also be carried out on training, development of business models, etc. Special attention will be paid to gender issues.

The activities are planned taking into account the activities of the Ulytau Museum-Reserve and future joint work.

Within the framework of the component, the following tasks and activities are expected to be completed.

Target 2.1. Creation of the basis and support for the development of protected areas in the Ulytau region

Activity 2.1.1. Preparation of documents for the development of the PAs system in the Ulytau region (FR, Management plans).

Activity 2.1.2. Conducting landscape planning of the project area with the allocation of functional zones for various purposes, making changes to the development plans of the district akimat.

Activity 2.1.3. Capacity building of specialists of environmental institutions on sustainable work of PAs (training, learning experience and internship).

Activity 2.1.4. Building the capacity and material and technical base of existing and planned protected areas.

Target 2.2. Development of tourism in the Ulytau region

Activity 2.2.1. Territorial planning, development of tourist routes, determination of load norms, marketing analysis, development of tour packages, organization of an information tour.

Activity 2.2.2. Arrangement of tour routes.

Activity 2.2.3. Development of a PAs communication program for tourism development, creation of an attractive tourist entrance group

Target 2.3. Community mobilization

Activity 2.3.1. Development of a strategy, round tables on the mobilization of the local community and employment of the population, taking into account a gender approach.

Activity 2.3.2. Business trainings for the local community on tourism development with a gender perspective.

Under component 2, the project will be carried out in close cooperation with QazaqGeography, which has extensive experience in the region, high potential, a developed network of local representatives (including in Ulytau) and plans to continue making additional contributions of its own to the project's targets.

Component 3. Information and work with local communities to educate the population and involve them in the conservation of biological diversity

Under component 3, the project is aimed at interaction with the public and the local population, which is the key to successful work in the environmental sphere and in the development of tourism. Strategically and in accordance with the "theory of change", it is proposed to act in the direction of switching the population from unsustainable consumption of natural resources to alternative activities through training, propaganda, information.

Actions will be taken to attract the GEF / Small Grants Program to the PTA, as well as to apply the Eco-Damu lending system there and, after exploring the possibilities, to use additional grant support. To

promote tourism products, audio and video materials will be used, including an audio guide to the most interesting points in the regions, with its upload to one of the popular international platforms.

To engage local communities, a coordinating council (CC) mechanism will be used. SNR Ile-Balkhash will analyze the work of the existing CC, revise its composition and the Regulation on the CC. For SNNP Ulytau - development of the Regulation on the CC, determination of its composition and assistance in holding the introductory meeting of the CC. This will contribute to the involvement and activation of local authorities and rural communities in the co-management of PAs, especially in the development of ecotourism, protection of territories, in transparency of decisions made by the PAs leadership. The CC mechanism will help to resolve frequently arising contradictions between PAs and the population.

It is also planned to introduce the scheme of development and use of the environmental education program in schools of Balkhash and Ulytau districts, worked out in UNDP projects. Its goal is to acquaint children with the nature of their native land, consolidate environmental knowledge, foster love for the Motherland.

The component will perform the following tasks:

Target 3.1. Building the capacity of local people in the field of sustainable development and alternative activities, taking into account a gender approach.

Target 3.2. Public awareness and involvement of local communities in PAs management through activation or creation of Coordination Councils.

Target 3.3. Development of local community initiatives by attracting additional grant support, as well as the "Eco-Damu" lending system, taking into account a gender approach.

Target 3.4. Production of audio and video products, including audio guides, travel guides, etc.

Target 3.5. Conducting information events covering various target groups. Development and implementation of school environmental education programs at the level of Ulytau and Balkhash districts.

Qualified experts and organizations will be involved in the implementation of the component's tasks, including the implementation of a number of events in Ulytau - QazaqGeography, which has experience here, including a guide to Ulytau with the Avalon NGO and is actively working in the direction of propaganda and education.

Component 4. Project management - coordination and monitoring of project activities

Within the framework of this component, the overall coordination of the project, its regular monitoring and evaluation will be carried out. The monitoring will be carried out through activities continually carried out in UNDP projects.

Project management will include: coordination of staff activities and the involvement of international and local experts, the conclusion of agreements with partners, procurement of equipment and office supplies, coordination of communications between project experts, stakeholders and the public, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The functions of general coordination of management and interaction of partners will be performed by the Project Board (PB), consisting of representatives of key stakeholders: FWC MEGNR of RK, MEGNR of RK, ISS RK, GEF / SGP, PAs at PTA, WWF Russia, Qazaq Geography, district akimats. PB meetings will be held at least once a year, as well as UNDP / FWC monitoring field trips.

On a quarterly basis:

- Progress will be monitored through the UNDP online platform, which is based on the principles of results management.
- Based on the initial risk analysis, the ATLAS risk log will be regularly updated.
- Based on the information on the project registered in the Atlas system, the Brief Reports on the project implementation will be generated in the internal monitoring system.
- UNDP's internal monitoring system will be used to monitor issues, lessons learned, etc.

The Monitoring Plan will be activated and updated in the Atlas system in order to track the implementation of key project monitoring activities.

On an annual basis:

Annual report on the progress of the project. This report is the main one for monitoring the project since its launch, with progress over the previous reporting period. The report includes the following issues:

- progress towards achieving the goal and results of the project - for each indicator and indicator by the end of the project, taking into account the baseline (cumulative progress);
- achieved results of the project for the past reporting period (annually);
- lessons learned, good practices;
- the annual work plan and budget of the project, as well as other reports of the project's expenses
- risks and adaptive management;
- progress towards gender targets based on relevant project indicators.

The project has been assigned the gender marker GEN2 according to the UNDP classification. Gender aspects will be taken into account in the implementation and monitoring of the project.

Resources required to achieve the expected results

The financial resources of the project will be used to conduct training events, work with the local population, purchase the necessary equipment and other types of strengthening the material and technical base of protected natural areas, scientific support with the involvement of experts, etc. contributions in kind from PAs and government agencies involved in the project. An administrative resource is also needed in the form of support from authorized state bodies. The existing material, technical and human resources of the key non-state partners of the project will be used. A necessary resource is a well-established interaction with all stakeholders and key partners. An information resource will play an important role - the use of existing and created communication resources and tools, both UNDP and partners, as well as the involvement of the media.

Partnership

The project implementation and management model assume close interaction of partners, each of which will contribute to its implementation, ensuring its success. The main Beneficiary of the project is the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The project will be managed by the UNDP Country Office. Relevant agreements will be concluded with key partners, defining the order of their interaction and contributions to the project, which is necessary for the most efficient use of resources and synergy. Key partners are listed below.

(1) Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry) is the central executive body of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in charge of the formation and implementation of state policy, coordination of management processes in the areas of environmental protection, the development of a "green economy", waste management (except for municipal, medical and radioactive waste), protection, control and supervision over the rational use of natural resources, state geological study of the subsoil, reproduction of the mineral resource base, use and protection of water resources, water supply, sanitation, forestry, protection, reproduction and use fauna and specially protected natural areas.

The mission of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan: the creation of conditions for the preservation, restoration and improvement of the quality of the environment, water and biological resources, state geological study of subsoil, reproduction of the mineral resource base, sustainable development of water, forestry, fish and hunting farms, specially protected natural areas, ensuring the transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to low-carbon development and a "green economy" to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the implementing partner, is one of the main initiators of amendments to the legislation in order to improve the conservation of biodiversity, the development of the PAs system.

MEGMR will be represented in the project by the **Forestry and Wildlife Committee**, which is the department of the authorized body in the field of protection, reproduction and use of wildlife and specially protected natural areas (PAs).

(2) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the responsible partner of the project and is responsible for the proper execution of the project and the achievement of the stated objectives of the project.

UNDP is the largest international UN agency in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Under the UNDP Country Program for Kazakhstan and the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 11 and 16), UNDP will continue to support the Republic of Kazakhstan in diversifying the knowledge-based economy in which competitive entrepreneurs use the country's natural resources efficiently and sustainably. This support is to promote the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources and to increase the resilience of urban and rural settlements to natural and man-made natural disasters and climate change.

UNDP supported Kazakhstan in the development of key strategic documents at the national and regional levels, the development of legislation, institutionalization and strengthening of the organizational capacity of government bodies at various levels by attracting world best practices in these areas and through the provision of ongoing support to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Another aspect of the ongoing work of the Program in Kazakhstan is environmental protection and environmental education. UNDP provides support to national partners for the implementation of the Concept of Sustainable Development of Kazakhstan until 2024, to improve the protection and protection of the environment and disseminate innovative experience in water use and land exploitation. The UNDP also provides assistance to the country's efforts to counter the challenges of global warming by promoting energy conservation, more economical use of water resources and mobilizing renewable energy sources, including the use of wind energy.

An important area of UNDP's current activity is the spread of the practice of democratic governance and education of the population. From this perspective, the main work is carried out in several directions: improving the efficiency of public institutions, strengthening human rights institutions, developing dialogue and cooperation between NGOs and state bodies in the implementation of public policy and monitoring of its activities.

Since 1995, UNDP has been involved in the development of National Human Development Reports (NHDRs) and other analytical documents that contribute to the national dialogue on development and national policies. Educational activities and educational materials on human development produced by UNDP are used in higher education institutions in Kazakhstan. UNDP organizes the development and assists in the preparation of the National Reports of the Republic of Kazakhstan on biological diversity, in the framework of the country's fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

UNDP has accumulated more than 20 years of experience in the implementation of large projects to develop the PAs system and forestry, increase the capabilities of environmental workers, develop the institutional and legislative framework for biodiversity conservation, work with local communities to develop alternative activities, develop educational and eco-friendly educational materials of various types. The training materials include examples of international best practice for both generalists and school education. A number of successful actions have been taken to develop "green" businesses based on local communities, and the "Eco Damu" concessional lending program has been initiated and is successfully operating. Practical results were obtained on the consistent introduction of a gender approach. Five PAs, whose governance and capabilities have been improved with UNDP assistance, have become part of two World Natural Heritage Sites - "Steppes and Lakes of Northern Kazakhstan" and "Western Tien Shan" (transboundary). UNDP always uses the maximum available level of expertise, the best national and international practices, introducing innovative approaches and using traditional knowledge and working in partnership with all interested organizations of the public and non-governmental sector.

(3) Republican Public Association QazaqGeography is a Responsible Partner of the project, which plays an important role both in the work on the Ulytau component and in a number of information and educational targets.

Republican public association "QazaqGeography" was established on October 16, 2013.

QazaqGeography mission: to become a leading organization for the development of geography and related sciences about nature, society and culture, known in Kazakhstan and abroad thanks to its values of patriotism, civic consciousness, openness, objectivity and impartiality. The activities of the Association are aimed at implementing projects that improve the quality of knowledge about Kazakhstan and the world as a whole.

Goals and objectives of QazaqGeography:

- development of the science of geography and related sciences about nature, society and culture;
- dissemination of knowledge about the science of geography and related sciences about nature, society and culture;
- study of the geographical, ethnocultural and historical identity of the regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, including unique natural complexes, historical and cultural monuments;
- development of eco-tourism in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- improvement of conditions for the disclosure of the scientific and creative potential of the members of the Association, as well as a wide range of the population;
- formation of a culture of respect for the environment and rational use of natural resources to preserve the natural wealth of the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- promoting the brand of Kazakhstan as a successfully developing country with unique nature, as well as rich history and culture.

QazaqGeography activities are carried out within the framework of 5 thematic councils:

- *Geography, climate*. Created in order to popularize geographical science and its development in Kazakhstan.
- *Environment, natural resources*. Created to promote and implement projects in the field of environmental protection and natural resources.
- *Biodiversity*. Created to unite efforts in the implementation of projects in the field of conservation of biological diversity of flora and fauna of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- *Tourism, travel, local history*. Created to carry out work on the development of domestic and international tourism in the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- *Historical and cultural heritage, ethnography*. Created to develop historical education and raise awareness of the traditions, life and culture of the peoples of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Since 2015, QazaqGeography has been active in Ulytau, contributing to the study and promotion of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the region. There is an office in the building of the Ulytau reserve museum.

As part of the nationwide celebration of the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate, the Association, together with the Ministry of Education and Science of the RK, held a youth festival "Khan Koryk". In 2016, the expedition "Ulytau - Aral" was organized, a guide to Ulytau was published, since 2017 comprehensive research expeditions have been held annually to study and popularize the nature and history of Ulytau, 11 videos have been created. He took an active part in the ethnographic festival "Ulytau Kymyzy" (2018), held master classes on organizing guest houses, an expedition to the Turgai steppes and the border areas of Ulytau (2018), completed the construction of the visit center of the Ulytau reserve-museum (2020). Photo exhibitions were held in the cities of Nur-Sultan (2017-2019), Almaty (2018) and Karaganda (2021). QazaqGeography is actively supporting the acceleration of the creation of the Ulytau SNNP.

The experience accumulated by the Association in the region and extensive contacts with partners both locally and at the national level will help the successful implementation of the project. This will be facilitated by the possibility of attracting expertise in various areas within the framework of the 5 thematic councils of the Association, as well as attracting additional funds to the project. The project activities will be a further expansion and development of his earlier work.

(4) WWF Russia is part of the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** - one of the largest independent international conservation organizations, uniting about 5 million permanent supporters and working in more than 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to prevent the growing degradation of the planet's natural environment and achieve harmony between man and nature. The main goal is to preserve the biological diversity of the Earth.

Activities: The first WWF projects in Russia began in 1989, and in 1994 the Russian office of WWF was opened. In 2004, WWF Russia became a Russian national organization. For more than 20 years, the Fund has successfully implemented more than 1000 field projects in 47 regions of Russia and has invested over 137 million euros in the work to preserve and enhance the country's natural resources.

A number of successful projects under the Central Asian WWF program were carried out in Kazakhstan, including the reintroduction of Bukhara deer in the Syr Darya, support for the creation of the SNR "Altyn Dala", the creation of the Turkestan Regional Natural Park, and others.

WWF Russia has developed a program for the reintroduction of tigers in Kazakhstan and is actively preparing for reintroduction, attracting donor funds and collaborating with national and international partners, including UNDP. The program office in Almaty strongly supports the development of SNR Ile-Balkhash, providing technical assistance and funding specific activities on the ground.

The project will work with WWF Russia on the component of preparation for tiger reintroduction, coordinating actions, concluding an appropriate agreement and pooling the resources of both parties. Only with such close cooperation is it possible to successfully fulfil the most difficult task of restoring and enriching the ecosystems of the Balkhash region and the return of the tiger.

(5) RSBSE "National Historical, Cultural and Natural Reserve-Museum "Ulytau" of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Kazakhstan was established by the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR in 1990 to protect the historical landscape. Directly subordinate and funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the RK. The mission of the reserve museum is to broadcast the Eurasian historical phenomenon of Ulytau culture to the world community.

On the territory of the reserve museum, based in the village. Ulytau, 25 complexes with a total area of 147,246 hectares are located, within a radius of up to 300 km from the office. There is a visitor center and a storage facility. The historical and cultural map of the fund of the reserve-museum "Ulytau" includes 282 monuments, including such famous ones as Alashakhan, Zhoshykhan, Terekti-aulie, rock paintings of Baikonur, Baskamyr and other objects starting from the Stone Age.

Areas of activity of the museum-reserve: ensuring the preservation of immovable monuments of history and nature; preservation and protection of natural and archaeological, historical and cultural complex and research, cultural and educational activities.

The reserve-museum "Ulytau", with the aim of developing the tourist cluster, organizes various kinds of seminars and festivals, is the initiator and executor of a number of republican and international projects, including archaeological and ethnographic expeditions, the International Ethnographic Festival "Kokmaisa", photo exhibitions in Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Hungary.

The role of the reserve museum in the project coincides with its mission and objectives. He will be both a partner in the implementation of tasks for the promotion of cultural, historical heritage and tourism development and a beneficiary of the project, receiving technical support from him.

Risks and assumptions

Risks	Probability	Influence	Mitigation strategy
Changes in the management of the authorized body and changes in key personnel of other partners, which may cause delays in approving documents, joint actions, etc.	Moderate	Moderate	The project will track changes and timely hold meetings with the new key personnel partner, informing about the work and clarifying the interaction; Collaboration agreements will detail the activities of the partners and the project, which will reduce the risks of personnel changes and ensure continuity.

Lack of funding due to accelerated inflation and higher prices, or insufficient funding from the donor in the context of the economic crisis and budget deficit, which will cause a reduction in volumes or the inability to fulfil certain tasks in the project	Moderate	High	Thorough development and preparation of documents on the interaction of the parties directly involved in the implementation of the project; development of scenarios for the development of unfavourable situations, carrying out the necessary purchases as soon as possible; monitoring the situation and, if necessary, working together with MEGNR with the government and the Ministry of Finance to protect annual budgets; search for additional funds as co-financing.
Funding problems with key partners will make it impossible or difficult to carry out jointly with the project on a co-financed basis.	Moderate	High	Regular discussions and monitoring of the situation with partners, at least quarterly discussions and operational coordination of plans for joint work and their division
Risks associated with increased quarantine measures in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and with the possibility of illness of personnel and third-party specialists involved in the project; may result in delays in the implementation of project activities and disruption of schedules, or a decrease in the quality of training, etc., conducted remotely	Moderate	Moderate	Readiness to use teleworking technologies, calculation of the timing and progress of fieldwork and other stages of the project, taking into account possible quarantine measures of varying degrees, the mandatory use of protective equipment and other measures to protect personnel and contact persons.
Fires or other natural and anthropogenic impacts of a catastrophic nature that cause habitat destruction and negate the project's efforts to restore ecosystems.	Moderate	High	Risk assessment for each territory, strengthening of PAs fire-fighting activities, adoption of PAs fire safety action plans with akimats, emergency situations and other local parties, preparation of special plans (if necessary) to reduce risks from other disasters.

See Appendix 3 for detailed risk analysis.

Stakeholder engagement

The project implementation and management model assume close interaction of the implementing partner - the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of MEGNR of RK and the responsible partners - UNDP with other key partners, primarily WWF Russia. The main beneficiary of the project is the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the RK (and its PAS and other organizations in the project area). The beneficiaries of the project will also be the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the RK (Historical, Cultural and Natural Museum-Reserve "Ulytau"), the State Institution for the Protection of Forests and Wildlife of the Balkhash and Ulytau Districts, regional akimats, travel companies, and regional education departments. The project will be managed by the UNDP Country Office.

The main factor for the success of this project is the participation of the aforementioned beneficiaries and the interaction of various stakeholders. The project will be carried out in close coordination and cooperation with the relevant government authorities. Agreements will be signed between key partners and beneficiaries performing specific tasks after a thorough assessment of the partners' capacity to co-execute UNDP projects in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures.

For the most effective involvement of the local population in the project, with the participation of local authorities, meetings and field studies will be held to identify stakeholders and the local non-governmental sector.

An obligatory component of the project is professional development of PAs employees and the authorized body, training of local residents on alternative activities, etc. with a mandatory consideration of a gender approach, conducting study tours, online trainings, seminars, master classes.

It is planned to involve the GEF Small Grants Program and the Eco-Damu concessional lending program in the development of alternative activities.

Education departments of Balkhash and Ulytau districts and pilot schools will be included in the work on environmental education in schools.

The involvement of stakeholders in the Project implementation process will be carried out using various communication methods, such as systematic consultations (including online sessions), seminars, round tables, etc.

Gender

During the preparatory phase of the UNDP 2021-2025 Country Programme, a baseline gender analysis was conducted to identify trends in gender policies and practices in the pilot areas within the thematic focus of the biodiversity portfolio to develop recommendations for gender mainstreaming in project activities, and to identify specific project gender indicators that would demonstrate how the project contributed to the implementation of gender equality policies in Kazakhstan. The study provided an overview of three main profiles demonstrating the status, gaps and opportunities for achieving gender equality of the project target group (rural communities), including employment, access to financial and natural resources, and roles in society.

However, the main gaps identified during the study should be noted: (1) limited access of women to financial resources, especially in rural areas, to participate in entrepreneurship, which forces them to start small businesses, mainly in the informal economy generating low income. Women's limited access to capital, financial resources, and information has greatly contributed to the restriction of rural women's rights - only 10% of households are headed by women owning only 2.9% of agricultural land, with low qualitative characteristics (productivity, size, location). (2) Women's lack of capital property (collateral) makes it difficult to obtain agricultural loans and, therefore, makes their entrepreneurial activity less efficient than that of males.

The employment promotion policy in Kazakhstan, while still gender-neutral, does not fully consider the gender factor and, in particular, the increased involvement of women from vulnerable groups in activities related to the implementation of current state employment programs. Today, the situation in the labor market of Kazakhstan remains such that women still occupy a weaker position compared to men: the level of their professional qualifications and wages is lower; there is a high professional and sectoral segregation.

Taking into account the conclusions described above, the project will address the following tasks:

- Reduce the impact of certain social and economic activities on ecosystems and the limited resources of adjacent agricultural land by raising awareness among men and women of the relationship between existing land use and agricultural practices and the condition of ecosystems and biodiversity. To achieve this, the project will address the specific roles of women and men in the socio-economic structure of rural communities and develop approaches to inform each group according to their specific socio-economic roles;
- Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources by promoting innovative gender-sensitive solutions based on improved capacity, new knowledge, new opportunities for entrepreneurship and access to planning and decision-making. These solutions will change the status and roles of women and men and, to some extent, transform gender relations by making them more balanced. For example, improving women's access to knowledge about SPNR management (given their significant involvement in this sector) will ensure their access to local decision-making that will influence their status and take into account their role in public affairs. This will also ensure women's access to employment opportunities, which will improve their economic status and, consequently, their role and status in decision-making in the family, etc;
- Increase women's participation in the development and implementation of environmentally sound, cost-effective methods and approaches to sustainable management of ecosystems and rangelands, agroforestry, forest development and water management. In this context, the project will consider the roles of women and men in identifying and developing alternative sources of income when water and other resources are scarce and limited;
- Improve local and regional policies in the natural resource sectors to ensure an integrated gender mainstreaming approach (IGMA), including gender responsive budgeting, which is the main mechanism for implementing gender policies at all levels of socio-economic development. Gender mainstreaming at the level of local budgeting means incorporating gender-sensitive elements into the management process. Theoretical and practical experience of developed countries has shown that the introduction of gender-sensitive processes contributes, above all, to faster economic growth, improved quality of services for the population, more sustainable resource management, aimed at promoting equal opportunity policies and ensuring sustainable development of the region.

Recommendations for gender mainstreaming in project implementation

At the initial stage of the project, the project team should develop an action plan to integrate gender perspectives into all project deliverables.

- The project team and technical staff should include an appropriate gender balance as far as possible, given the necessary technical qualifications.
- The person responsible for integrating gender aspects of UNDP should be included in the Project Board (PB) making decisions as part of the project strategy.
- Indicators and objectives of the project's results framework should be reviewed at the inception stage to ensure that any relevant indicators are adequately disaggregated by gender.
- Project capacity development activities should ensure that gender balance among participants is sought, as far as possible and appropriate.

South-South and tripartite cooperation

The project will build on previous successful experience in implementing projects in cooperation between NGOs and government agencies in the field of biodiversity conservation and restoration, development of the PAs system, preservation of historical and cultural heritage and involvement of local communities in this activity, contributing to building a green economy and achieving relevant SDGs.

The project will provide a high degree of interaction, communication and exchange of experience, best practices and lessons learned with other projects with similar components implemented by UNDP and other donors in the region of Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe. In particular, in Russia (reintroduction of ungulates and carnivores, restoration of ecosystems), Uzbekistan (reintroduction of ungulates), and Mongolia. The project will support Kazakhstan's participation in meetings and conferences on ecosystem restoration, restoration of rare animal species and historical and cultural heritage to share lessons learned.

Knowledge

One of the main directions of the project is the education of competent nature users striving not only for economic benefits but also for a conscious transition to activities that ensure the conservation of biodiversity and environmental well-being in the future. The achievement of this goal is facilitated by both targeted education and training on the introduction of alternative activities (including the development of tourism), and education based on the priority of ecology, aimed at forming a different type of thinking among participants in the educational process. Project activities include working with PAs staff and local adults, as well as implementing school eco-education programs at the level of two districts.

Raising the level of knowledge among the staff of PAs and the State Institution for the Protection of Forests and Wildlife is critical for their effective performance of their functions, without which it is impossible to achieve the project's goals to improve the state of ecosystems. At the same time, the accumulated traditional knowledge of local residents will be used. There will be an exchange of experience and knowledge with experts from the adjacent PTA hunting grounds, whose participation is important for the effective monitoring of wildlife and landscapes.

In transferring knowledge, the experience of UNDP, accumulated over many years of work in various regions and PAs of Kazakhstan, will be widely used, including the exchange of experience with other ongoing projects. The international experience accumulated by WWF will be used through the project participant - WWF Russia. National and international experts will be involved in the development of the materials. Traditional knowledge is especially important in the Ulytau region, where efforts will be aimed at preserving also the historical and cultural heritage.

In all processes of transfer of knowledge, training will be specially monitored and implemented in a gender approach, since in many respects it is knowledge and skills that help women to improve their material and social situation, providing them with real equality in opportunities.

Sustainability and scale up

The sustainability of the project is ensured primarily by the fact that it fully meets state priorities and complies with both international obligations and strategic development programs of Kazakhstan,

including the developed “Concept for Biodiversity Conservation”, which is expected to be adopted in 2021. All actions planned in the project, are aimed at a long-term effect, meet the interests of PAs and other beneficiaries and will be used and developed by them in the foreseeable future. Each of the tasks implemented in the project works in concert to achieve a common goal, but at the same time is self-valuable, and important for biodiversity and other priorities, even in isolation from the others. The tiger reintroduction program is designed for at least 15 years and will continue after the end of the project. Ulytau, which occupies a special place in the culture of the Kazakh people, will always enjoy the attention of the state; the national park and wildlife sanctuary to be created will take its place in the PAs system and will be funded by the government, which will guarantee sustainability.

Sustainability will be supported by the project's contribution to the development of tourism and alternative sources of income, which will ensure a high interest of materially interested beneficiaries in the preservation of the project results and their strengthening.

Scaling up the project is potentially possible by leveraging its expertise in ecosystem restoration and reintroduction in other regions of the country. The development of the results will also go along the lines of the widespread introduction of the territorial zoning schemes for tourism worked out in the project, the calculation of tourist loads, the dissemination of information materials on proven sources of alternative business as examples.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

The cost-effectiveness and expected results of this project are based on best practices and lessons learned from previous UNDP projects that have previously been implemented in areas related to biodiversity, PAs development, engagement with local communities. In addition, the project will be economically viable by adhering to standard UNDP rules and procedures.

During the implementation of the project, new methods, mechanisms and financial instruments for program and project management will be widely used to ensure economic efficiency and effectiveness throughout the entire period of the project.

Project management

The project implementation team will be located in the city of Nur-Sultan. If necessary and partially, the project specialist can be located in the PAs territories in order to ensure effective communication and coordination of joint actions, as well as to ensure that the necessary expert support is provided in a timely manner.

The project team will work closely with project partners and stakeholders, and will make every effort to collaborate and synergize activities with other projects. Monitoring and evaluation of the project will be carried out in accordance with the rules and procedures of the UNDP.

V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

This project will contribute to the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 5: Gender Equality

- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation to promote gender equality and empower all women and girls at all levels.
- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls around the world.

Goal 12: Sustainable consumption and production

- By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the appropriate information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- Encourage companies, especially large and multinational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.
- Support developing countries in building their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with commitments under international agreements
- By 2020, promote sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and significantly increase afforestation and reforestation worldwide
- By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive for a land-degradation neutral world
- Take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitats, halt biodiversity loss, and protect and prevent endangered species by 2020.
- By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems
- - Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to fund forest management and create adequate incentives for developing countries to promote such management, including conservation and reforestation

This project will contribute to the following country outcomes included in the UNSDCF/Country Program Document:

PFD Outcome:

- Outcome 3.2. By 2025, all people in Kazakhstan, in particular the most vulnerable, will benefit from enhanced resilience to climate change, sustainable management of the environment and clean energy, and sustainable rural and urban development.

This project will be linked to the following UNDP Strategic Plan activities:

UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome:

- - Outcome 4.1: Solutions are developed and resources are mobilized for a more sustainable use of ecosystems to reduce rural poverty and improve the well-being of local communities and nature.

EXPRECTED OUTCOMES	OUTPUT INDICATORS	BASE LINE	DATA SOURCE	TARGETS						DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND RISKS
				2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	
Outcome 1: Creation of the necessary conditions for the reintroduction of tigers on the basis of the Ile-Balkash State Nature Reserve	1.1.1. Number of trained specialists from the reserve and regional nature conservation institutions on tiger reintroduction, equipment maintenance, monitoring	2	Reports, certificates, personnel certification data		3	5	5	5	18	Analysis of SNR documentation and reporting
	1.1.2. There is a system for monitoring ecosystems and fauna, with regular data entry into the computer base	No system for monitoring	Annual reports, database			1			1	Analysis of reports, full-scale verification of database maintenance
	1.1.3. Number of agricultural equipment, cars, scientific equipment and office equipment (computers, printer)	0	Acquisition documents, materials of annual inspections of the use of equipment		2	2	2		6	Audit of financial statements, field checks in SNR
	1.1.4. The number of installed observation towers	1	Report			1			1	On-site check
	1.1.5. An approved design and estimate for the visit center of the Ile-Balkhash reserve	0	Availability of developed documents			1			1	Receiving documents electronically
	1.2.1. Percentage or numbers of increased ungulates	wild boar - 1000, kulan - 0, Bukhar a deer - 20	Work and transportation reports		Kulan-10 Bukhar a deer-10	Kulan-10 Bukhar a deer-10	Kulan-10 Bukh ara deer-10	Kulan-10 Bukhar a deer-10	Kulan-40 Bukhar a deer-40 Wild bore-not less than baseline	Verification of documentation, field inspections
	1.2.2. Number of restored watering places for wild animals	0	Field surveys, census, report		1	1			2	SNR Report Analysis
	1.3.1. Number of km of cleaned bottom of the Ile River	0	Hydro mode measurement		3 km	3 km	2 km	2 km	10 km	Reports, field inspections

			results, work documentation							
	1.3.2. The number of installed fire towers	1	Conveyance documents for purchased equipment, quantitative indicators of fire fighting			1			1	Reports
	1.3.3. Number of permanent forest nurseries created for local deciduous species on the basis of the Kurtinskoye forest protection institution, with an initial area of 5 hectares.	0	Report, materials of inspections of the condition of the nursery			1			1	Report, field survey of the nursery
Outcome 2: Improvement of the condition, protection and use for scientific, cultural and recreational purposes of objects of natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Ulytau mountain range and adjacent territories.	2.1.1. Number of approved documents for the development of the PAs system in the Ulytau region (FR for the creation of a wildlife reserve, Management plans for the Ulytau Museum-Reserve and the SNNP Ulytau).	0	Availability of FR with the conclusion of the state examination, management plans		2	1	1		4	Receiving FRs and plans electronically; verification of the use of plans in the activities of territories
	2.1.2. Atlas of landscape planning of the Ulytau region was accepted for use and is used by the akimat	0	Atlas availability, usage information			1			1	Obtaining the Atlas and interview with the Akimat
	2.1.3. The number of trained specialists of environmental institutions on the sustainable operation of PAs and monitoring	2	Reports, training programs, turnout lists		5	7	7	5	24	Reports and participation of project staff in trainings
	2.1.4. Number of purchased equipment the Ulytau Museum-Reserve and the SNNP Ulytau (after creation)	0	Transfer act	1					1	Accounting statements, on-site inspections
	2.2.1. Number of developed tour routes and tour packages considering the norms of tourist load in the SNNP "Ulytau"	0	report on info-tour with the number of participating travel agencies, reports of the museum-reserve and SNNP with indicators of tourism revenues		3	2			5	Reports and verification of prepared materials
	2.2.2. Number of equipped tour routes	0	Reports with schematic maps and descriptions		2	1			3	On-site report and verification

	2.3.1. Local community engagement strategy was accepted for use, held round tables (their number and number of local participants, proportion of women)	0	Strategy, reports on activities carried out with turnout lists			1			1	Analysis of reports, participation of project personnel in trainings
	2.3.2. Number of local residents that participated in business trainings on the possibilities of developing alternative activities including tourism development taking into account a gender approach (the number of trainings, the number of participants - at least 25, the number of local residents involved in the tourism business - at least 20, the proportion of women participants - at least 60%).	0	Training reports with attendance lists, feedback from training participants, information from the akimat and feedback from training participants		6	6	6		18	Analysis of reports, participation of project personnel in trainings
Outcome 3: Information and work with local communities to educate the population and involve them in the conservation of biological diversity	3.1 The number of trainings conducted for local residents who started engaging in alternative activities - at least 20, including more than 50% women)	0	Reports with attendance lists, feedback and information from training participants and akimats	1	1	1	1		4	Analysis of reports, participation of project personnel in trainings
	3.2 Number of publications, articles, brochures, interviews on informing the local population and the public	0	Reports with voter lists, quantitative indicators of the number of publications, coverage, response and their dynamics; Provisions and minutes of meetings of the Coordinating Councils (CC) in SNR Ile-Balkhash and SNNP Ulytau		5	6	6	5	22	Analysis of reports and own analysis of social networks, etc., consideration of the CC Regulations and materials of their meetings
	3.4 Number of video products		Products, quantitative indicators of circulation and use, reviews of product quality from consumers, the number of downloads of the		1	1	1		3	Analysis of manufactured products, materials on the Internet, etc.

			audio guide and reviews of its quality							
	3.5 Number of developed school environmental education curricula at the level of Ulytau and Balkhash districts		Programs, reports, information from pilot schools and districts, teacher feedback			1	1		2	On-site reports and checks
Outcome 4: Coordination and monitoring of project activities, communication with concerned parties	Number of PB meetings		UNDP Control Procedures and Model Reporting	1	1	1	1	1	5	Analysis of project documentation

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP programming policies and procedures, the project will be controlled by the following M&E plans:

Monitoring and evaluation plan

Activity monitoring	Purpose	Frequency	Expected action	Partners (if joint)	Costs (if any)
Monitoring of progress towards results	Progress data against performance indicators in the RFP will be collected and analyzed to assess the project's progress towards the agreed results.	Quarterly or as often as necessary for each indicator.	Slower than expected progress will be reviewed by the project management.		
Monitoring and risk management	Identify the specific risks that may threaten the achievement of the intended results. Identifying and monitoring risk management activities using the risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may be required in accordance with social and environmental UNDP standards. The audits will be conducted in accordance with the UNDP Auditing Policy on Financial Risk Management.	Quarterly	Risks are identified by the project management and risk management measures are taken. A risk log is actively maintained to track identified risks and actions taken.		
Knowledge management	Knowledge, best practices and lessons will be regularly collected and actively drawn from other projects and partners and reintegrated into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.		

Annual project quality assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against the UNDP quality standards to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the project and to make management decisions to improve the project.	Annually	Strengths and weaknesses will be considered by the project management and used to make informed decisions to improve the efficiency of the project.		
Project report	The PB and key concerned parties will be presented with a project report consisting of progress data showing results achieved against predefined annual targets at the output level, an annual summary of the project quality rating, an updated risk with mitigation measures, and any reports on assessment or review prepared for the period.	Annually and at the end of the project (final report)			
Project Overview (Project Board (PB))	Project Board (PB will conduct regular project performance reviews to assess project performance and revise the multi-year work plan as necessary to ensure realistic budgeting throughout the project life. In the final year of the project, PB should conduct a project review at the end of the project to document lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up the project, and communicate project results and lessons learned with appropriate audiences.	at least once a year	The PB should discuss any quality issues or slower-than-expected progress and agree on actions to address identified issues.		

The overall project assessment, social and environmental screening and risk assessment are reflected in Appendices 1, 2, 3.

VII. MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN

EXPECTED OUTCOMES	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Financing Source	Budget Line Description	PLANNED BUDGET, PER YEAR					Total
					2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
<p>Component 1: Creation of the necessary conditions for the reintroduction of tigers on the basis of the Ile-Balkash State Nature Reserve</p> <p>Indicator 1: Quantity of trained employees Baseline: 2 persons Result 1: 18 persons</p> <p>Indicator 2: % and/or numbers of increased ungulate population Baseline: boar - 1000, koulan - 0, Bokharan deer - 20 Result 2: Reintroduced koulan population reaches 100 units, Bokharan deer – 200 units; boar population growth by over 150%</p> <p>Indicator 3: Observation towers count Baseline: 1 observation and 1 fire tower Result 3: at least 3 observation towers and 5 fire towers</p> <p>Indicator 4: quantity of nurseries and forestations Baseline: 0 ha nurseries Result 4: 5 ha nurseries and at least 50 ha forestation</p> <p>Gender marker: GEN2</p>	<p>1.1. Increasing human resources and strengthening the material and technical base of SNR "Ile-Balkhash"</p>									
	<p>1.1.1. Building the capacity of specialists from the reserve and regional nature conservation institutions on tiger reintroduction (training, learning experiences and internships), as well as on maintenance of equipment, monitoring, etc.</p>	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources / UNDP	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services/71600 Travel	-	-	22 973	22 973	11 486	57 432
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	36 694	46 451	48 748	27 567	27 567	187 027
	<p>1.1.2. Monitoring of ecosystems and fauna</p>		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	-	4 595	11 486	4 595	4 595	25 270
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	48 737	54 464	56 761	18 151	18 151	196 262
	<p>1.1.3. Strengthening the material and technical base of the reserve (scientific, field equipment, office equipment, equipment for repairing equipment, etc.)</p>		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	57 432	17 365	91 891	57 432	11 486	235 605
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	34 495	40 901	44 307	19 694	19 442	163 839
	<p>1.1.4. Construction of observation towers</p>	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	-	-	13 784	-	-	13 784	
	<p>1.1.5. Development of architectural design project a visit center of the Ile-Balkhash reserve</p>	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	-	-	34 459	-	-	34 459	
	<p>1.2. Formation of conditions for the restoration and improvement of the tiger's food potential</p>									
<p>1.2.1. Reintroduction of Bukhara deer and kulan in order to ensure a stable forage base (justification, scientific support, enclosures for overexposure and catching, transportation, performance monitoring)</p>	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources / UNDP	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services/71600Travel	57 667	61 107	69 942	69 942	34 459	293 116	

	1.2.2. Creation of conditions for increasing the number of ungulates and other mammals (scientific support, biotechnical measures, creation of watering places, construction or restoration of wells, etc.)		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services / 71300 National consultants/ 71600Travel	28 189	26 540	35 199	23 469	11 733	145 511
	1.3. Creation of a sustainable basis for the restoration of the floodplain forests of the Balkhash region									
	1.3.1. Elaboration of measures and making proposals to improve the hydrological regime of the Ile River in order to preserve and restore fish resources and floodplain tugai forests as a potential habitat for tigers.	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources / UNDP	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	19 423	31 013	46 368	22 973	-	119 776
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	26 419	27 829	37 018	20 503	20 503	132 272
	1.3.2. Strengthening measures to prevent forest fires and illegal logging (including organizational measures, training, technical support).		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services / 71300 National consultants	145 981	40 202	45 945	22 973	4 595	259 696
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	54 650	20 172	20 172	-	-	94 994
	1.3.3. Creation of a permanent forest nursery for local deciduous species on the basis of the Kurtinskoye forest protection institution.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services / 71300 National consultants/ 71600Travel	73 239	95 596	78 110	41 391	11 486	299 782
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	-	17 505	22 100	22 054	22 054	83 712
	1.3.4. Development of proposals for the formation and implementation of the National Project "Zhasyl Kazakhstan" and strengthening of reforestation activities by planting forests.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services / 71300 National consultants/ 71600Travel	17 677	6 044	11 486	11 486	6 892	53 586
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	37 694	60 303	60 303	28 463	28 463	215 226
	Total for Component 1				638 297	550 087	751 052	413 666	232 912	2 611 349
Component 2: Improvement of the condition, protection and use for scientific, cultural and	2.1. Creation of the basis and support for the development of specially protected areas in the Ulytau region									

<p>recreational purposes of objects of natural, historical and cultural heritage of the Ulytau mountain range and adjacent territories.</p> <p>Indicator 1: Efficient planning of pilot SPNRs based on approved management plans Baseline: 0 Result 1: Management plans developed for Ulytau Museum Reserve and Ulytau SNNP</p> <p>Indicator 2: Number of trained SPNR employees Baseline: 4 Result 2: 24 employees</p> <p>Indicator 3: Number of equipped developed tour routes with tour packages Baseline: 0 Result 3: at least 5 equipped developed tour routes with tour packages</p> <p>Indicator 4: Number of local citizens engaged in tour business via trainings Baseline: 0 Result 4: 18 local citizens engaged in tour business via trainings</p> <p>Gender marker: GEN2</p>	2.1.1. Preparation of documents for the development of the PAs system in the Ulytau region (FR, Management plans).	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources / UNDP	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	28601	5 513	11 486	6 892		52 493	
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	0.00	10119	7822	5525	5525		28 992
	2.1.2. Conducting landscape planning of the project area with the allocation of functional zones for various purposes, making changes to the development plans of the district akimat.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services			6 892	4 595			11486
	2.1.3. Capacity building of specialists of environmental institutions on sustainable work of PAs (training, learning experience and internship).		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services		9 191	18 378	16 081	4 595		48 245
	2.1.4. Building the capacity and material and technical base of existing and planned protected areas.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	17 229		68 918	22 973	11 486		120 606
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	11 486						11 486
	2.2. Development of tourism in the Ulytau region										
	2.2.1. Territorial planning, development of tourist routes, determination of load norms, marketing analysis, development of tour packages, organization of an information tour.	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources / UNDP	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	52 410	25 020	11 486	17 357	4 595		110 867
	2.2.2. Arrangement of tourist routes.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	19 067	16 081	29 864	18 378	9 189		92 580
	2.2.3. Development of a PAs communication program for tourism development, creation of an attractive tourist entrance group		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services		23 973	11 486	11 486			45 945
2.3. Community mobilization											
2.3.1. Development of a strategy, round tables on mobilization of the local community and employment of the population, taking into account a gender approach.	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources / UNDP	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	14 294	6 809	22 973	11 486			55 562	
2.3.2. Business trainings for the local community on the development of tourism with a gender perspective.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	5 261	9 189	19 046	11 486			44 983	

	2.3.3. Comprehensive status-quo assessment, developed atlas with functional areas outlined, land use strategy		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	45 026		77 188	77 188	35 837	239 240	
	Covering organization expenses (communications, transport)		Republican budget	71600 Travel /71300 National consultants	8 930	5 313	8 959	8 959	8 959	41 121	
	Total for Component 2				202 304	111 208	294 498	212 406	80 186	903 606	
<p>Component 3: Information and work with local communities in order to educate the population and involve them in the conservation of biological diversity</p> <p>Indicator 1: Number of local citizens engaged in alternative activities after trainings Baseline: 0 Result 1: at least 20 local citizens</p> <p>Indicator 2: Number of meetings of established Coordination Councils in pilot SPNRs Baseline: 0 Result 2: at least 2 meeting of each Council per year after establishment</p> <p>Indicator 3: Number of developed and integrated educational modules at schools in two districts Baseline: 0 Result 3: at least 10 educational modules, at least 2 schools covering at least 100 students in each of the two districts</p> <p>Gender marker: GEN2</p>	3.1 Building the capacity of the local population in the field of sustainable development and alternative activities, taking into account a gender approach.	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources / UNDP	Republican budget	72100 Contracted services / 71300 National consultants/ 71600Travel	11 636	10 331	11 486	11 486		44 939	
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services			19 263	8 576	8 576		36 414
	3.2 Public awareness and involvement of local communities in PAs management through activation or creation of Coordination Councils.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	8 100	4 595	11 486	9 189	3 446		36 816
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services/ 71600Travel	45 500	34 925					80 425
	3.3 Development of local community initiatives by attracting additional grant support, as well as the "Eco-Damu" lending system, taking into account a gender approach.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services/ 71600 Travel	23 823		68 918	45 945			138 686
			UNDP	72100 Contracted services	8 805						8 805
	3.4 Production of audio and video products, including audio guides, travel guides, etc.		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	7 749		9 189	9 489	3 446		29 573
	3.5 Carrying out information activities with coverage of various target groups. Development and implementation of school environmental education programs at the level of Ulytau and Balkhash districts		Republican budget	72100 Contracted services	9 534	9 534	17 746	9 189	4 204		50 206
Total for Component 3					115 147	59 385	138 088	93 874	19 672	389 048	
<p>Component 4: Project management</p> <p>Indicator 1: number of PB meetings</p>	Project management	UNDP	Republican budget	71400 / 74596 / 64397 / Project personnel	6 835	80 958	110 623	110 623	78 212	387 251	
			UNDP		46 138	46 841	46 841	29 745	29 745	199 311	

Baseline:0 Result 1: at least one PB meeting per year. At least 5 total PB meetings Indicator 2: Pilot areas monitoring Baseline: 0 Result 2: at least one field visit to the pilot area starting from the second year of the project implementation Indicator 3: Number of project progress reports Baseline: 0 Result 3: annual project progress reports - at least 5 total reports	Office rent and other expenses		Republican budget	73100 Premises rent and maintenance	1 904	21 709	21 817	21 817	15 178	83930
			UNDP							30 358
					11 486	7 592	3 768	3 756	3756	
	Total for Component 4				66 363	157 100	183 049	165 941	126 891	700 850
	Total RB (without GMS)				659 826	509 119	998 847	701 020	275 632	3 144 445
	Total UNDP				367 103	367 103	367 103	184 034	183 781	1 469 125
	Total GMS 8%				52 786	52 784	79 908	56 082	22 051	263 610
	Total RB:				712 613	561 904	1 078 755	757 101	297 682	3 408 055
GRAND TOTAL					1079716	929 007	1 445 858	941 135	481 463	4 877 180

* USD / KZT exchange rate as of December 1, 2021 KZT 435,3 per USD 1

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be carried out in accordance with the established UNDP procedures for national execution. The implementing partner is the FWC of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The responsible partners of the project are: UNDP and RPA "QazaqGeography". UNDP provides full administration of financial resources and operational and implementation support services to the project in accordance with the Standard Service Agreement (Annex 4) in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures. UNDP will engage QazaqGeography RPA as the responsible partner for implementation of certain components of the project on a collaborative basis, based on the results of earlier partner assessments, including HACT micro-assessment required in line with UNDP policies, rules and regulations.

UNDP will engage national and international consultants as needed to ensure high quality and effective implementation of project activities. The project will partner with various stakeholders whose involvement is necessary for successful implementation. The project will be implemented in close coordination and cooperation with all relevant government agencies, NGOs and business associations, as well as other relevant projects. In order to prevent commercial conflicts of interest, they will not be eligible to serve on the Project Board, nor will they have a direct role in project management. But they may be invited by the Project Board as needed to attend Board meetings and discuss project plans and evaluations.

Audits will be conducted in accordance with national regulations and UNDP established rules and procedures for national project implementation.

The project governance structure will be aligned with UNDP's results based management rules and will consist of the following components: (i) Project Board - PB; (ii) Project Implementation Unit (PIU); (iii) Project Assurance; and (iv) Project Support.

Roles and Responsibilities in Project Management: The Project will be implemented in accordance with the UNDP national implementation modalities in accordance with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Country Programme.

The Implementing Partner for this project is the **Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan**, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the project within the Budget Program.

The Committee will appoint a National Project Director (NPD), who is a civil servant of the Committee, who will have the authority to exercise overall management and coordination of the implementation of project activities and will ensure that the Government is involved in supporting the achievement of project objectives. The NPD is the Chair of the Project Board (PB), which will be created to provide overall strategic direction, coordination and political support for the project. The PB will be composed of representatives of partners from the Government, UNDP and other stakeholders. The full composition of the PB will be determined during its first meeting.

The **Project Board (PB)** is responsible for making management decisions, as well as making recommendations to the project team regarding plans and changes to the project to successfully address issues aimed at achieving project objectives. In order to ensure maximum accountability, the project committee's decisions should be made in accordance with standards ensuring that the best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition are achieved. The PB will be composed of the main project stakeholders and will: (a) review and approve work plans, (b) assess the extent to which M&E targets as specified in the Project Results Framework are achieved, (c) analyze interim and final reports, (d) assess any gaps or weaknesses and make appropriate management decisions based on project performance, (e) help ensure that necessary resources are allocated and (f) rule on any conflicts within the project and agree on solutions. The PB's decisions should be made in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures,

as well as standards that ensure the best economic efficiency, fairness, transparency, honesty, and effective international competition. The PB will also closely monitor the results of monitoring and evaluation, and take them into account in the future.

Functions of the PB	Representatives
Executive: the person representing the right to coordinate the project to chair the group.	Government of Kazakhstan (Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources)
Supplier: A person or group representing the interests of stakeholders who provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The main function of the Management Committee is to advise on the technical feasibility of the project.	, Government of Kazakhstan (Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources) UNDP
Beneficiary: a person or group of persons representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The main function of the Senior Beneficiary on the committee is to ensure implementation of the project results from the perspective of the project beneficiaries.	Government of Kazakhstan Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, PAs

PB meets at least once a year to approve the annual report and work plan for the next year. PB may hold additional meetings throughout the year as needed.

Project Quality Assurance. To ensure the quality of project implementation, a National Project Director from the Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources and UNDP will be appointed to provide independent project supervision and monitoring functions to ensure that project activities are managed and milestones are met. The National Project Director and UNDP Programme Officer will be responsible for checking the logical framework of risks, issues, and lessons learned, as well as ensuring compliance with the monitoring and communication plan.

Project Support. UNDP will provide financial and administrative support for project implementation, including procurement, contracting, travel, and payments within its competence.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU), following UNDP procedures for project implementation, will employ a Project Manager, a Project Assistant, and will engage international, national experts and consultants as needed to achieve project outcomes. National and international companies may also be involved in project implementation. These consultants and companies will be hired in accordance

with UNDP standard procedures. Consultants and experts will be part of the PIU, including positions necessary for successful implementation of the project.

The project team will be supported by an Administrative and Finance Assistant who will support the Project Manager and be responsible for administrative and financial matters. In accordance with the structure of the UNDP Country Office, the Project Assistant will be part of the Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) and will work in close day-to-day collaboration with the Project Manager. The project manager and the project team will receive broader support from UNDP CO, which will include support in administrative and financial matters, as well as in procurement, asset management and other issues that may arise during the project implementation phase.

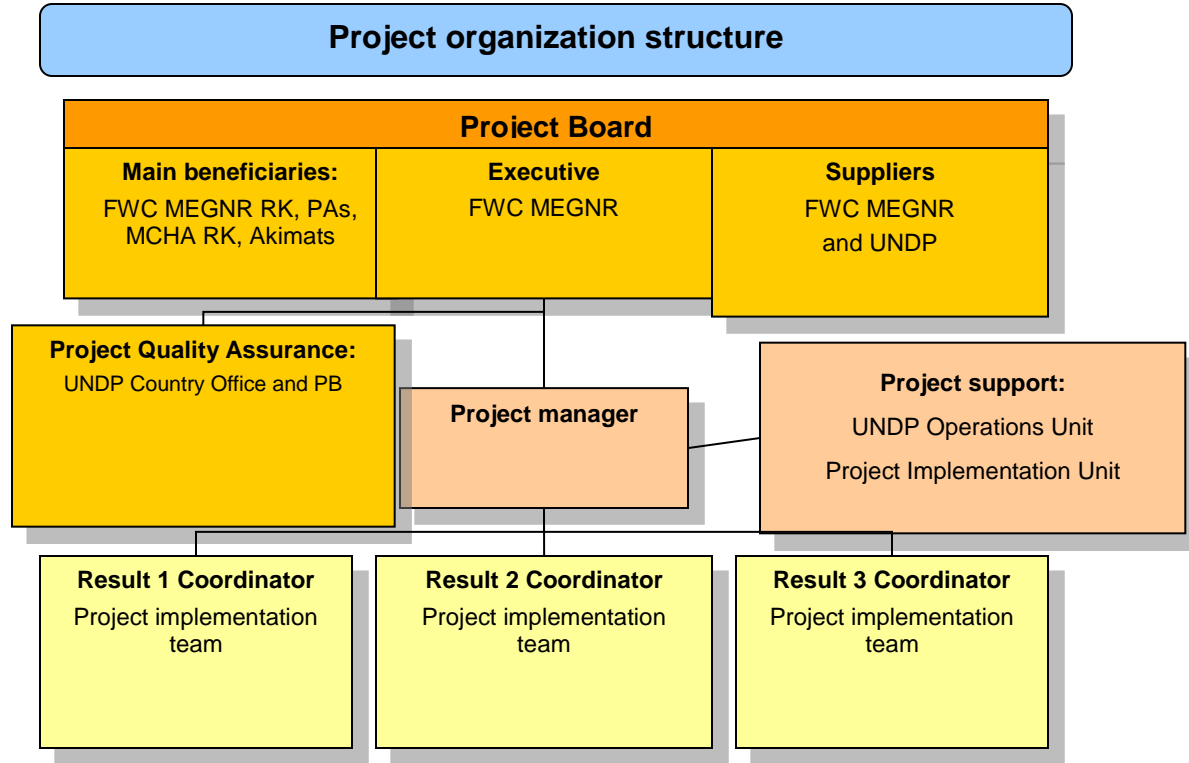
In order to ensure the compliance of project activities with national and international strategies and the implementation of all activities in accordance with its goals and objectives, a long-term Project Expert will be involved in the project. A Project Gender Policy Expert will support the project to streamline gender policy in the project.

During the implementation of the project and as required, the project will engage on a short-term basis as contractors and other technical specialists in various thematic areas. In addition, contractors can be companies and organizations for carrying out the work planned by the project. Their selection will be carried out in accordance with the UNDP rules and procedures for the procurement of works and services.

The UNDP Country Office will carry out programmatic quality control of the project implementation.

At the beginning of each year (excluding the first year), the project team will prepare an Annual Work Plan for PB approval, which is the main tool for allocating project funds. The annual work plan is prepared in consultation with all stakeholders. The Ministry and UNDP will regularly monitor the implementation of the plan. For reporting purposes, the project team will prepare an annual report. It will outline the progress towards achieving the planned results and the rationale for adjusting the progress of implementation, if necessary.

The job responsibilities of key personnel are presented in Appendix 5. The diagram below shows a diagram of the strategic and operational management of the project.



IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

Pursuant to Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA), executed on 4th October 1994, the Implementing partner is responsible for the safety and security of the Implementing partner, its personnel and property, and UNDP property held by the Implementing partner. In this regard, the Implementing partner:

- a) Ensures the preparation of an appropriate safety plan and compliance with this safety plan, taking into account the level of safety in the country in which the project is being implemented;
- b) Accepts all risks and responsibility for ensuring the security of the Implementing partner in terms of project implementation and full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to check the existence of such a plan and amend it as necessary. In the event of non-compliance and non-compliance with the relevant security plan, as required by this document, it can be considered as a violation by the Implementing partner of its obligations stipulated in the project document.

The Implementing Partner agrees to take all necessary efforts/measures to ensure that no UNDP funds received in accordance with the Project Document will be used to provide support to individuals or legal entities associated with terrorism and that recipients of any funds provided by UNDP are not on the list of the Security Council Committee established by Resolution 1267 (1999). This list can be found at <http://www.un.org/docs/sc/committees/1267/1267listeng.htm>. This condition must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under/in addition to this project document.

This project document is a document referred to under this title in Article I, signed by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Development Programme on October 4, 1994.

In order to implement the Standard Assistance Agreement, the Host Country Executing Agency will contact the appropriate government agency designated in this agreement.

The project document is drawn up in two copies in English and Russian, each of which has the same legal force. In case of discrepancy, the English version shall prevail.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Pursuant to Article III of the SBA [or Project Subsidiary Arrangements], responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, as well as the property of UNDP under the custody of the Implementing Partner, rests with the Implementing Partner. For this purpose, the Implementing Partner is obliged:

- a) develop an appropriate security plan and update the security plan taking into account the security situation in the country in which the project is being implemented;
- b) assume all risks and obligations associated with the security of the Implementing Partner and full implementation of the security plan.

2. UNDP reserves the right to check the existence of such a plan and, if necessary, propose changes to the plan. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan in accordance with the requirements of this Agreement will be considered a violation of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

3. The Implementing Partner agrees to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that funds received pursuant to the Project Document are not used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism, and that recipients of any amounts provided to UNDP under this Agreement are not included to the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/qa_sanctions_list.shtml.

4. The Implementing Partner acknowledges and agrees that UNDP will not tolerate sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse of anyone by UNDP and each of its responsible parties, their respective sub-recipients and other organizations involved in the implementation of the Project as contractors or subcontractors and their personnel, as well as any persons performing services for them in accordance with the Project Document.

(a) When implementing the activities provided for in this Project Document, the Implementing Partner and each of the above parties must comply with the rules of conduct set out in the Secretary General's bulletin ST / SGB / 2003/13 of October 9, 2003, concerning "Special measures to protect against sexual exploitation and abuse" ("SEA").

(b) In addition, without limiting the application of other provisions, rules, policies and procedures related to the implementation of activities under this Project Document, in the implementation of activities, the Implementing Partner and each of its sub-partners mentioned above should not participate in any of the forms of sexual harassment (“SH”). SH refers to any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature that can be reasonably expected or perceived to be offensive or degrading when such behaviour interferes with work, is a condition of employment, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

5. a) When carrying out activities in accordance with this Project Document, the Implementing Partner must (in relation to its own activities) and must require from its sub-partners referred to in clause 4 (in relation to their activities) that they have minimum standards and procedures or a plan to develop and/or improve such standards and procedures in order to be able to take effective preventive and investigative measures. These should include a policy on sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; a whistle-blowing/retaliation policy; as well as complaint mechanisms, disciplinary and investigative mechanisms. Accordingly, the Implementing Partner will itself and will require such sub-partners to take all necessary measures in order to:

- i. Prohibit their employees, agents or any other persons hired to perform any services in accordance with this Project Document from participating in the SH or SEA;
- ii. offer employees and related personnel training on the prevention and response to SH or SEA in cases where the Partner and its sub-partners referred to in paragraph 4 have not conducted their own training on the prevention of SH or SEA, the Partner and its sub-partners can use training materials available at UNDP;
- iii. to report and track applications in relation to SH or SEA, about which the Partner and its sub-partners referred to in paragraph 4, have been informed or otherwise learned, as well as their status;
- iv. Refer SH or SEA victims to receive safe and confidential assistance to SH victims; and
- v. Quickly and confidentially register and investigate any allegations that are credible enough to conduct an investigation in relation to SH or SEA. The Implementing Partner shall notify UNDP of any such allegations received and investigations carried out by itself or any of its sub-partners referred to in paragraph 4 in relation to their activities in accordance with the Project Document and shall inform UNDP during the investigation conducted by it or by any of the partners, to the extent that such notice (i) does not jeopardize the conduct of the investigation, including but not limited to the safety of people, and/or (ii) does not conflict with any laws applicable to him. Following an investigation, the Implementing Partner shall notify UNDP of any action taken by it or any other organization following the investigation.

b) The Implementing Partner shall determine that it has complied with the foregoing, to the satisfaction of UNDP, upon request by UNDP or any party acting on its behalf, provide such confirmation. Failure of the Implementing Partner and each of its partners referred to in clause 4 to do the foregoing, as determined by the UNDP, will be considered grounds for the suspension or termination of the Project.

6. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through the application of UNDP social and environmental standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and the related accountability mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).

7. The Implementing Partner must: (a) carry out the project and program-related activities in accordance with UNDP social and environmental standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or program to comply with such standards, and (c) Engage in a constructive and timely manner in addressing any concerns and complaints filed through the Accountability Mechanism. The UNDP will strive to ensure that communities and other stakeholders involved in project implementation are aware of and have access to the accountability mechanism.

8. All signatories to the Project Document must cooperate in good faith in any exercise to assess any obligations associated with a program or project or adherence to UNDP social and environmental standards. This includes providing access to project facilities, related personnel, information and documentation.

9. The Implementing Partner will take appropriate measures to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption by its officials, consultants, decision-makers, subcontractors and beneficiaries in the implementation of the project or the use of UNDP funds. The Implementing Partner will ensure that financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and followed for all funds received from or through UNDP.

10. The requirements of the following documents in force at the time of signing of the Project Document apply to the Implementing Partner: a) UNDP Policy on Anti-Fraud and Other Corrupt Practices and b) UNDP Guidelines for Investigations by the Office of Audit and Investigation. The Implementing Partner agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this project document and are available on the Internet at www.undp.org.

11. If an investigation is required, the UNDP is required to conduct an investigation into any aspect of UNDP projects and programs in accordance with the regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the UNDP. The Implementing Partner shall provide full assistance, including the provision of personnel, appropriate documentation and access to the Implementing Partner's premises (and its consultants, officers, subcontractors and sub-recipients) for such purposes within a reasonable time and on reasonable terms, as may be required to conducting an investigation. In the event of a limitation in fulfilling this obligation, UNDP should consult with the Implementing Partner to find a solution.

12. The signatories to this Project Document will promptly inform each other in the event of any misuse of funds or credible allegations of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

In the event that the Implementing Partner becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is under investigation for suspected fraud/corruption, the Implementing Partner will inform the UNDP Resident Representative / Head of the UNDP Office, who will promptly inform about it. UNDP Audit and Investigation Division (AID). The Implementing Partner should regularly provide the UNDP head of the country and the UAR with updates on the status of such an investigation and the actions associated with it.

The Implementing Partner agrees that where appropriate, UNDP donors (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of funds for the activities that are the subject of this project document, may ask the Implementing Partner to collect any funds, which, in

the opinion of the UNDP, have been misused, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid for, other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the project document.

Note. The term "Project Document" used in this paragraph is considered to include any relevant additional agreement to the project document covering those concluded with responsible parties, subcontractors and subrecipients.

13. UNDP is entitled to a refund from the Implementing Partner of any funds provided under the HACT that have been misused, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid, except in accordance with the terms and conditions of the project document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the Implementing Partner pursuant to this or any other agreement.

14. Each contract issued by the Implementing Partner in connection with this Project Document must include a clause stating that no fees, rewards, discounts, gifts, commissions or other payments other than those specified in the proposal have been issued, received or promised in connection with the selection process or performance of the contract and that the recipient of funds from the Implementing Partner must cooperate in any and all investigations and checks after payment.

15. Should the UNDP approach the relevant national authorities to take appropriate legal action in relation to any alleged violations pertaining to the project, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals who appear to be found to have participated in violations and also reimbursed any unauthorized UNDP funds spent.

16. The Implementing Partner must ensure that all of its obligations set out in this section entitled "Risk Management" are assigned to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient, and that all provisions of this section entitled "Standard Risk Management Regulations" have been incorporated mutatis mutandis in all subcontracts or sub-agreements entered into in accordance with this Project Document.

XI. ANNEXES

1. Annex 1. Project Quality Assurance Report (provided separately)
2. Annex 2: Social and Environmental Screening. Appendix C.1 to Screening Protocol is attached
3. Annex 3: Risk analysis
4. Annex 4: Standard letter of agreement between UNDP and the Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources. Appendix A to the standard letter is attached/
5. Annex 5: Terms of reference for key employees
6. Annex 6: Partner capacities assessment table (PCAT)

ANNEX 2: SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TEMPLATE (2021 SESP TEMPLATE, VERSION 1)

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document at the design stage. Note: this template will be converted into an online tool. The online version will guide users through the process and will embed relevant guidance.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Creation of conditions for the reintroduction of the Turanian tiger and assistance in the preservation of natural, historical and cultural objects of the Ulytau mountain range
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	00111147
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Kazakhstan
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Project design
5. Date	10 August 2021

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

In accordance with a human rights-based approach, the project aims, among other things, at equal access for all residents to the benefits obtained, regardless of gender, age, religion, etc., as well as at the equal right to be heard in the processes of biodiversity conservation and historical cultural heritage. All project activities will involve as diverse a gender, age, and ethnic group as possible. Ethnic characteristics of target groups will be considered without fail to interact with them in the most suitable language for them (Kazakh or Russian), with an appropriate choice of trainers for training or providing translation; this will avoid any discrimination on the basis of language and equal opportunities to exercise the rights to development and participation in civic debates. The principles of participation, accountability, equality, and non-discrimination will apply. By participating in the project's activities, local communities will develop a sense of involvement and understanding of their right to influence decisions, which will contribute to the development of civic consciousness and society.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

Women are a key group for the project not only because of their residence in the territory of its implementation and their role in families, but also because they, as a rule, are involved in the development of the service sector of the tourism sector developed by the project. The project will promote gender equality and the advancement of women through specially planned activities for training, access to resources and governance. Planning and implementation of project activities will be carried out with a gender perspective. The active involvement of women in discussions with the local population within the framework of the project's activities will give the participants an opportunity to develop civic consciousness, the importance and influence of their voice on the decision-making process, the course of certain activities, events. In the future, this awareness will help them to participate more actively in public life in general, strengthening their authority and expanding their capabilities.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

The project enhances the resilience of ecosystems within protected areas, and also ensures the sustainability of income generation for local residents. The stability of ecosystems is increased by improving their protection, regulating their use, increasing their completeness through the reintroduction of new species and biotechnical measures to improve the structure of biocenoses and increase the number of key species in both project areas. These actions will be supported by increasing the sustainability of the existence of protected areas, by improving the qualifications of their employees, improving the material and technical base, and improving management plans. Local residents will be focused on environmentally sustainable, alternative methods of generating income - ecotourism and others, which reduce the pressure on biodiversity and ecosystems, while increasing their income. The complex of project activities in these areas is fully consistent with the principles of environmental sustainability and the SDGs. During the implementation of the project and during the planning of activities, as well as during the interim assessments of the project, the achievement of environmental sustainability will be analyzed and, if necessary, appropriate adjustments will be made to enhance the impact of the project in this direction.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

All stakeholders are involved in the decision-making process on the project, they are identified both in the project proposal and will be clarified during the implementation of the project at meetings with local authorities, communities, interested departments and NGOs. The stakeholders, previously identified during the preparation of the project proposal, are specified during the start-up meetings in the project areas. The inclusion of all stakeholders is critical to the success of a complex project, almost all components of which are tied to interaction with partners, government and non-government organizations, and local communities. Representatives of local authorities will necessarily be involved in all meetings and interactions at the local level, which, together with the involvement of the local population (key active citizens), will create constant and dynamic accountability to stakeholders, with stable feedback. In addition, accountability to stakeholders is achieved through continuous monitoring and reporting on the progress of the project throughout the entire cycle, as well as the participation of key stakeholders in the PB.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i>	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i>			QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High
Risk Description <i>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</i>	Impact and Likelihood (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)	Comments (optional)	Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High
R-1. There is a risk of underfunding on the part of the Government, as the burden on the republican budget has increased significantly in the light of COVID 19. Realization of this risk may lead to non-fulfillment of the set project objectives, since the Government is the main donor of the project.	Probability – 1 Impact-5	Moderate	The likelihood of a risk materialization is low, as in the absence of funding from the Government the project will not start at all. Difficulties with the implementation of individual components are possible while reducing the budget.	Moderate. Proposed flexible project management, annual revision of budgets and work plans in the project team and in the PMC in accordance with the current funding (in case of its reduction), constant work to attract extrabudgetary funds, in close contact with partners
R-2. Fires that cause habitat destruction and negate the project's efforts to restore ecosystems.	Probability – 2 Impact-3	Moderate		Risk assessment for each territory, strengthening of PAs fire-fighting activities, adoption of PAs fire safety action plans with akimats, emergency situations and other local parties, preparation of special plans (if necessary) to reduce risks from other disasters.
[add additional rows as needed]				

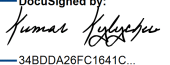
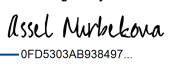
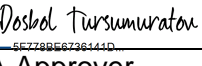
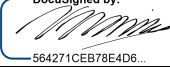

QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?			
Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Moderate Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project has moderate social and environmental risks	
Substantial Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)			
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects			
<u>Is assessment required? (check if "yes")</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Status? (completed, planned)
<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Targeted assessment(s)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	
Are management plans required? (check if "yes")	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	

		<input type="checkbox"/>	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	
	Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)	
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind			
	Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	4. Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	6. Indigenous Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	Date	Description
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QA Assessor  <small>DocuSigned by:</small> <small>34BDDA26FC1641C...</small>	21-Dec-2021	Kumar Kylychev, Head of Energy and Environment Unit
 <small>DocuSigned by:</small> <small>0FD5303AB938497...</small>	21-Dec-2021	Assel Nurbekova, Programme Analyst, Energy and Environment Unit
 <small>DocuSigned by:</small> <small>5F728DE6736441D...</small>	21-дек-2021	Dosbol Tursumuratov, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
QA Approver  <small>DocuSigned by:</small> <small>564271CEB78E4D6...</small>	21-Dec-2021	Vitalie Vremis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
PAC Chair  <small>DocuSigned by:</small> <small>304271CEB78E4D6...</small>	21-Dec-2021	Vitalie Vremis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks	
INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the SES toolkit for further guidance on addressing screening questions.	
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind Human Rights	Answer (Yes/No)
P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2 Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project? There is a risk that the Government will not be able to allocate the planned funds, which will lead to non-fulfillment of the set project objectives, since the Government is the main donor of the project.	Yes
P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.4 adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
P.5 inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? ¹	No
P.6 restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	No
P.7 exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
P.8 Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.9 adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No

¹ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

P.10 reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
P.11 limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	No
P.12 exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? <i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	No
Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below	
Accountability	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.13 exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
P.14 grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	No
P.15 risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	No
Project-Level Standards	
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
1.1 adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i> There is a minimal risk that after the active work of the Project to restore local fauna, a situation may arise when the available geographic space will not be enough for the reproduction of wild animals	Yes
1.2 activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3 changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	No
1.5 exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6 introduction of invasive alien species?	No
1.7 adverse impacts on soils?	No

1.8	harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.9	significant agricultural production?	No
1.10	animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.11	significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.12	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? ²	No
1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) ³	No
1.14	adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	No
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	No
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	No
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No

² See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

³ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	risk of forced evictions? ⁴	No
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	No
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?	No

⁴ Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

	<i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is “yes”, then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk</i>	
6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above</i>	No
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	No
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	No
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	No
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?	No

	<i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention</i>	
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No

Annex 3. Risk analysis and emergency measures

No.	Description	Risk category	Impact & Probability = Risk Level	Risk Management / Management Measures	Responsible for risk
	Brief description of the risk. Includes a future event, its causes and consequences. Risks identified from social and environmental screening, HACT audits, due diligence of private sector companies, etc. should be included.	Social and Environmental; financial; operating; organizational; political; regulatory; strategic; Safety - Each risk category can have subcategories.	A description of the potential effect on the project if this event occurs. Rate the <i>probability</i> of an event on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. Rate the impact of the event on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least impact and 5 being the greatest. Based on these estimates, determine the level of risk (high, significant, moderate or low)	What measures have been taken or will be taken to manage this risk?	Person or organization responsible for taking action to address this risk
	Changes in the management of the authorized body and changes in key personnel of other partners, which may cause delays in approving documents, joint actions, etc.	Organizational / political	Probability - 3 Impact - 3 Risk level = medium	The project will track changes and timely hold meetings with the new key personnel partner, informing about the work and clarifying the interaction; Collaboration agreements will detail the activities of the partners and the project, which will reduce the risks of personnel changes and ensure continuity.	Project manager, Implementing partner
	Lack of funding due to accelerated inflation and higher prices, insufficient funding from the donor in the context of the economic crisis, budget deficit, which will cause a reduction in volumes or the impossibility of fulfilling certain tasks in the project	Financial	Probability - 1 Impact - 5 Risk level = medium	Thorough development and preparation of documents on the interaction of the parties directly involved in the implementation of the project; development of scenarios for the development of unfavourable situations, carrying out the necessary purchases as soon as possible; monitoring the situation and, if necessary, working together with MEGNR with the government and the Ministry of Finance to protect annual budgets; search for additional funds as co-financing.	UNDP Country Office, Project Manager, Implementing Partner

	Funding problems with key partners will make it impossible or difficult to carry out jointly with the project on a co-financed basis.	Financial	Probability - 3 Impact - 3 Risk level = medium	Regular discussions and monitoring of the situation with partners, at least quarterly discussions and operational coordination of plans for joint work and their division	Project Manager
	Risks associated with increased quarantine measures in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and with the possibility of illness of personnel and third-party specialists involved in the project; may result in delays in the implementation of project activities and disruption of schedules, or a decrease in the quality of training, etc., conducted remotely	Security, organizational	Probability - 3 Impact - 3 Risk level = medium	Readiness to use teleworking technologies, calculation of the timing and progress of field work and other stages of the project, taking into account possible quarantine measures of varying degrees, the mandatory use of protective equipment and other measures to protect personnel and contact persons.	Project Manager
	Fires or other natural and anthropogenic impacts of a catastrophic nature that cause habitat destruction and negate the project's efforts to restore ecosystems.	Environmental, organizational	Probability - 2 Impact - 2 Risk level = medium	Risk assessment for each territory, strengthening of PAs fire-fighting activities, adoption of PAs fire safety action plans with akimats, emergency situations and other local parties, preparation of special plans (if necessary) to reduce risks from other disasters.	Project manager, Implementing partner

Annex 4.

Standard Letter of Agreement between UNDP and the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding provision of support services

Referring to consultations between the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan (hereinafter "the COMMITTEE ") and UNDP in Kazakhstan regarding the provision of support services by the UNDP Country Office, the UNDP and the COMMITTEE hereby agree that the UNDP Country Office may provide such support services at the request of the COMMITTEE through its agency specified in the relevant project document of the joint UNDP and COMMITTEE project.

The UNDP Country Office may provide support services to assist with mandatory reporting and direct payments. Costs incurred by the UNDP Country Office in providing such support services shall be reimbursed from the administrative budget of the office.

The UNDP Country Office may provide, at the request of the designated agency, the following support services during the project implementation:

- (a) Identification and selection of project personnel; resolution of administrative issues related to project personnel;
- (b) Identification and facilitation of training activities, seminars and workshops;
- (c) Procurement of goods and services;
- (d) Processing direct payments.

Procurement of goods and services and recruitment of project personnel by the UNDP Country Office shall be carried out in accordance with UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. The support services listed in paragraph 3 above should be detailed in an annex to the project document in the form annexed to this document. If the requirements for the support services of the Country Office change during the life of the project, the annex to the project document shall be revised with the agreement of the UNDP Resident Representative and the designated agency.

The relevant provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNDP, signed by the Parties on October 5, 1992, including provisions on liability, privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such ancillary services. The COMMITTEE retains overall responsibility for the nationally administered project through its designated agency. The responsibility of the UNDP Country Office to provide the services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such services as detailed in the annex to the project document.

Any claim or dispute arising out of or relating to the provision of support services by the UNDP Country Office as set forth in this letter shall be resolved in accordance with the relevant provisions of the SBAA.

The manner and method of reimbursement by the UNDP Country Office for services described in paragraph 3 above shall be specified in the annex to the project document.

The UNDP Country Office shall report on the services provided and on the payment for such services, as applicable.

Any changes to these arrangements shall be subject to the mutual written agreement of the parties.

Regards,

DocuSigned by:
Yakup Beris
8E8AB6D378F0463...

Signed on behalf of the UNDP
Yakup Beris
Resident Representative

On behalf of the Government

Chairman, Forestry and Wildlife Committee, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources
[Date]

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES

Referring to consultations between the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan (hereinafter "the COMMITTEE ") and UNDP in Kazakhstan regarding the provision of support services by the UNDP Country Office in the framework of joint project of UNDP and the Committee "Creating Conditions for Reintroduction of Turan Tiger and Assistance for Conservation of Natural and Historical and Cultural Sites in the Ulytau Mountain Range", or "Project".

In accordance with the provisions of the signed Letter of Agreement and Project Document, the UNDP Country Office shall provide support services for the Project as described below.

The support services to be provided include:

Support Services in project implementation	Schedule of services	Amount and method of covering the costs of UNDP services (if applicable)
Payment process	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 39.02 per payment process
Vendor profile entry into ATLAS	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 20.41 per process
Project staff selection and/or hiring process * Project Manager * Administrative and Finance Assistant	Project initiation	\$ 584.88 per process
Administration and management of human resources and compensation. (Once per employee, including health insurance enrollment, payroll setup and termination process)	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$200.78 per process
Ongoing human resources services: staff payroll, bank administration and management (per employee per calendar year)	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 443.88 per process
Consultant recruitment	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 228.41 per process
Procurement of goods and services with local CAPs	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 526.39 per process

Procurement of goods and services without local CAP participation	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 526.39 per process
Issuance/renewal of identification cards (UN Passport, UN Number, etc.)	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 37.23 per process
Travel. Estimated travel expenses (including airline rates and DSA). Registration F10	Ongoing throughout implementation, as needed	\$ 93.63 per process

Total services shall not exceed \$35,143

Annex 5. Terms of reference for Project Board and for key employees

Project Board (PB)

The PB is responsible for the following functions:

1. Ensure proper coordination of project activities at the national and local levels.
2. Establish, based on agreement, allowable changes in annual work plans and budgets as requested by the Project Manager, with input from the National Project Director as needed (FWC).
3. Monitor and supervise the implementation of project activities at the strategic level, namely to assess the scale and effectiveness of the project's impact in relation to the funds invested.
4. Ensure that risks are monitored and minimized in the most effective way.
5. Organize PB meetings chaired by the National Project Director on a regular basis, the frequency of which will be determined in the agreement between the National Project Director and the Project Manager, but not less than 1-2 times a year.
6. Evaluate the progress of the project in achievement of the planned results from the point of view of the project customer.
7. Ensure that project funds are spent as intended to achieve the planned results.
8. Ensure the timely financing of the project by the customer
9. Advocate for the project to resolve any conflicts related to the provision of financial resources for the project implementation.
10. Ensure compliance of the planned results and activities with the actual needs of the project beneficiaries.
11. Learn about meetings that are relevant to project implementation at the national level, including regional events organized in the framework of partnerships.
12. Promote the adoption of changes in the national legislation and programs necessary to consolidate the successful results of the project.
13. Annually assess project progress and provide managerial and financial recommendations, including hiring a project implementation team, evaluating and approving annual reports, budgets, and work plans.

The responsibilities of the PB include:

1. Prioritizing and determining the importance of the project
 - Reviewing and approving the Project Initiation Plan (if required for LPAC review)
2. Initiating the project.
 - Aligning the responsibilities of the project manager and other project team members;
 - Delegating project oversight responsibilities as needed;
 - Reviewing a progress report on the initiation phase (if an initiation plan was required);
 - Reviewing and approving the detailed project plan and annual work plan, including reports in the Atlas system on results, quality criteria, risks, monitoring plan, and communication plan.
3. Project Implementation
 - Overall project management and planning to minimize certain risks and barriers;
 - Addressing project issues brought to the attention of the project manager;
 - Leading and agreeing on measures and actions necessary to overcome specific risks encountered during the project;
 - Agreeing project manager's authority to modify quarterly and annual work plans as necessary;
 - Conducting regular meetings to review quarterly project progress reports and provide recommendations to ensure planned deliverables are met;
 - Reviewing financial reports (CDRs) prior to Implementing partner approval;
 - Reviewing the annual project report, developing recommendations for the next annual work plan, communicating project results and evaluations.

- Reviewing and approving the final project report, developing recommendations for further action based on the results achieved;
- Providing ad hoc guidance and recommendations in exceptional situations where the project manager's authority is exceeded;
- Evaluating and deciding on changes to the project as part of audits;

4. Project Closeout

- Ensuring successful achievement of all project deliverables;
- Reviewing and approving the Project Final Report, including lessons learned;
- To develop recommendations for scaling up the project's results to be submitted to the Outcome Board;
- Providing for the evaluation of the project (only if required by the partnership agreement)
- Notify the Outcome Board of the operational completion of the project

5. Specific responsibilities of the Contractor (see project organogram), as part of the above described responsibilities of the PB

- Ensuring a coherent project organizational structure and logically aligned plans
- Defining the project manager's authority to make changes to the Annual Work Plan and other plans
- Ensure monitoring and control of project progress at the strategic level
- Ensuring that risks are monitored and that effective risk mitigation measures are implemented
- Keeping the Outcome Board and other stakeholders informed of the project's progress
- Organization and chairing of the PB meetings
- The Contractor shall provide assurance of project implementation as described below. If the project allows, the Executor may delegate some of the project assurance functions.

6. Specific responsibilities of the Principal Administrator (see project organogram), as part of the PB responsibilities described above

- Ensuring the achievement of project results from the administrator's point of view
- Facilitating and supporting the achievement of project results from the administrator's point of view
- Provide access to project resources
- Express the administrator's views on PB decisions regarding changes to the project
- Arbitrate and resolve conflicts within the administrator's authority or related to project resources

7. The administrator's responsibilities for project quality assurance include:

- Provide guidance on the choice of strategy, approach, and methods of implementation of project activities
- Ensuring that all standards prescribed for the project are met
- Monitoring potential changes and their impact on the quality of results from the administrator's perspective
- Monitoring risks during project implementation.

8. Specific responsibilities of the principal beneficiary (as part of the PB responsibilities described above)

- Ensuring that the expected results and related activities of the project are correctly defined
- Ensuring that the achievement of results meets the requirements and expectations of the beneficiaries
- Keeping the project focused on the expected results
- Prioritizing and expressing beneficiaries' views and needs in relation to PB decisions on proposed changes
- Addressing priority conflicts.

9. The principal beneficiary's responsibilities to ensure quality assurance of the project include:

- Ensuring that beneficiary needs are clearly and fully articulated

- Monitoring the implementation of activities at all stages to ensure compliance with beneficiary needs
- Assessing potential changes from the beneficiaries' point of view
- Monitoring risks to beneficiaries.

Key staff: Project Manager, PAs Management and Reintroduction Expert (Component 1), Tourism and Community Engagement Expert (Component 2-3), Project Assistant.

Terms of reference for the key personnel of the Project Implementation Unit

Key personnel

- (1) Project Manager
- (2) Expert on SPNR management and reintroduction (Component 1)
- (3) Expert on Tourism and Community Engagement (Component 2-3)
- (4) Project Assistant

Terms of reference 1

Position: Project manager

The Project Manager is responsible for the overall day-to-day coordination of all aspects of the project at the national level under the overall guidance of the National Project Director (NPC). The PM leads the Project Implementation Teams and is fully responsible for the effective implementation of all project activities. PM ensures timely and efficient planning, control and monitoring of project activities in accordance with the RK/UNDP Government planning, monitoring and reporting procedures. PM ensures effective teamwork based on international business administration and human resource management standards. PM is in direct contact with the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the RK, which are the Implementing Partners of this project, as well as the Project Director, overseeing the project under the leadership of UNDP. The PM is responsible for preparing financial and progress reports on approved project activities, providing expert support, and overseeing subcontracting.

The overall goal of PM's work is to successfully implement the project in accordance with the objectives, work plan and budget contained in the project document, including the following specific tasks:

1. Ensuring effective planning and implementation of the project with the participation of all concerned parties;
2. Organization and management of the work of the Project implementation units (PIU), including specialists for each project result and project budget;
3. Organization of preparation of terms of reference and contracts for national and international experts, consultants and partners in consultation with the Project Director/UNDP;
4. Organization and assistance in carrying out activities related to the project, if necessary. This may include scheduling meetings, local and national workshops, consultations, travel and other project-related activities.
5. Ensuring the preparation of reports on the progress of the project, financial statements, inquiries of any kind;
6. Ensuring the preparation of technical reports in accordance with the requirements of the Government RK/UNDP and monitoring and reporting forms;
7. Ensuring effective cooperation with relevant government agencies, scientific societies, NGOs and other stakeholders on project activities;
8. Establishing and maintaining links and relationships with national and international project partners;
9. Ensuring control over the timely execution of work

10. Providing preparation and submission of various technical reports for PB and UNDP in accordance with the project documentation
11. Control of the proposed costs of the budgetary funds of the project in accordance with the approved budget for each project result
12. Ensuring the dissemination of information about the project to all concerned parties;
13. Establish and manage mechanisms for sharing experiences and lessons learned at the national level;
14. Coordination, tracking and responsibility for the implementation of the approved annual work plan for the project;
15. Ensuring the actual attraction, coordination and monitoring of funds within the framework of co-financing provided for in the project documents;
16. Development of relationships with other UNDP and RK Government projects, if necessary;
17. Submission of ongoing project reports and timely informing PB and UNDP about any problems that arise during the implementation of the project;
18. Participation in all PB meetings;
19. Participation in the Councils for project support in the project areas;
20. PM performs other functions agreed with PB.

Terms of reference 2

Position: Expert on the Ile-Balkhash project area (Component 1)

Under the direct supervision of the UNDP Project Manager, the Expert provides expert support to the project in matters of PAs management and reintroduction. The project expert works in close cooperation with the national partner (FWC MEGNR of RK) and WWF Russia in order to ensure timely and effective support for program activities.

1. Providing comprehensive support to the Project Manager in all aspects of the project implementation related to PAs management and reintroduction, according to the project document;
2. Working in close cooperation with the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of MEGNR of RK, WWF Russia, SNR Ile-Balkhash and other interested organizations to build relationships within the project;
3. Provides technical expert support in the area of PAs management and reintroduction;
4. Provides progressive expert support in the implementation of the project and project activities;
5. Providing support to the Project Manager in the development of the annual project plan;
6. Providing support to the Project Manager in the development of terms of reference for consultants in the framework of activities related to PAs management and reintroduction, in accordance with the annual work plans and project strategy;
7. Ensuring the implementation of project activities related to PAs management and reintroduction in accordance with the work plan;
8. Organization of seminars and project events in accordance with the approved work plan;
9. Assistance in preparing reports on the implementation of the project;
10. Carrying out other duties as necessary.

Terms of reference 3

Position: Expert on the Ulytau project area (Component 2)

Under the direct supervision of the UNDP Project Manager, the Expert provides expert support to the project in tourism and community engagement issues. The project expert works closely with the national partner (FWC MEGNR of RK), the Ulytau Museum-Reserve and QazaqGeography to ensure timely and effective support for program activities.

1. Providing comprehensive support to the Project Manager in all aspects of the project implementation related to tourism and involvement of the local population, according to the project document;
2. Working in close cooperation with the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of MEGNR of RK, with the Ulytau Museum-Reserve, QazaqGeography and other interested organizations to build relationships within the project;
3. Provides technical expertise in tourism and community engagement;
4. Provides progressive expert support in the implementation of the project and project activities;
5. Providing support to the Project Manager in the development of the annual project plan;
6. Providing support to the Project Manager in the development of terms of reference for consultants in the framework of activities related to tourism and local involvement, in accordance with the annual work plans and project strategy;
7. Ensuring the implementation of project activities related to tourism and the involvement of the local population in accordance with the work plan;
8. Organization of seminars and project events in accordance with the approved work plan;
9. Assistance in preparing reports on the implementation of the project;
10. Carrying out other duties as necessary.

Terms of reference 4

Position: Project Assistant

The scope of functional responsibilities has been brought in line with the project documentation. The Administrative and Financial Assistant (AFA) is responsible for the day-to-day administrative and financial support of project activities, supply of goods and services for the project, including efficient accounting of project funds and financial reporting in accordance with UNDP requirements and procedures. Administrative and financial assistant will ensure high quality and accurate execution of work.

The overall objective of AFA's work is the successful implementation of the project in accordance with the objectives, work plan and budget contained in the project document, including the following specific objectives:

1. Preparation of revised project budgets (at least once a year);
2. Preparation of requests for advances and reporting, if necessary, in accordance with UNDP procedures.
3. Preparing payment requests.
4. Prepare travel requests for project staff, Implementing partner and UNDP in accordance with UNDP format, rules and procedures.
5. Providing support in organizing business trips (booking tickets and hotels).
6. Helping the PM in maintaining ongoing contact with the Implementing Partner, UNDP, project partners and other organizations through direct contacts, gathering information and suggestions, registering incoming and outgoing correspondence, drafting letters and organizing meetings.
7. Assisting PM in project monitoring by revising existing materials, correspondence, reports, project activities, project contributions, budgets and financial costs in accordance with UNDP requirements; preparation and archiving of the above correspondence and materials.
8. Organization and support in organizing seminars, meetings, delegations, trips to countries, etc.
9. Preparation of handouts for seminars, briefings and meetings.
10. Maintaining an inventory of equipment, preparing reports on the condition of equipment;
11. Keeping records regarding the issuance of project equipment to PIU specialists; monitoring of issued equipment;

12. Collection and distribution of incoming mail, distribution of outgoing mail; search for files, etc.
13. Registration of data on the use of office vehicles.
14. Unofficial translation and implementation of the functions of a translator, if necessary.
15. Preparation after consultation with project experts and approval of the procurement plan; ensuring systematic monitoring of procurement in accordance with the UNDP format and under the supervision of the PM;
16. Organization of selection of suppliers of goods/services in accordance with the requirements and procedures of the UNDP;
17. Preparation, after consultation with experts, of a draft justification for the selection of suppliers of goods/services for study by the relevant UNDP divisions and the UNDP Procurement Committee;
18. Preparation, coordination and provision of approval of contract documents related to the procurement of goods/services; monitoring the fulfilment of contractual conditions by suppliers and informing PM.
19. Preparation of electronic applications in accordance with signed contracts and tranches, monitoring of applications for payment in the Atlas system.
20. Preparation of short-term contracts in accordance with the requirements and procedures of the UNDP and monitoring the fulfilment of contract conditions;
21. Preparation of an annual/quarterly report for input into the UNDP Atlas program, according to the proposals of the project experts and the approval of the PM.
22. Systematic analysis of the financial situation of the project, which is reflected in Atlas, and, if necessary, preparation of PM proposals for making adjustments

