



United Nations Development Programme
Countries: Global (with focus on Central Asia)
PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title: **Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation**
UNDAF 7. "Increased sector capacity for sustainable resources management, with the participation of primary resource users". Expected Outputs: 7.1 "Capacities improved for effective formulation, implementation and enforcement of sector policies and legislations" and 7.2 "A holistic (landscape-based) principle applied for planning, management and conservation of pasture/land, water and forest resources and biodiversity"
Outcome(s):

UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development Primary Outcome: Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded
Output 1.3: Solutions developed at national and sub-national levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste.

Indicator 1.3.1 Number of new partnership mechanisms with funding for sustainable management solutions of natural resources, ecosystems services, chemicals and waste at national and/or subnational level.

Executing Entity/Implementing Partner: Snow Leopard Trust
Implementing Entity/Responsible Partners: GSLEP Secretariat, UNDP

Brief Description:

This global project will strengthen transboundary conservation for snow leopards and their high mountain ecosystems to ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats with special focus on Central Asia. The project will specifically target four Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), with approaches being piloted in one transboundary snow leopard landscape: the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan landscape (39,500 km²) which is shared between Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. Direct GEF funding will only go to these four Central Asian countries. It builds upon, and supports, the efforts of the 12 snow leopard range countries who have committed to the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP). The project will achieve its objective by gathering, developing and making available best practices to support transboundary actions for snow leopard ecosystem conservation, establishing a common monitoring framework and strengthening global coordination mechanisms. The results will be relevant for four countries of Central Asia but also for all 12 snow leopard range countries.

The snow leopard is classified by IUCN as Endangered, with an estimated global population of 3500-7000. As an apex predator, snow leopards are indicators of healthy high-mountain ecosystems in Central and South Asia that provide essential ecosystem services to millions of people. Ensuring healthy populations of snow leopards will therefore secure both the rich biodiversity of these areas, as well as other multiple benefits. Current threats include illegal wildlife trade, habitat degradation and climate change. A high degree of international cooperation is essential to address such threats, particularly as snow leopards range across many international borders.

The first component will improve knowledge sharing through the development of tools and guidelines for transboundary cooperation made available through an on-line platform. Institutional and personnel capacity for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation will be developed for wildlife and forest agencies, customs agencies and border guards, as measured by the UNDP Capacity Assessment Scorecard. Effective enforcement mechanisms will be introduced to control illegal trade in snow leopards and their prey species. The second project component will develop a common monitoring framework for snow leopard ecosystems and test it across the pilot landscape. Results will be incorporated into a spatial database for monitoring and management which will be used to identify sustainable landscape management measures in the pilot landscape. The common monitoring framework and spatial database will be shared globally. The third project component will strengthen the GSLEP Secretariat's capacity to provide

technical and other support to the range countries. It will develop, pilot and share global and national tools for financing snow leopard ecosystem conservation and establish dialogue platforms with the private sector.

The project will thus develop and demonstrate best practice approaches, build capacity and facilitate national implementation for trans-boundary collaboration for snow leopard ecosystem conservation at the global level. It builds upon the already significant baseline of the GSLEP and will be fully integrated with GEF-financed activities relating to snow leopards in the relevant countries.

Programme Period:	36 months
Atlas Award ID:	00099684
Project ID:	00102964
PIMS #	5413
Start date:	Dec 2016
End Date	Dec 2019
Management Arrangements	NGO
PAC Meeting Date	09 Sept 2016

Total resources required: \$ 1,000,000
• GEF: \$ 1,000,000
Total Other Resources \$ 4,196,000:
Partner managed \$ 1,600,000 (in-kind):
• Kyrgyz Rep: \$ 900,000
• Rep. Tajikistan \$ 700,000
Other Parallel \$ 2,596,000 (Grant):
• SLT \$ 600,000
• NABU \$ 616,000
• Panthera \$ 300,000
• FFI \$ 80,000
• WWF-US \$ 600,000
• UNDP \$ 400,000

Agreed by (UNDP):



Date/Month/Year

ALIONA NICULITA
DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
UNDP

07 FEB 2017

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ACRONYMS

ABCK	Association for Biodiversity Conservation of Kazakhstan
APR	Annual Project Report
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CA	Central Asia
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CDR	Combined Delivery Report
CO	Country Office
COP	Conference of the Parties
CP	Country Programme
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EOP	End of Project
ERC	Evaluation Resource Centre
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSC	Global Support Component
GSLEP	Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program
GTI	Global Tiger Initiative
HDI	Human Development Index
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICSD	International Commission on Sustainable Development
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IRH	UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTR	Mid Term Review
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (Germany)
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NSLEP	National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program
PA	Protected Area
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PTC	Project Technical Committee

RCU	Regional Coordination Unit
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SAEPF	State Agency for Environment Protection and Forestry, Kyrgyz republic
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
SLC	Snow Leopard Conservancy
SLN	Snow Leopard Network
SLT	Snow Leopard Trust
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPR	Tri-Partite Review
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WBI	World Bank Institute
WTO	World Tourism Organisation
WH	World Heritage
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

SECTION I: Elaboration of the Narrative

PART I: Situation Analysis

INTRODUCTION

1. The snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is an apex predator and global flagship species that has an extremely large habitat range inhabiting mountain ecosystems spanning 12 countries and around 1.8 million km² across central and south Asia. Population size is estimated to be between 3,500 to 7,000 individuals in the wild and it is classified by IUCN as Endangered. It is a culturally, ecologically, and economically important symbol of healthy high-mountain ecosystems.
2. The mountain ecosystems of Central and South Asia are sparsely populated due to the topography, high altitudes and harsh continental climate (cold winters, hot summers and unstable rainfall patterns). They support snow leopards, their prey, and a vast biological diversity. They also contribute to human wellbeing - locally, regionally, and globally – for hundreds of millions of people, through supporting a wide range of ecosystem services such as water provision, grazing for livestock, mineral resources, medicinal supplies and products, cultural traditions and spiritual values, and inspiration for tourism and recreation.
3. The snow leopard is threatened across its range by human activities including direct impacts from illegal capture and trade, as well as retaliatory killing following predation on livestock. Indirect threats include increasing livestock and over-grazing reducing their natural prey, habitat fragmentation and degradation from infrastructure developments, and climate change. These threats are compounded by low capacity of wildlife, customs and border agencies, and weak transboundary cooperation.
4. There has been limited experience in transboundary cooperation in the Central Asian region in environmental management and in particular in joint management and conservation of transboundary landscapes. In addition, national regulation implementation and enforcement remain weak particularly in transboundary areas due to the limited administrative capacity. A common objective of all Central Asian countries' national action plans to protect snow leopard ecosystems is to strengthen transboundary collaboration including through the establishment of landscape-level transboundary conservation areas, the promotion of study exchanges between PAs of both adjacent and regionally linked range countries, and addressing knowledge gaps through joint research and monitoring. There is a need for regional coordination and technical support to complement the national actions for enabling the transboundary conservation of snow leopards and their habitats.
5. This project aims to strengthen transboundary cooperation for the conservation of snow leopards and their mountain ecosystems by strengthening the recently established Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP) and thereby supporting the range countries to develop and implement their own national programmes (NSLEPs), several of which are supported by existing or proposed GEF projects. It will deliver benefits for all 12 range countries by strengthening the global coordination mechanism (GSLEP Secretariat) and by

developing and disseminating knowledge and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems. Specifically, it will focus on four Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) where it will build capacity for effective transboundary cooperation. One transboundary snow leopard landscape, the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan landscape, which is shared between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic has been selected as the project’s pilot landscape for testing and demonstrating innovative transboundary cooperation approaches and tools.

Figure 1 Map of snow leopard distribution and range countries



CONTEXT AND GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

Environmental context

- The snow leopard is a top predator and a global flagship species that has an extremely large habitat range spanning around 1.8 million km², inhabiting mountain ranges (with elevations ranging from 540m asl to 5000m asl) in as many as 12 countries: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kingdom of Bhutan, People’s Republic of China, Republic of India, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan (see Figure 1). Its geographic range, 60 percent of which is in China, runs from the Hindu Kush in eastern Afghanistan and

the Syr Darya through the mountains of Pamir, Tien Shan, Karakorum, Kashmir, Kunlun, and the Himalaya to southern Siberia, where the range covers the Russian Altai, Sayan, and Tannu-Ola mountains and the mountains to the west of Lake Baikal. It is found in the Mongolian and Gobi Altai and the Khangai Mountains. In Tibet it is found up to the Altyn-Tagh in the north.

7. The snow leopard's mountain ecosystems are characterized by high, rugged steep terrain dissected by cliffs, ridges, and gullies and dominated by shrubs and grasses. At lower elevations the terrain may be partly covered by coniferous forest. Throughout however, the habitat is cold, dry, and harsh, and only parts of this habitat can support snow leopards.
8. Highly elusive and with extremely low densities, exact numbers are difficult to determine but the global population is estimated to range from 3,500 to 7,000 individuals in the wild. Populations in the target countries are estimated to be: Kazakhstan: 100-110¹, Kyrgyz Republic: 300-350²; Tajikistan: 180-220³ and Uzbekistan: 30-45⁴. Once largely protected by the inaccessibility of their mountain habitats and their elusive behaviour, snow leopards today face mounting threats that have shifted the species' status from rare to now being categorised as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Further details of the threats to snow leopards are described in the section on Threats, Root Causes and Barriers.
9. Mountain ecosystems inhabited by snow leopards are incredibly rich and diverse. For example, in Kazakhstan they occupy about 30% of the country and encompass 75% of the entire country's biodiversity⁵ (Kazakhstan has 784 species of vertebrate animals and 6,000 species of vascular plants⁶). High mountains ecosystems in the Kyrgyz Republic cover about 60% of the country and have more than 4,200 plant species, about 10% of which are endemic⁷, and more than 200 vertebrate animal species⁸. 60% of Tajikistan's area is represented by habitat of snow leopards⁹ that harbour much of the country's rich biodiversity including 9,700 vascular plant species and more than 500 species of vertebrates.¹⁰ Uzbekistan has only a small portion of snow leopard habitat in the most eastern part of the country (no more than 10,000 km²)¹¹, but its value for biodiversity conservation is high with more than 2,000 vascular plant species and about 250

¹ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA.

² Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA.

³ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

⁴ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA.

⁵ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

⁶ USAID Central Asian Republic Mission (2001). Biodiversity Assessment for Kazakhstan. Survey Report. June 2001. Almaty, Kazakhstan

⁷ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

⁸ USAID Central Asian Republic Mission (2001). Biodiversity Assessment for Kyrgyz Republic. Survey Report. June 2001. Almaty, Kazakhstan

⁹ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

¹⁰ Squires V.R. and N. Safarov (2013). Diversity of Plants and Animals in Mountain Ecosystems in Tajikistan. Journal of Rangeland Science. Vol. 4. Issue 1. 43-60

¹¹ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

species of vertebrate animals.¹² Snow leopard ecosystems in Central Asia are home for a number of endangered and threatened species such as Turkestan lynx (*Lynx lynx*), Pallas's cat (*Otocolobus manul*), Tian Shan bear (*Ursus arctos*), urial (*Ovis vignei bocharensis*), markhor (*Capra falconeri*), Marco Polo argali (*Ovis ammon polii*), Tien Shan argali (*Ovis ammon karelini*), vultures (*Aegypius monachus*, *Neophron percnopterus*), Lammergeier (*Gypaetus barbatus*), eagles (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*, *Aquila chrysaetos*, *A. heliaca*, *Hieraetus fasciatus*), Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and others.¹³ The snow leopard is the apex predator, and therefore an important indicator of highly healthy mountain ecosystems. It plays an important ecological role in controlling the populations and health of the wild ungulate species it preys on (Siberian ibex, argali, markhor, roe deer, red deer, etc.).

10. Protecting the snow leopard, its prey species, and its habitat is critical to protecting broader ecoregions as well, such as the high altitude grasslands in its range countries. Indeed at least 6 of Asia's 36 Global 200 terrestrial Ecoregions – Altai-Sayan Montane Forests, Middle Asian Montane Woodlands and Steppe, Tibetan Plateau Steppe, Western Himalaya Temperate Forests, Eastern Himalaya Alpine Meadows, and Hengduan Shan Conifer Forests - encompass the snow leopard's range¹⁴. Two ecoregions - Altai-Sayan Montane Forests and Middle Asian Montane Woodlands and Steppe – encompass a great part of Central Asia's countries.
11. While protected areas are crucially important for snow leopard conservation, single sites, including most Protected Areas (PAs), are rarely large enough to harbour viable populations. About 120 PAs exist in potential snow leopard habitat in Asia but they cover only about 6% of that habitat. Moreover, most of these PAs, by themselves, are too small to support a snow leopard population. In Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) key snow leopard habitats occupy about 191,000 km², but only 51,400 km² of this is covered by PAs (27%). This PA coverage is significantly higher than the average PA coverage of snow leopard habitat in Asia, but it is not enough for sustainable conservation of snow leopard population in the region (should be a least 50%). Currently 37 PAs in Central Asia, with total area of 6,381,209 ha, include snow leopard habitat, but in the majority of these PAs snow leopard numbers are still unknown (see Table 1)

Table 1. Protected areas in Central Asia of importance to snow leopards

Name	IUCN Category	Area (ha)	# Snow leopards
Kazakhstan¹⁵			
Aksu-Zhabagly Nature Reserve	Ia	128,118	6-8 ¹⁶

¹² Fundukchiev S.E. The peculiarities of biodiversity of mountains forest and its preservation. <http://e-lib.gasu.ru/konf/biodiversity/2008/2/82.pdf> ; USAID Central Asian Republic Mission (2001). Biodiversity Assessment for Uzbekistan. Survey Report. June 2001. Almaty, Kazakhstan

¹³ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; WWF 2014: Central Asia: Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan <https://www.worldwildlife.org/ecoregions/pa0808>

¹⁴ Olson, D.M., E. Dinerstein, E.D. Wikramanayake, N.D. Burgess, G.V.N. Powell, E.C. Underwood, J.A. D'Amico, H.E. Strand, J.C. Morrison, C.J. Loucks, T.F. Allnutt, J.F. Lamoreux, T.H. Ricketts, I. Itoua, W.W. Wettengel, Y. Kura, P. Hedao, and K. Kassem (2001). Terrestrial ecoregions of the world: A new map of life on Earth. *BioScience* 51(11):933-938.

¹⁵ List of Protected Areas is made using the following source of information: Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

¹⁶ Strategy for Snow Leopard Conservation in Kazakhstan. 2012.

Almaty Nature Reserve	Ia	71,700	8-10 ¹⁷
Markakolsky Nature Reserve	Ia	103,000	0-1 ¹⁸
West Altai Nature Reserve	Ia	56,078	0-1 ¹⁹
Sairam-Ugam National Park	II	150,000	No Data
Ile-Alatau National Park	II	199,292	No Data
Kolsai Kolderi National Park	II	161,045	No Data
Zhongar-Alatau National Park	II	356,022	No Data
Katonkaragay National Park	II	643,477	10-15 ²⁰
Total for Kazakhstan:		1,868,732	
Kyrgyz Republic²¹			
Besh-Aral Nature Reserve	Ia	112,018	No Data
Karatal-Japyryk Nature Reserve	Ia	36,449	No Data
Kulun-Ata Nature Reserve	Ia	27,780	No Data
Naryn Nature Reserve	Ia	91,023	No Data
Padysha-Ata Nature Reserve	Ia	30,556	No Data
Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve	Ia/IV	129,760	20-25 ²²
Sary-Chelek Biosphere Reserve	Ia	23,836	No Data
Ala Archa National Park	II	194,000	No Data
Chon-Kemin National Park	II	123,654	No Data
Karakol National Park	II	38,256	1-2 ²³
Kara-Bura National Park	II	11,400	No Data
Kara-Shoro National Park	II	24,340	No Data
Kyrchyn National Park	II	35,000	No Data
Jety-Oguz Wildlife Refuge	IV	30,000	No Data
Tyup Wildlife Refuge	IV	15,000	No Data
Total for Kyrgyz Republic:		923,072	
Tajikistan²⁴			
Romit Nature Reserve	Ia	16,100	7-12
Dashtidjum Nature Reserve	Ia	19,700	15-18
Zorkul Nature Reserve	Ia	87,700	5-6
Tajik National Park	II	2,600,000	140
Shirkent Historical Nature Park	II	3,000	2
Sarykhosor Nature Park	II	3,805	2
Dashtidjum Wildlife Refuge	IV	50,100	6-7
Muzkul Wildlife Refuge	IV	66,900	8
Total for Tajikistan:		2,847,305	185-195

¹⁷ ibid

¹⁸ ibid

¹⁹ ibid

²⁰ Yurchenkov Yu.M. 2004. Program for Snow Leopard and Altai Argali Conservation in the Eastern Kazakhstan. Report. Archives of WWF-Russia.

²¹ List of Snow Leopard Protected Areas in Kyrgyz Republic was compiled using following sources: Mallon, D. and M. Kulikov. 2015. Aspects of Transboundary Snow Leopard Conservation in Central Asia. Report of the FFI/CMS Workshop. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 1-2 December 2014; Specially Protected Nature Areas. Web site of State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic. http://nature.gov.kg/index.php?lang=ru&Itemid=72&option=com_content&view=article&id=27; Decree of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic "On establishment of State Nature National Park "Kyrchyn" in Issyk-Kul District of Issyk-Kul Oblast" #632. Dated on August 26 2004.

²² A.P. Vereschagin and M.M. Musaev, Sarychat-Ertash State Nature Reserve. Personal communication.

²³ A.P. Vereschagin, Sarychat-Ertash State Nature Reserve. Personal communication.

²⁴ List of Snow Leopard Protected Areas in Tajikistan was compiled using following sources: Mallon, D. and M. Kulikov. 2015. Aspects of Transboundary Snow Leopard Conservation in Central Asia. Report of the FFI/CMS Workshop. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 1-2 December 2014; Web site of the Trade Representation of the Republic Of Tajikistan In Federal Republic Of Germany: National Parks and Nature Reserves <http://www.tajikinvest.tj/ru/index/index/pageId/177/>

Uzbekistan ²⁵			
Chatkal Biosphere Reserve	Ia	35,700	No Data
Hissar Biosphere Reserve	Ia	81,000	No Data
Zaamin Nature Reserve	Ia	26,800	No Data
Ugam-Chatkal National Park	II	574,600	No Data
Zaamin National Park	II	24,000	No Data
Total for Uzbekistan:		742,100	
TOTAL FOR CENTRAL ASIA:		6,381,209	

12. Conservation strategies at landscape scales are therefore needed to ensure the long-term persistence of snow leopards and their prey (Snow Leopard Network 2014). In mountain regions, where national boundaries commonly run along ridges, landscapes frequently have a transboundary character. It has been estimated that up to a third of the snow leopard's known or potential range is located less than 50-100 km from the international borders of the 12 range countries. All major conservation initiatives of recent years have therefore stressed the need for landscape-scale and transboundary interventions and collaboration. To meet this need, the GSLEP countries have begun the process of identifying key snow leopard landscapes, including transboundary ones. To date, 23 such landscapes have been identified across the snow leopard's range, including 5 in the four Central Asian countries (Jungar Alatau, Northern Tien Shan, Sarychat, Alay-Gissor, and Pamir) – see Figure 2.

Figure 2. Map showing the 23 snow leopard landscapes so far identified under GSLEP



²⁵ List of Snow Leopard Protected Areas in Tajikistan was compiled using following sources: Mallon, D. and M. Kulikov. 2015. Aspects of Transboundary Snow Leopard Conservation in Central Asia. Report of the FFI/CMS Workshop. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 1-2 December 2014;

Socio-economic context

13. Table 2 summarises some socio-economic statistics for the four Central Asian countries that are the target of this project. 25 years ago, the Central Asia states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) comprised the former Soviet Central Asian Republics. After the Soviet Union collapsed, these countries suffered a severe recession that is only now bottoming-out as a result of economic restructuring and growing foreign investment (although Kazakhstan

is an exception with high economic growth)²⁶. Currently these countries have a total population of more than 60 million people, though population density varies greatly from less than 7 people per square kilometre in Kazakhstan to more than 70 in Uzbekistan. Population density in the mountain regions of Central Asia (snow leopard habitat) does not exceed 3-5 people per square kilometre and is decreasing due to limited economic opportunities and high unemployment level (up to 80-90%). Official unemployment in the Central Asian countries is less than 9% (5.3% on average), though real unemployment rate is much higher. Up to 36% (Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic) of the population in Central Asian states live below the poverty line, and this percentage is higher in the mountain regions²⁷. Local people living in the snow leopard habitat generally rely on livestock as a source of income and are often involved in poaching and illegal wildlife trade as a way to earn additional income. Extraction of metals and other mineral resources along with agriculture are the main economies in the Central Asia region and their proposed unsustainable growth poses a significant threat for snow leopard populations and ecosystems²⁸. However, the 2015 outlook in the region is marked by slowdown in the regional economies, relating to the economic situation in Russia, and lower prospects from mining.

Table 2. Socio-economic statistics for the Central Asian countries

Country	Population size ²⁹	Life expectancy ³⁰	Density / person / km ² ³¹	Gender ratio, male/female ³²	Economically active pop. ³³	Unemployment %	HDI ³⁴
Kazakhstan	17,040,000	70	6.3	0.92	9,103,000	5.1 ³⁵	0.757
Kyrgyz Republic	5,720,000	70	29.8	0.96	2,615,000	8.6 ³⁶	0.628
Tajikistan	8,208,000	67	57.6	0.99	2,209,000	2.5 ³⁷	0.607
Uzbekistan	30,243,200	68	71.1	0.99	17,240,000	4.9 ³⁸	0.661
Total / average	61,211,200	68.8	41.2	0.965	31,167,000	5.3	0.663

14. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan ranked 70th, 126th, 134th and 116th respectively in the Human Development Report 2014³⁹. Between 2000 and 2014 HDIs rose annually, reflecting the progressive growth of the index in most regions of the world, including Central Asian states. Economic growth in Central Asia is being accompanied by increased inflation, urban migration and environmental degradation, further exacerbating the social

²⁶ Business Reference Services of the Library of Congress. Profile: Central Asian countries <http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/asia/CentralAsia/centralasian.html>

²⁷ CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos>

²⁸ CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos>

²⁹ The World Bank 2013: <http://data.worldbank.org/country>

³⁰ The World Bank 2013: <http://data.worldbank.org/country>

³¹ CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos> and The World Bank 2013: <http://data.worldbank.org/country/tajikistan>

³² CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos>

³³ CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos>

³⁴ Human Development Index 2013: http://www.geohive.com/earth/gen_hdi.aspx

³⁵ CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/kz.html>

³⁶ CIA World Factbook 2011: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/kg.html>

³⁷ CIA World Factbook 2013: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/ti.html>

³⁸ CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/uz.html>

³⁹ Human Development Index 2013: http://www.geohive.com/earth/gen_hdi.aspx

disparity. Agricultural production and the extraction of natural resources have always been the economic core basis of development for the Central Asian countries. In the last 20 years, the major challenge faced by these countries has been transitioning to market-oriented economies from a centrally planned social economic system⁴⁰. Currently Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan are ranked by the World Bank as middle income countries, but Tajikistan remains a low income state due to its fragile and unstable economy⁴¹.

15. Industry is the largest GDP contributor (after services) in most Central Asian countries, except Tajikistan. For example in 2014 it accounted for approximately 30% of GDP and employed 12% of the workforce⁴². In the mountainous areas occupied by snow leopards, mining is the most significant industrial activity accompanied with hydropower and road construction⁴³. Currently the area of mining and dams in the snow leopard habitat in Central Asia is limited but can expand rapidly given ambitious plans for economic development and strong dependence of Central Asian states on natural resources. At the same time development of mining in snow leopard habitat is complicated due to high elevation and rugged terrain, under-developed road and railway networks⁴⁴. Plans of railway construction between China, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan may impose significant threat to habitat of wild ungulates and snow leopards in Tien Shan Mountains⁴⁵.
16. The mining sector is the leading driver of economic growth in Central Asia. Mountain regions of Central Asia – snow leopard habitat – are rich with copper, lead, zinc, aluminium, gold, and iron. Countries of Central Asia annually produce 133 tons of gold, 588,000 tons of aluminium, 410,000 tons of copper, and 22,800 tons of uranium⁴⁶. The mining sector in Tajikistan – with few operational mines, all of which are inherited from the Soviet era – is the least developed of the four countries. In the Kyrgyz Republic most areas with mining prospects are already allocated for geo-exploration and development, and Kyrgyz Republic ranks third in gold production in the region after Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan is the richest and most industrially advanced among Central Asian countries, and enjoys a high standard of living largely because of its abundant mineral, oil and gas resources and well developed mining operations⁴⁷. Currently, 10 big mines are operational in snow leopard habitat in the Kyrgyz Republic and 9 more are planned to be established in the nearest 5 years⁴⁸. Development of mining in the Kyrgyz Republic meets strong opposition from local communities: more than 20

⁴⁰ Business Reference Services of the Library of Congress. Profile: Central Asian countries <http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/asia/CentralAsia/centralasian.html>

⁴¹ The World Bank 2013: <http://data.worldbank.org/country>

⁴² CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos>

⁴³ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

⁴⁴ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

⁴⁵ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; WWF 2014: Central Asia: Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan <https://www.worldwildlife.org/ecoregions/pa0808>

⁴⁶ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

⁴⁷ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

⁴⁸ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

protests against mining were registered in the country in 2010-2012⁴⁹. According to the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (2014), extractive industry was identified as **high** threat to snow leopard ecosystems in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, and **low** - in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

17. The main hydropower resources of Central Asia are concentrated in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, the upstream countries of Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers⁵⁰. Now there are 16 hydropower plants with total capacity of 2,950 MW in the mountain regions of Kyrgyz Republic⁵¹. Tajikistan's two largest hydropower plants have total capacity of 3,600 MW⁵². Both Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan plan to build more hydropower stations to produce energy for export to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, but these plans meet strong opposition from Uzbekistan⁵³. Development of new hydropower plants and dams in the mountains of Central Asia may impose some threat to snow leopard populations and ecosystems due to habitat destruction and degradation. Hydroelectric projects are a **medium** threat for snow leopard habitat in Tajikistan and **low** for three other Central Asian countries⁵⁴.
18. Agriculture is the second most important economic activity in most Central Asian countries with contribution from 5% (Kazakhstan) up to 27% (Tajikistan) to national GDPs with employment from 26% (Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) up to 48% (Kyrgyz Republic) of national labour forces⁵⁵. In the mountain areas inhabited by snow leopards there is little cultivated land, and livestock husbandry is the primary agricultural activity. After collapse of the Soviet Union the number of livestock in Central Asia states declined by 60-70% (e.g., from 10 mln. to 4 mln in Kazakhstan and from 12 mln. to 3 mln. in Kyrgyz Republic). Currently livestock population is slowly increasing and has reached the level of 50-60% of livestock population at the end of 1980s⁵⁶. Local communities in snow leopard habitat generally rely on livestock as the main source of income. They move livestock seasonally to high altitude alpine meadows in summer and keep it closer to the villages in valleys during winter. Many mountain pastures are degraded and some experience overgrazing leading to further degradation and soil erosion. For example, average mountain pasture productivity in Kyrgyz Republic is only 40% of the normal state⁵⁷. Increasing livestock numbers leads to increase of grazing areas in the habitat of snow leopard, decrease of wild ungulate populations and increased number of snow leopard-herder conflicts due to predation of snow leopards on livestock. Retaliatory killing of snow leopards by livestock owners was classified as **high threat** only for Kazakhstan, but growing livestock numbers was

⁴⁹ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

⁵⁰ The World Bank: Central Asia Energy-Water Development Program <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca/brief/caewdp>

⁵¹ Artyom Zozulinsky (2010). Kyrgyz Republic: power generation and transmission. Analytical Report. Department of State, USA.

⁵² TajHydro: The capacity of hydropower Tajikistan: <http://www.tajhydro.tj/en/about-tajikistan/hydropower-capacity-of-tajikistan>

⁵³ Commodities: The Hydropower solution in Central Asia: yes but... April 2010. <http://www.commodities-now.com/reports/power-and-energy/2235-the-hydropower-solution-in-central-asia-yes-but.html> ; The Diplomat: Central Asia's Hydropower Spat. December 2014. <http://thediplomat.com/2014/12/central-asias-hydropower-spat/>

⁵⁴ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA.

⁵⁵ CIA World Factbook 2014: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos>

⁵⁶ Serik Tazhibaev, Kambar Musabekov, Ainur Yesbolova, Saltanat Ibraimova, Aziza Mergenbayeva, Zhanar Sabdenova, Marat Seidahmetov, Issues in the Development of the Livestock Sector in Kazakhstan, *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Volume 143, 14 August 2014, Pages 610-614, ISSN 1877-0428, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.07.446>.; Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

⁵⁷ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

viewed as an emerging **high threat** for snow leopard population and habitat in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the nearest 10 years⁵⁸.

19. Tourism is an increasingly important economic activity in Central Asia's mountain ecosystems used by snow leopards, including hiking, horseback riding, skiing, climbing, hunting, fishing and recreation. The number of tourists interested in Great Silk Road tourism (international tourism project initiated by UNWTO) in Central Asia is growing exponentially. Governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan increasingly emphasize tourism. For example, tourism was identified as a priority sector in Kyrgyz Republic's 2013 National Strategy for Sustainable Development and was the focus of a recent ten-year action plan for small and medium enterprise development. Tajikistan adopted a National Tourism Development Programme for 2009-2019 in which mountain and nature-based tourism is a central component. The document highlights the development of ecotourism as a priority in protected areas and national parks, which occupy about 22% of the territory of Tajikistan (Tajik National Tourism Concept Note 2009)⁵⁹. Since the late 1990s the tourism sector in Kyrgyz Republic has consistently increased its share of GDP reaching 4.2% of GDP in 2011⁶⁰. Actual tourist numbers in Tajikistan are still low, but have good potential for increase in the next 10 years. In Kazakhstan, the tourism industry is developing rather slowly, but income from tourism increased by 44% for the last 4 years (GDP share from the travel industry in 2012 achieved 5.2%)⁶¹. Development of tourism in the mountain regions of Central Asia – snow leopard habitat – represents great potential for sustainable development of local communities and conservation of snow leopard ecosystems.
20. In addition to the socio-economic issues associated with snow leopard ecosystems, the species is an important cultural symbol. In all the range countries, snow leopard mountain ecosystems feature in the lifestyle, religious and spiritual beliefs, traditional agriculture, marriage systems and governance of societies inhabiting these areas. The mountains inspire scholars, artists, poets, spiritualists, and the citizens at large. Snow leopards in particular offer iconic representation of these areas and appear in the coats of arms and other symbols of some nations and cities in the snow leopard range.

Legal and policy context

21. The snow leopard is listed as globally Endangered on the IUCN Red List and the species is listed (*as Uncia uncia*) on Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora), which prohibits international trade in the animal and its parts and products except under exceptional, non-commercial circumstances. All snow leopard range countries except Tajikistan are parties to CITES but the process for Tajikistan to join is underway. The species is also listed in Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (the

⁵⁸ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

⁵⁹ Shokirov, Q., A. Abdykadyrova, C. Dear, S. Nowrojee. "Mountain Tourism and Sustainability in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan: A Research Review." MSRI Background Paper No. 3. July 2014. <http://msri.ucentralasia.org/publications.asp>

⁶⁰ Shokirov, Q., A. Abdykadyrova, C. Dear, S. Nowrojee. "Mountain Tourism and Sustainability in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan: A Research Review." MSRI Background Paper No. 3. July 2014. <http://msri.ucentralasia.org/publications.asp>

⁶¹ Zhydkoblinova O.V. (2013). State Policy of Tourism Industry Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan. World Applied Sciences Journal. 23 (8): 1079-1084.

CMS or Bonn Convention). This listing deems the snow leopard as a “concerted action species,” thus obliging the six range countries (India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) that are party to this convention to conserve and restore its habitat. However, no specific Agreement has yet been developed under the CMS for snow leopards.

22. All of the 12 range countries are party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and all therefore have measures in place to address their obligations to conserve biodiversity under this Convention. A common policy document to all range countries is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). NBSAPs reflect the country visions for biodiversity and the broad policy and institutional measures that the country will take to fulfil the objectives of the Convention, and the concrete actions to be taken to achieve the strategy. The strategies include national targets developed in the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its twenty Aichi Targets adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The strategy and action plan are developed by each Party in accordance with national priorities, circumstances and capabilities.
23. Additionally, all 12 range countries are signatories to the *Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards*. This unites them under the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), which aims to establish a comprehensive, collaborative range-wide effort that unites range country governments, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems. This initiative is described in more detail in the baseline section.
24. The snow leopard is also protected by national laws in all of the 12 countries in which it is found. All range countries have promulgated various laws designed to accord protection to biodiversity and areas of high biodiversity conservation value in the form of protected areas. These include dedicated conservation-related legislation that protects all forms of wildlife including animals, birds and plants, or specific laws passed for the creation of protected areas. In the majority of countries there are also blanket environmental laws that cover substantive environmental issues including pollution of water, land and air. In more recent times, laws have been passed dealing with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) that are designed to identify, prevent or mitigate harmful impacts of large-scale infrastructure and development projects and plans.
25. The international and transboundary legislative situation in the four target Central Asian countries is summarised in Table 3, and described in the following paragraphs.
26. In Kazakhstan, snow leopard is included in the Red Data Book and protected under the Laws “On Protection, Reproduction and Use of the Animal World” and “On Specially Protected Nature Areas” wherein hunting, possession and sale of snow leopard and other species listed as rare and endangered are prohibited. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan imposes high fines and up to 3 years imprisonment for killing snow leopards or destruction of its habitat. Despite this, cases of punishment for illegal killing and trade of the cats are extremely rare. Law enforcement in snow leopard habitat in Kazakhstan requires significant improvement, despite a relatively well developed system of environmental control. The only habitats of snow leopards

that have relatively strong protection are located inside Protected Areas. But only 7% of snow leopard habitat in Kazakhstan is currently protected. There are no transboundary treaties or agreements devoted specifically to conservation of snow leopard, its prey species and habitat between Kazakhstan and adjacent countries. Agreement between Governments of Russia and Kazakhstan on establishment of Altai Transboundary Reserve is a great step forward to development of international collaboration for protection of snow leopard ecosystems, but the Reserve does not include good snow leopard habitat and populations on the Russian side. To demonstrate high interest of Kazakhstan in snow leopard conservation, a Strategy for conservation of this wild cat was approved by Government of Kazakhstan in 2012⁶². The Action Plan for snow leopard study and conservation 2015-2020 indicates significant government investments in snow leopard *in situ* conservation (about 8 mln. US dollars). It was developed and submitted to the Committee on Forestry and Wildlife in 2015⁶³.

Table 3. International Conventions and Agreements related to snow leopard conservation

Country	Conventions	NBSAP	Transboundary Agreements
Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD • Cartagena Protocol • CMS • CITES • WH UNESCO 	See ⁶⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia⁶⁵ • Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the sphere of biological diversity conservation of Western Tien Shan⁶⁶ • Agreement between Governments of Russian Federation and Republic of Kazakhstan on Establishment of Transboundary Nature Reserve “Altai”
Kyrgyz Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD • Cartagena Protocol • CMS • CITES 	See ⁶⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia • Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the sphere of biological diversity conservation of Western Tien Shan
Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD • Cartagena Protocol • CMS • WH UNESCO 	See ⁶⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia
Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBD • CMS • CITES • WH UNESCO 	See ⁶⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia • Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the sphere of biological diversity conservation of Western Tien Shan

⁶² Strategy for Conservation of Snow Leopard in Kazakhstan (2012)

⁶³ Action Plan for snow leopard study and conservation in the Republic of Kazakhstan 2015-2020. Draft prepared for Government approval.

⁶⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=kz>

⁶⁵ <http://www.ecolex.org/server2.php/libcat/docs/TRE/Full/En/TRE-143806.pdf>

⁶⁶ <http://www.ecolex.org/server2.php/libcat/docs/TRE/Full/Other/TRE-153527.doc>

⁶⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/default.shtml?country=kg>

⁶⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/default.shtml?country=tj>

⁶⁹ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/default.shtml?country=uz>

27. In the Kyrgyz Republic, hunting of snow leopards has been prohibited since 1948, and the species was listed in the national Red Data Book of the Kyrgyz SSR since 1985. The snow leopard is listed as “critically endangered” in the second edition of the Red Book of the Kyrgyz Republic (2006). Species listed in the Red Book are generally protected, but can be taken from nature based on special decisions by the government⁷⁰. Snow leopard and its habitat in Kyrgyz Republic are protected by the Laws “On Protection of Environment”, “On Animal World”, “On Protected Areas”, “On biosphere territories in Kyrgyz Republic”. Law enforcement, despite recent increase of fines for illegal hunting on snow leopard and its prey species, is still at low level in Kyrgyz Republic due to low number of wildlife inspectors, poor salaries, lack of transport and equipment, lack of collaboration between agencies, and corruption. Protected Areas in snow leopard habitat have very limited funding (about \$300,000 annually) and staff. Total coverage of PAs in snow leopard habitat in Kyrgyz Republic does not exceed 10%. In 2012, the Strategy for Conservation of Snow Leopard in Kyrgyz Republic was approved by the state Government (with 1,000,000 US dollar of required funding), but realization of this strategy greatly depends on international funding (about 80% of the entire budget). No transboundary agreements and action plans exist aimed specifically at snow leopard and its ecosystem conservation between Kyrgyz Republic and neighbour countries.⁷¹
28. In Tajikistan, snow leopard is listed in the Red Data Book and protected by the Laws “ On Protection of Environment”, “On Animal World”, “On Protected Areas”. According to the Law “On State Control over Environmental Protection and Use of Natural Resources”, the Committee on Environmental Protection at the Government of Tajikistan is designated as a state authority for protection of snow leopard and other endangered species. Illegal hunting of snow leopard in Tajikistan is punished with a penalty at least \$1,000 and up to \$50,000. As in other countries of Central Asia effective law enforcement is lacking due to extremely limited funding and inspector staff, lack of inter-agency cooperation, and corruption. Tajikistan is still not a party of CITES. A considerable part of snow leopard habitat in Tajikistan falls inside Protected Areas (about 30%), but capacities of PA staff to protect snow leopard and other endangered species are very weak due to very limited funding (\$400,000 annually for all PAs in Tajikistan). No official strategy or action plan for conservation of snow leopard has been approved in Tajikistan⁷². Transboundary cooperation has been gathering momentum in recent years between Tajikistan and neighbour countries since 2002 (MoU on Bukhara Deer was signed by the range countries, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan). In 2006, the Pamir-Alai Transboundary Conservation Area was identified, which brings together adjoining protected areas in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic to collaborate on issues of interest. But these initiatives never resulted in establishment of official transboundary protected areas or inter-governmental conservation agreements for conservation of snow leopard and its habitat⁷³.

⁷⁰ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

⁷¹ Strategy for Conservation of Snow Leopard in Kyrgyz Republic (2012)

⁷² Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

⁷³ CMS: Supporting Tajikistan to lead on Transboundary Cooperation on Snow Leopards <http://www.cms.int/en/project/supporting-tajikistan-lead-transboundary-cooperation-snow-leopards>

29. In Uzbekistan, the snow leopard is protected under the Laws “On Protection of Environment”, “On Animal World”, “On Protected Areas”. Snow leopard hunting, possession and sale are prohibited. It is also included in the Red Data Book of Uzbekistan. The maximum fine for violations of the Law on Nature Protection is 500 times the minimum wage of the offender or 2 years imprisonment⁷⁴. In 2004, a Strategy for conservation of snow leopard in Uzbekistan was developed. As in other Central Asian countries law enforcement in Uzbekistan is not sufficient due to limited funding and lack of inter-agency cooperation, including border guards. Protected Areas cover about 65% of snow leopard habitat in Uzbekistan but their funding and management need considerable improvement. No actual transboundary agreements aimed at snow leopard conservation exist between Uzbekistan and other Central Asia’s countries⁷⁵.
30. Thus, the target Central Asian countries have relatively strong and similar legislation to protect snow leopard and its habitats. The main problem for them is effective law enforcement to fight poaching and illegal trade on endangered species, which is lacking due to insufficient funding, staff, lack of inter-agency cooperation, and corruption. Central Asian countries have a relatively small portion of snow leopard habitat covered by Protected Areas (except Uzbekistan) and low capacities of PA staff to protect and monitor snow leopard populations and ecosystems. Despite the existence of two transboundary agreements on environmental protection and biodiversity conservation between Central Asian countries (see Table 3), the value of these agreements for protection of snow leopard transboundary populations and ecosystems is low due to their very generalised nature and absence of action plans to bring these treaties to particular conservation actions. Actual transboundary conservation programs and transboundary cooperation of enforcement agencies for protection of snow leopard and other endangered species are needed in Central Asia.

Institutional Context

31. Until recently, there was no institutional mechanism in place to meet the identified need to coordinate between, and support, national level actions for snow leopard conservation. However in 2013, the GSLEP initiative was launched with the signing of the *Bishkek Declaration on the conservation of snow leopards*. This established a high level Steering Committee to guide programme implementation, regularly review its progress, and maintain a strong political commitment to its objectives. It also agreed to establish a Secretariat to coordinate programme implementation. The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place in early 2015, when the formerly “Working” Secretariat was confirmed as a “Permanent” Secretariat.
32. The GSLEP benefits from the close support of a large number of international organisations, including: Global Tiger Initiative, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), Snow Leopard Conservancy, Snow Leopard Trust, United Nations Development Programme, United States Agency for International Development, World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, and others.

⁷⁴ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

⁷⁵ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

33. The key institutional set-up for snow leopard conservation in the four target Central Asian countries is described in the following paragraphs – and the general patterns are reflected also in the remaining 8 range countries:
34. In Kazakhstan, the key government organization responsible for conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species is the Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee is responsible for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, as well as for monitoring of wildlife populations, protection of wildlife habitat and management of Protected Areas. The Committee has regional territorial departments in every region of Kazakhstan. 9 Protected Areas in Kazakhstan protect snow leopard population and habitat (see Table 1), and four of them (Katon-Karagay National Park, Ile Alatau National Park, Kolsay Koldery National Park and Almaty Nature Reserve) currently have initial research programs aimed at monitoring of snow leopard populations. Katon-Karagay National Park represents a Kazakh part of Altai Transboundary Nature Reserve located at the border of Kazakhstan and Russia. The Institute of Zoology of Kazakhstan located in Almaty plays a leading role in the research and monitoring program devoted to snow leopard and its habitat but currently the resources of this organization are very limited. UNDP is the main catalyst for GEF funded conservation and sustainable development projects in Kazakhstan and it works in close cooperation with the Committee for Forestry and Wildlife. At least two national conservation NGOs in Kazakhstan are actively involved in snow leopard conservation projects – Association for Biodiversity Conservation in Kazakhstan - ABCK (Almaty) and Snow Leopard Fund (Ust-Kamenogorsk). These two organization played a key role in the development of the Strategy for Snow Leopard Conservation in Kazakhstan (Snow Leopard Fund) and Action Plan for Snow Leopard Study and Conservation 2015-2020 (ABCK). WWF is present in Kazakhstan since 1999, but only a few snow leopard conservation and monitoring projects with very limited funding were supported by WWF in eastern Kazakhstan. Since 2013 NABU started a transboundary conservation project "Biodiversity protection in the transboundary region "Northern Tien Shan Mountains" in the snow leopard habitat at the border of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. About 50% of the entire territory of Kazakhstan is covered by hunting concessions that are responsible for management and protection of wildlife on rented areas. Thus, these concessions could be strong partners in snow leopard and its prey conservation in the mountain regions.
35. In Kyrgyz Republic, the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry is the key governmental organization responsible for snow leopard conservation. The Agency provides considerable support to the GSLEP Secretariat based in Kyrgyz Republic. The Agency acts as Administrative Authority of CITES in Kyrgyz Republic, supervises Protected Areas and wildlife management in the country, including anti-poaching activities in snow leopard and its prey habitat. The State Agency for Environmental and Technical Safety of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic is the main national body for prevention of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the country. Currently, law enforcement capacities of this agency are low due to insufficient funding. There are 15 Protected Areas in Kyrgyz Republic that protect snow leopard populations and habitat, but only one of them – Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve - has a sustainable and well-designed snow leopard monitoring program. The Biology and Soil Institute of the National Academy of Science of Kyrgyz Republic could be a good partner in the research and monitoring program for snow leopard but its current capacities are very low. UNDP has strong presence in

the country and leads many GEF funded conservation projects in the habitat of snow leopard. Kyrgyz Republic benefits from the strong presence of international conservation NGOs, such as WWF, Snow Leopard Trust, Panthera, NABU, GIZ, and FFI, actively involved in snow leopard and its prey species monitoring and conservation. Currently international NGOs provide about 80% of the funding for snow leopard conservation in Kyrgyz Republic⁷⁶. There are about 50 hunting concessions in the snow leopard habitat in Kyrgyz Republic, and they may be good partners in conservation of snow leopard and its habitat.

36. In Tajikistan, the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is the main governmental body responsible for protection of biodiversity, including endangered species. The State Institution of Specially Protected Nature Areas is responsible for conservation of biodiversity and anti-poaching activities on Protected Areas of Tajikistan, and the State Institution of Forestry and Hunting is responsible for anti-poaching activities outside Protected Areas. Currently these institutions lead by the Committee for Environmental Protection have intersections in their responsibilities and do not actively cooperate for biodiversity conservation⁷⁷. In 2003, the National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Tajikistan was established with a main role of coordination of CBD implementation in the country. The Center is actively involved in the development of GEF biodiversity conservation projects in Tajikistan, including snow leopard conservation. The Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of the Tajik Academy of Science participates in irregular snow leopard monitoring, but has very limited government funding and greatly depends on international resources. Eight Protected Areas are located in the snow leopard habitat in Tajikistan and can be good partners for snow leopard conservation. As in other Central Asian countries, UNDP is a catalyst for development of environmental protection and sustainable development systems of Tajikistan. Panthera (NGO) and GIZ have strong presence in the country and bring considerable funding for conservation of snow leopard (Panthera) and its prey species (GIZ). More than 100 local NGOs are located in snow leopard habitat in Tajikistan. As in other countries, hunting concessions and the Association of Hunters of Tajikistan play a significant role in protection of snow leopard prey species.
37. In Uzbekistan, the State Committee for Nature Protection of Uzbekistan is the leading governmental structure for biodiversity conservation. The State Inspection for Protection of Wildlife and Plants (Gosbiokontrol) is a government body responsible for anti-poaching activities and wildlife trade control, including habitat of snow leopard. Eight Protected Areas located in the most western portion of Uzbekistan cover more than 60% of snow leopard habitat in the country. One of the Nature Reserves – Hissarsky – has experience in snow leopard research with camera-traps (project supported by WWF and Panthera in 2014). The Institute of Genetic Diversity of Plant and Animals of the Academy of Science can be a lead center for snow leopard monitoring in the country. Currently Uzbekistan does not have strong presence of national and international NGOs interested in snow leopard conservation. UNDP is the leading structure to promote conservation and sustainable development in the mountain regions of Uzbekistan⁷⁸.

⁷⁶ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

⁷⁷ Tajikistan: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS. Second Review. 2013

⁷⁸ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

38. Thus, there is a relatively well developed institutional framework for the implementation of this project in Central Asian countries. All have Customs Agencies and Border Guard institutions that can play an extremely important role in transboundary conservation of snow leopard and its habitat. The international body for coordination of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives of Central Asian countries is the Intergovernmental Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) established in 2000. ICSD along with GSLEP Secretariat can play a core role in the development of transboundary collaboration of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for conservation of snow leopard populations and their habitats⁷⁹.

Introduction to the project transboundary pilot landscape

39. The project PIF called for the selection of at least one pilot transboundary snow leopard landscape for testing and demonstrating various results of the project. Due to the limited project budget and duration, and to the vast size of the potential snow leopard landscapes, the PPG team agreed with UNDP to select only a single pilot transboundary landscape. The process and criteria for the selection of this pilot landscape is described in detail in the pilot landscape report (see Annex 4). In summary, two transboundary pilot landscapes were considered as potential candidates, based on the previously identified GSLEP snow leopard landscapes in the four target countries. These candidate sites were scored against the following criteria: a) maximal coincidence with a GSLEP landscape, b) transboundary location, c) availability of baseline data, d) capacity of the project partners, and e) presence of other ongoing projects. The Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary snow leopard landscape emerged as the most promising candidate. Further consultations were held, and the selection of this site was confirmed during the PPG mini log-frame workshop and meetings and site visits with the concerned range countries.

40. The Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary snow leopard landscape⁸⁰ (Figure 3) is shared between the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan, and covers a total area of 39,500km² in the mountains of Central and Northern Tien Shan. Average elevation is 2,985m above sea level with peaks up to and above 7,000m. The northern part of the landscape belongs to the Almaty Region of Kazakhstan and the southern part to Issyk-Kul Region of Kyrgyzstan. It is part of the Middle Asian Montane Woodlands and Steppe Ecoregion of WWF Global 200 list⁸¹, and has a number of Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The transboundary area is very rich in biodiversity and has approximately 2,000-2,500 vascular plant species (including 22-25 endemic species) and over 230 vertebrate animals⁸².

⁷⁹ Regional Portal of Science Informational Center for Intergovernmental Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia's States <http://www.ecoportalka.kz/>

⁸⁰ It actually comprises two contiguous GSLEP landscapes: Sarychat (Kyrgyz Republic) and Northern Tien Shan (Kazakhstan)

⁸¹ Olson, D.M., E. Dinerstein, E.D. Wikramanayake, N.D. Burgess, G.V.N. Powell, E.C. Underwood, J.A. D'Amico, H.E. Strand, J.C. Morrison, C.J. Loucks, T.F. Allnutt, J.F. Lamoreux, T.H. Ricketts, I. Itoua, W.W. Wettengel, Y. Kura, P. Hedao, and K. Kassem (2001). Terrestrial ecoregions of the world: A new map of life on Earth. *BioScience* 51(11):933-938.

⁸² UNDP/GEF Project Document 1278 "In situ Conservation of Kazakhstan's Mountain Agro-biodiversity"; USAID Central Asian Republic Mission (2001). Biodiversity Assessment for Kazakhstan. Survey Report. June 2001. Almaty, Kazakhstan; USAID Central Asian Republic Mission (2001). Biodiversity Assessment for Kyrgyzstan. Survey Report. June 2001. Almaty, Kazakhstan

41. The Sarychat/Northern Tian Shan Transboundary Landscape provides ideal habitat for snow leopards. Optimal snow leopard habitat occupies about 18,000 km² or 46% of the entire transboundary landscape, and the total snow leopard population is estimated to be at least 100-160 individuals. The landscape also supports relatively stable populations (at least 10,510-12,410 individuals) of the main prey species for snow leopards - Siberian ibex, Marco Polo argali, Tien Shan argali, maral (*Cervus elaphus*), and Siberian roe deer.
42. Seven Protected Areas with a total area 734,717 ha are located in the transboundary landscape: Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve, Karakol National Park, Chon-Kemin National Park, Kyrchyn National Park (Kyrgyz Republic), Almaty Nature Reserve, Ile-Alatau National Park, and Kolsay Kolderi National Park (Kazakhstan). In 2001 Issyk-Kul Biosphere Territory (BT) was established by Kyrgyz Republic Government in the area of Issyk-Kul Region. BT encompasses all snow leopard habitat of Sarychat GSLEP Landscape. Protected areas in the Kyrgyz Republic part of the landscape are chronically under-funded and generally have finances only for staff salaries: e.g. annual budget of Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve does not exceed 20,500 US dollars. Thus, capacities of the PAs to protect snow leopard populations and ecosystems are low. In the Kazakhstan part of the transboundary landscape PAs have better funding, but still their resources for effective snow leopard protection are limited. Only the Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve has regular monitoring of snow leopard population which is funded generally by international NGOs (SLT and WWF). Despite the border location of Chon-Kemin National Park and Kyrchyn National Park (Kyrgyz Republic) and Almaty Nature Reserve, Ile-Alatau National Park, and Kolsay Kolderi National Park (Kazakhstan) no transboundary cooperation and joint management of the snow leopard population and ecosystems exists in the area.

Figure 3. Map of the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape



Key to the protected areas:

1. Ile Alatau National Park; 2. Almaty Nature Reserve; 3. Kolsay Kolderi National Park; 4. Chon Kemin National Park; 5. Kyrchyn National Park; 6. Karakol National Park; 7. Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve

43. There are 10-12 small villages with a total population of 1,000 - 1,500 people in the Kyrgyzstan part of the transboundary landscape. The main incomes of families living in the area derive from livestock. Total number of livestock in the area is 7,500-9,000. During the summer, some residents work as guides for tourists and provide horses to tourists, climbers, and visitors. The average annual family income is less than US\$240 with unemployment among the working-age population of at least 80%. There are six hunting concessions involved in trophy hunting business in the Kyrgyzstan part of the landscape occupying about 400,000 ha⁸³. The region is also quite popular among tourists and mountaineers from different countries due to the presence of a large number of interesting sites to visit. Kumtor mining complex, the largest geological discovery and operational mine in Kyrgyzstan, plays a leading role in the regional economy.
44. In the Kazakhstan part of the transboundary landscape, local inhabitants are dependent on natural resources for personal consumption and economic activity. Fruit production from orchards and gardens, animal grazing, fuel wood, hay production, and gathering of wild berries, fruits, mushrooms and medicinal plants form an important part of the local economy. The total population is estimated at 41,200, with average yearly income of US\$895 per capita. The area is significantly impacted by its close proximity to Almaty, a city of 1.2 million people. Tourism and recreation is widespread, with approximately 150,000 visitors annually, primarily on day trips from Almaty. A large number of facilities include two ski areas, a skating/recreation complex, lodges and restaurants, children's camps, power lines, and pipeline corridors. In addition, many city dwellers have built dachas (vacation homes) nearby. Many local families are involved in tourism programs, including home-stays. The planned construction of Kokjaylau Ski Resort is expected to have a strong positive effect on the local economy and social situation with about 800 seasonal jobs for local people⁸⁴. Currently about 300 local people living in the area are employed in protected areas. About 30% of the Kazakhstan part of the Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary Landscape is occupied by hunting concessions and many of those are involved in trophy hunting.

THREATS, ROOT CAUSES AND IMPACTS

45. Notwithstanding the global biodiversity and several other immense values, snow leopards and their ecosystems are endangered throughout their range and face a variety of direct and indirect threats that vary in intensity and prominence among the range countries. These threats are shown in the project's conceptual model (Annex 5), and are described hereafter, along with their root causes and impacts (in approximate order of importance):
46. *Prey reduction* Poaching is the main reason of decreasing wild ungulates population – the main prey for snow leopards - in the cat's range countries, including Central Asia. Local herders living in the habitat of snow leopard traditionally hunt argali and Siberian ibex for subsistence and trade in meat⁸⁵. In some cases border guards in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan are involved in

⁸³ Data of WWF Central Asia

⁸⁴ Technical and Economical Assessment of Kokjaylau Ski Resort Project. Environmental Impact Assessment. Almaty 2012

⁸⁵ Michel, S and T. Rosen Michel. Hunting of prey species - a review of lessons, successes and pitfalls. Experiences from Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. Draft of the publication for The Snow Leopards of the World book.

illegal hunting of wild ungulates⁸⁶. Currently, poaching for ungulates is not so serious a threat as at the beginning of the current century, but it still continues in some snow leopard habitat in Central Asia due to weak law enforcement. Increasing livestock and overgrazing occurs in several range countries, reducing populations of ungulate species on which snow leopards prey. Although human population density in the snow leopard ecosystems is relatively low, its habitats are heavily used by people whose livelihoods depend on traditional pastoralism and agro-pastoralism. With growing human populations, livestock herds are growing too and in some places exceed the capacity of the land to support them. With new economic incentives—particularly a rising global demand for cashmere - goat herds in particular have greatly increased in size. The resulting overgrazing leads to degradation of pastureland and serious soil erosion. Competition for food with large and growing domestic livestock populations reduces wild prey numbers, which already live at relatively low densities due to the low productivity of the habitat. Prey reduction may also be caused by legal local hunting.

47. After the collapse of Soviet Union number of livestock in Central Asia states declined by 60-70% (e.g., from 10 mln. to 4 mln in Kazakhstan and from 12 mln. to 3 mln. in Kyrgyz Republic). Currently livestock population is slowly increasing and has reached the level of 50-70% of livestock population at the end of 1980s⁸⁷. For example, the number of livestock in Tajikistan increased by 38% since 2004⁸⁸. Though current livestock numbers in mountain regions of Central Asia is considerably lower than in Soviet era many mountain pastures remain degraded and some experience overgrazing leading to further degradation and soil erosion. For example, average mountain pasture productivity in Kyrgyz Republic is only 40% of the normal state⁸⁹. Increasing livestock number leads to increase of grazing areas in the habitat of snow leopard and decrease of wild ungulate prey species for snow leopard. According to the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy prey reduction in the target countries due to poaching and competition with livestock was ranked as a high threat for snow leopard⁹⁰.
48. *Illegal trade and poor law enforcement* due to remote landscapes undermine conservation efforts. The impact of illegal trade cannot be measured precisely, due in large part to its clandestine nature, but illegal trade and illicit demand for snow leopard products exists at national and international levels, including in the West. Snow leopards are killed and traded for their fur and other body parts, including teeth, claws, and bones. Snow leopard fur is used for clothing, hats, and furnishings. Even the meat is occasionally eaten. Recent evidence indicates that trade is now moving toward rugs, luxury décor, and taxidermy. Given their value, pelts from kills by local herders in retaliation for livestock depredation may also end up in one of the market chains. Secondary killing of snow leopards, such as being caught in snares set for other wildlife,

⁸⁶ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

⁸⁷ Serik Tazhibayev, Kambar Musabekov, Ainur Yesbolova, Saltanat Ibraimova, Aziza Mergenbayeva, Zhanar Sabdenova, Marat Seidahmetov, Issues in the Development of the Livestock Sector in Kazakhstan, *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Volume 143, 14 August 2014, Pages 610-614, ISSN 1877-0428, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2014.07.446>.; Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

⁸⁸ Tajikistan: Environmental Performance Reviews. Second Review. 2013

⁸⁹ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

⁹⁰ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

may also occur. In Central Asia snow leopard populations dramatically declined after the collapse of the Soviet Union: for example, Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve in Kyrgyz Republic nearly lost all its snow leopards in the beginning of 1990s as a result of intensive poaching⁹¹. Snow leopard pelts have been traditionally used as decorative wall mountings in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic until recently⁹². 10 cases of illegal snow leopard hunting and trade since 2001 were discovered by NABU anti-poaching brigade in Kyrgyz Republic. Between 1997 and 2012, 18 cases of illegal snow leopard hunting and trade were uncovered, resulting in several successful prosecutions. In Tajikistan, a snow leopard skin was confiscated in 2013; shortly before, a snow leopard skin was also found in a shop in Dushanbe offered for USD 15,000⁹³. Despite relatively good wildlife law enforcement in Kazakhstan, 10-15 snow leopard pelts annually are brought to taxidermists of Almaty⁹⁴.

49. Weak wildlife law enforcement is a chronic problem across the snow leopard's range, including weak laws and low levels of prosecution even when offenders are apprehended, as well as underfunding of the wildlife sector, such as for sufficient staffing for anti-poaching efforts directed at illegal hunting of snow leopards and prey. Moreover, the size, remoteness, and harshness of snow leopard habitat, plus the fact that most of it lies outside of PAs, makes law enforcement challenging. Porous borders that reduce traffickers' risks of detection also create challenges. The increasing value of wildlife products of all kinds has brought the involvement of organized crime. International efforts are needed to reduce illicit demand for endangered wildlife in markets around the world and increase capacity for global law enforcement action against organized syndicates. Within snow leopard range countries, increased inter-agency and transboundary cooperation and communication is needed among the agencies involved or potentially involved in combating wildlife crime (PA enforcement staff, police, customs, border patrols, army). Wildlife agencies and PAs of Central Asian countries have very limited funding, staff and equipment, rarely cooperate and do not have transboundary cooperation. For example, the average annual budget of one PA in snow leopard habitat in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan does not exceed 20,000 US dollars. Wildlife agencies and PAs have government funding that is enough for very modest salaries only, but not for effective anti-poaching activities. Capacities of Customs departments to control illegal transboundary wildlife trade (especially in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan) remain low and require improvement⁹⁵. Thus, addressing and curbing the illegal snow leopard trade needs a series of actions taken at international, national, and local scales.

50. *Retaliatory killing* by local communities sometimes occurs when their livestock are killed by snow leopard. Moreover, with lower prey numbers, snow leopards may turn more often to killing domestic livestock. Livestock depredation rates vary widely over space and time. More than 40% of the people in 10 of the 12 snow leopard range countries live below national poverty levels, so such losses represent a significant loss of income, when few or no options to animal husbandry are available. Herders are especially angered by "surplus killing" events in which a

⁹¹ A.P. Vereschagin, personal communication.

⁹² Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

⁹³ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

⁹⁴ S. Sklyarenko, personal communication

⁹⁵ Vaisman A., Mundy-Taylor, V. and Kecse-Nagi, K. 2013. Wildlife trade in Eurasian Customs Union and selected Central Asian countries. TRAFFIC Report

snow leopard enters an enclosure and kills several livestock in a single incident. Thus, snow leopards are often killed in retribution or for prevention. With subsistence agro-pastoralism extensively practiced across the range, it is essential to manage human-snow leopard depredation levels through strategies such as better animal husbandry, wild prey restoration; conservation awareness programs; devising sustainable means for offsetting or sharing economic losses; and creating incentive programs, such as through alternative livelihood programs, to gain local community support for snow leopard conservation. According to the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy, retaliatory killing is a medium threat for snow leopard populations in Central Asian countries. Only few attacks of snow leopard on livestock were registered in Kyrgyz Republic. The first two incidents for many years happened in Central Tien Shan in 2014, when 2 yaks and 3 goats were killed⁹⁶. Retaliatory killing was identified as a high threat for snow leopard in Kazakhstan, but no statistics on the cases are available. Snow leopard attacks on livestock and retaliatory killing by herders regularly occurs in Tajikistan, including mass killing of sheep and goats in corrals⁹⁷.

51. *Habitat fragmentation and degradation* especially due to large-scale infrastructure development (roads, mining, hydropower development etc.) is spurred by high population growth and countries' striving for economic development. Major infrastructural facilities are either planned or under construction in various parts of the snow leopard's range. These include development projects spurred by mineral exploration and extraction, the need for major road and rail transportation networks, new gas and oil pipelines, and hydroelectric power facilities that may be associated with large or medium-sized dams. As water shortages increase in the densely populated lowlands of South and East Asia, so the need for upstream water-storage facilities is expected to grow significantly. Large infrastructure projects have a variety of potential negative impacts on snow leopards, their prey, and their habitats. These potential impacts include fragmentation of large landscapes and creating barriers to movements of snow leopard and prey, as well as mortality (such as road kills), pollution, disturbance, and poaching and habitat encroachment by workers. Construction and/or operation of infrastructure projects directly eliminates and degrades habitat. Transportation networks in particular open up remote areas to poachers and facilitate trafficking in wildlife. Habitat degradation is also caused by overgrazing (see above), and is projected to be intensified by the impacts of climate change in many of the range countries [IPCC 4th AR 2007].
52. Currently 10 big mines are operational in snow leopard habitat in the Kyrgyz Republic and 9 more are planned to be established in the coming 5 years⁹⁸ which may have considerable impact on some snow leopard habitat. The main hydropower resources of Central Asia are concentrated in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. Development of new hydropower plants and dams may pose some threat to snow leopard populations and ecosystems due to habitat destruction and degradation. These threats are currently identified as medium for Central Asian countries by the

⁹⁶ WWF Central Asian Program, personal communication

⁹⁷ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

⁹⁸ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

Snow Leopard Survival Strategy⁹⁹, but their influence on snow leopard population is likely to increase in the coming 5-10 years.

53. *Weak transboundary cooperation.* Political borders rarely coincide with entire ecosystems. This is particularly true of mountain regions where national boundaries commonly follow ridgelines and where snow leopards and mountain ungulates range on both sides. It has been estimated that up to a third of the snow leopard's known or potential range is located either along or less than 50-100 km from the international borders of the 12 range countries. More than 31% of the PAs within the snow leopard range (totaling 276,123 km²) have been classified as existing or potential transboundary PAs. The need for transboundary cooperation in these cases, and in wider ecosystem initiatives, has long been clear. Transboundary cooperation offers several important benefits. Most prominently, larger, contiguous areas offer safeguards for snow leopards, prey, and other biodiversity by better protecting more habitat, providing for maintenance of minimum viable populations of many species, and allowing movement, particularly of large carnivores and ungulates. Poaching and illegal trade across boundaries are better controlled by transboundary cooperation, including joint patrols and border inspections to stem illegal wildlife trafficking. Transboundary cooperation also facilitates knowledge sharing about biodiversity and cultural resources and exchange of skills and experience, including cooperative research and information management.
54. Central Asian countries share about 200,000 km² of snow leopard habitats and about 20% of these habitats are located in the transboundary zones. Despite this fact, currently no transboundary agreements and programs exist between the countries on conservation and monitoring of transboundary snow leopard and its prey species populations. Moreover, no transboundary PAs have been established in Central Asia yet, despite some attempts by international NGOs. International cooperation on joint control of illegal transboundary trade on snow leopard and other endangered species derivatives does not exist in Central Asia. Lack of transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation in Central Asia was ranked as relatively high threat¹⁰⁰. Thus, many opportunities exist for improvement of this situation by strengthening transboundary cooperation via the Intergovernmental Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia and other mechanisms.
55. *Limited human and financial capacity* for conservation and weak conservation policies and institutions. All of the snow leopard range countries report they have insufficient numbers of trained conservation practitioners at all levels, from frontline PA staff to game managers and wildlife law enforcement personnel to research scientists. Moreover, and even where conservation staff levels may be adequate, such as in some scientific institutions, low funding limits their effectiveness. In particular, range countries lack people trained to address the needs of communities and develop community programs. In large part, this is due to insufficient country budgets for snow leopard conservation and for conservation in general, given most range countries are developing nations and some are extremely poor. The Snow Leopard Trust estimates that NGOs and multilaterals contribute less than US\$8 million per year directly to snow leopard conservation. Most of the range countries need greater financial and technical

⁹⁹ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

¹⁰⁰ Snow Leopard Network (2014). Snow Leopard Survival Strategy. Revised 2014 Version Snow Leopard Network, Seattle, Washington, USA

support from the international community and the private sector, in combination with stepping up their own efforts to finance successful snow leopard conservation. In most range countries, conservation-related laws, policies, and institutions are weak as well: six of the 12 snow leopard countries report that lack of effective policy is a high threat to the snow leopard, wild prey, and ecosystems, and only two report this as a low threat. For example, only a few countries have laws or policies that legally empower or offer incentives to local communities to protect and manage local natural resources, even though these are considered core principles and good practices in snow leopard conservation. Further, all countries prohibit killing of snow leopards, but insufficient funding and equipment hamper enforcement. In several countries, prey species are not protected or, when they are, penalties for poaching are not enough to deter it.

56. Central Asia's countries have relatively strong legislation to protect snow leopard and its habitats. The main problem for them is effective law enforcement to fight poaching and illegal trade on endangered species, which is lacking due to insufficient funding, staff, lack of inter-agency cooperation, and corruption. Central Asian countries have relatively small portion of snow leopard habitat covered by PAs (except Uzbekistan) and low capacities of PA staff to protect and monitor snow leopard populations and ecosystems. Among 37 PAs located in the snow leopard habitat in Central Asia no more than 5 have on-going programs for snow leopard monitoring. Technical capacity of academic institutions that could be centers for snow leopard monitoring in Central Asia are very low due to insufficient government funding and low number of professional specialists.

57. *Climate change*: The future impacts of climate change on snow leopard habitat are not certain, and will vary across the range; however, it seems certain that there will be impacts. For instance, melting glaciers in Central Asia and elsewhere are likely to affect water availability and increase the risk of droughts. Decreases in water availability and increases in temperature may affect pasture production, reducing food availability for both wild prey and domestic livestock. The IPCC 4th Assessment Report states that climate change poses serious threats to Central Asia's environment, ecological and socio-economic systems, particularly because of the arid nature of the region. The following climate change projections are predicted for Central Asia:

- increased temperature particularly in summer
- decreased precipitation in summer and increased precipitation in winter
- stronger winds
- more frequent, intense, and longer droughts over wider areas
- increased frequency of heavy precipitation events
- increased incidents of floods, mudflows, and glacial lake outburst flood
- increased avalanches at higher elevations¹⁰¹

All these changes can considerably affect snow leopard and its prey species distribution and survival in Central Asia. Moreover, they can increase anthropogenic pressure on snow leopard habitat due to shifting of grazing patterns higher in the mountains and changes of socio-economic situation in the mountain regions. This further emphasises the need for international transboundary cooperation between Central Asian countries.

¹⁰¹ Abdurasulova, N. 2012. The impact of climate change on high mountain ecosystem of Central Asia. Power Point Presentation.

58. **The Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary pilot landscape** is no exception to the situation across the region and snow leopards here face similar threats as in other parts of their range in Central Asia. Poaching for Marco Polo argali and Siberian Ibex is much lower now than in the 1990s, but still occurs. Generally, poachers are local people, outside hunters and border guards who kill ungulates for meat. Thus, in 2014 the hunting inspection of Issyk-Kul Region recorded 3 cases of poaching for Siberian Ibex in Kyrgyz Republic part of transboundary landscape¹⁰². According to data of WWF Central Asia, 5 cases of Siberian ibex poaching and 2-3 cases of argali poaching were reported by local people in Sarychat GSLEP Landscape in 2014. In Kazakhstan part of the transboundary area 2 cases of illegal ungulates hunting were discovered by territorial inspection of the Committee for Forestry and Wildlife in 2014. Livestock breeding is the main source of income for local communities in the project area. In recent years, the number of livestock has been slowly increasing and herders started to use remote areas for grazing that have not been used since 1990s¹⁰³. The number of argali and Siberian ibex increased during the last 10 years in the Kyrgyz Republic part of the transboundary landscape: 2,850 argali and 1,560 ibex were counted in the Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve in 2014¹⁰⁴ (no reliable ungulate counts are conducted on the other areas of the landscape). In Kazakhstan part of the landscape, the number of wild ungulates was estimated to be 6,100-8,000 individuals in 2014¹⁰⁵.
59. Poaching for snow leopard and illegal trade of its derivatives now is much lower in the project area than it was in 1990s. Then, the Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve lost nearly all snow leopards, but now the population is restored back to 20-25 leopards as a result of increased level of protection¹⁰⁶. According to WWF Central Asia data only 1 case of snow leopard poaching in Central Tien Shan was reported by local people in 2014. No cases of snow leopard poaching was discovered in Kazakhstan part of transboundary landscape in 2014, but 10-15 snow leopard pelts are delivered annually to taxidermists of Almaty (some of these pelts are brought from Kyrgyz Republic)¹⁰⁷.
60. Due to very limited funding and lack of equipment, anti-poaching raids of wildlife agencies in the Kyrgyz Republic part of the landscape are rare and ineffective. No inter-agency cooperation for anti-poaching activities has been developed yet. In the Kazakhstan part, funding of territorial inspections of the Committee for Forestry and Wildlife is better, but still the inspections have not enough staff and equipment to fight poaching in snow leopard habitat effectively¹⁰⁸.
61. No cases of snow leopard attacks on livestock were recorded in Kyrgyz Republic part of the transboundary landscape until 2014. In 2014, 2 cases of predation by snow leopards happened: 2 yaks and three goats were killed by the cats. In Kazakhstan part of the area no cases of snow leopard predation on livestock were reported in 2000-2014.

¹⁰² Dokonbaev, U. Data about cases of illegal hunting and fines revealed by wildlife inspection in Biosphere territory “Issyk-Kul” in 2014.

¹⁰³ A.P. Vereschagin and N. Turdumatova, personal communication

¹⁰⁴ A.P. Vereschagin and M.M. Musaev, personal communication

¹⁰⁵ Personal communication with administrations of Almaty NR, Ile Alatau NP and Kolsay Koldery NP

¹⁰⁶ A.P. Vereschagin and M.M. Musaev, personal communication

¹⁰⁷ S. Sklyarenko, personal communication.

¹⁰⁸ Action Plan for Snow Leopard Study and Conservation in Kazakhstan 2015-2020

62. Currently one big gold mine belonging to Kumtor company is operational since 1997 in Sarychat GSLEP Landscape with a total area about 8-10 km². It is located high in the mountains of the Central Tien Shan in the snow leopard habitat at the border with Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve. 4 more big mines are going to start their operations in the area to extract gold, tin, and wolfram in the next 5 years¹⁰⁹. Development of the mining sector in the Central Tien Shan represents a considerable threat for snow leopards and wild ungulates due to destruction and deterioration of their habitat. No mining operations are conducted in the Kazakhstan part of the transboundary landscape. No dams or big roads are planned for construction in the area. One potentially dangerous for snow leopard population is planned on the slopes of Zailiysky Ridge near Almaty City – construction of Kokjaylau Ski Resort on an area of 42,000 ha in snow leopard habitat. The project may lead to destruction and deterioration of snow leopard and ungulates habitats in the area of construction.¹¹⁰
63. The pilot transboundary landscape is no exception from other Central Asian mountains in terms of climate change. About 50% of the transboundary landscape is located at elevations higher than 2,500 m above sea level. Mountain ecosystems are particularly sensitive, and at elevations of 3,000–4,000 metres, climate change is increasingly thawing what had been a permanently frozen environment. Glacier retreat in the area, particularly the Petrov Glacier and others, has been observed for the last 50 years¹¹¹.
64. These threats, at global, regional and transboundary pilot landscape level, are the main drivers for the Endangered conservation status of the snow leopard and the decline of habitat quality in its mountain ecosystems. The specific problem that this project will address is the lack of effective transboundary cooperation to ensure that best practice approaches are available and shared between the range countries through an effective and sustainable coordination mechanism.

Long-term solution and barriers to achieving the solution

65. For the next decades, and without this project's intervention, pressures from livestock herding and retaliatory killing, illegal wildlife trafficking, infrastructure development, and climate change will continue to increase the threats on snow leopard ecosystems. While there are several initiatives (at national and global levels) that address snow leopard conservation issues in individual range countries, these efforts are currently not adequately coordinated particularly at the level of transboundary landscapes to ensure a systematic and effective strategy. Likewise, efforts to design and implement inter-governmental strategies and programs for conservation of snow leopard and other endangered species in transboundary areas are very much limited. To kick start the implementation of the ambitious conservation plans that were presented by the snow leopard range countries at both national and global levels and to ensure long term sustainability of the activities, the long-term solution proposed by the project is to put in place an effective and coherent strategy and process for coordinating national and global efforts, knowledge sharing and monitoring impacts to secure national and transboundary snow leopard

¹⁰⁹ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

¹¹⁰ Technical and Economical Assessment of Kokjaylau Ski Resort Project. Environmental Impact Assessment. Almaty 2012

¹¹¹ Zoï Environment Network, University of Eastern Finland, Gaia Group Oy (2012). Mining, Development and Environment in Central Asia: Toolkit Companion with Case Studies.

landscapes and ecosystems particularly in the Central Asian region. Such improvements will enable the range countries to address these issues and accrue tangible environmental, economic and social benefits from conservation and utilization of their natural resources.

66. However the following three inter-related barriers are currently impeding this long term solution from emerging:

Barrier 1: Absence of an effective system for knowledge generation and sharing for transboundary landscapes:

67. At present, while research has been conducted in some of the range countries, and wildlife authorities have access to some material on effective management and enforcement, there has been no systematic effort to gather, analyse and disseminate best practices and knowledge across snow leopard ecosystems, and a particular gap exists around the knowledge needed for transboundary conservation and enforcement. In order to underpin a coordinated and effective transboundary conservation strategy, there is a need for systematic gathering of knowledge around areas such as management planning and protection of ecosystems; effective approaches to working with communities to reduce human wildlife conflict and improve the sustainability of grazing systems; and coordinated enforcement from site-level up, across the illegal wildlife trafficking chain.

68. Knowledge and best practice need to be shared, disseminated and discussed collaboratively in order to learn from global experience in dealing effectively with transboundary conservation challenges, particularly those of high mountain ecosystems, many of them under pressure from intensification of infrastructure development, livestock grazing and climate change. In addition to the challenges of expanding protected area systems and managing the human-wildlife interface in production landscapes, there is also a lack of an effective enforcement model for preventing poaching and illegal trafficking, for apprehending and prosecuting perpetrators, and for strengthening the criminal justice system and border controls. Means of communicating and sharing knowledge, information and data across range countries are also very limited at present.

69. Effective transboundary management of snow leopard ecosystems is also hampered by the limited systemic and institutional capacity at the regional level, as indicated by the low baseline Capacity Scorecard assessment of just 24%¹¹². There is a great need for capacity development at all levels and in sectors including wildlife management, customs, border control and development planning.

Barrier 2: Absence of a common monitoring framework for measuring progress and evaluating success.

70. There is some data for particular areas and time periods resulting from research and conservation initiatives over the past few decades, particularly through the international Snow Leopard Trust and the Snow Leopard Conservancy. However, there is an absence of a comprehensive system

¹¹² Assessment was done for four countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

of data on the status, health and trends of snow leopards, their prey species, their habitats, and the threats they face. In order to design and monitor the effectiveness of a coordinated and effective transboundary conservation strategy for snow leopard ecosystems, there is a need for an agreed, common monitoring framework. This needs to be capacitated and resourced in order to maintain comprehensive and up-to-date information on the health of snow leopards and the ecosystems of which they are the apex predator, and in order to track the results and impacts of transboundary conservation initiatives. Such a framework needs to be able to be implemented at multiple levels, including national, transboundary ecosystem and global scales.

71. Current efforts to collect data are limited, fragmented and unsustainable, and are based on varying indicators. In order for transboundary approaches to be followed in the GSLEP landscapes, there is a need for a model which involves a broad range of players, including communities (citizen science) as well as government and research institutions, across national boundaries in a particular ecosystems, in agreeing on indicators and means of measurement, and a need to develop these into a national and global system for monitoring and evaluation. Without the availability of systematic information and trends over time, it is not possible to identify the optimal mix of landscape management, protection and enforcement measures needed to conserve snow leopard habitats, nor to measure progress.

Barrier 3: National and Global snow leopard ecosystem protection programs have been drafted but are not currently funded:

72. Using the charismatic and endangered snow leopard as a flagship, all 12 GSLEP range state governments are for the first time united around a shared vision to address high-mountain development issues over the period 2014-2020 to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems. The GSLEP initiative also engages non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector. There is agreement on the 12 individual National Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Priorities (NSLEPs), and a vision for four Global Support Components to address issues transcending national boundaries. All of this planned work, however, needs to be enabled through the mobilization of resources from a wide range of sources on a sustained basis, in order to for the goals of the GSLEP to be achieved. Despite national contributions, there is an estimated funding gap of \$91 million across the 12 range countries (and a gap of US\$11.1M (80.6%) out of a total budget of US\$ 14 million for the four target countries in Central Asia) over this period, and there is a need to put in place a coordinated approach to leveraging resources on an ongoing basis, whilst also assisting with technical support and knowledge sharing. There is also a need for an integrated sustainable financing strategy that taps into domestic and international, private and public, traditional and innovative sources of finance. This includes a targeted approach to private sector stakeholders, not only in relation to funding, but also, for those businesses directly operating in these landscapes, to change the way they do business, making snow leopard ecosystem conservation efforts more cost-effective in the long term.

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

73. Addressing the transboundary conservation of snow leopards and their critical ecosystems requires interventions relating to biodiversity, customs and illegal wildlife trade, livestock

management and infrastructure planning and management. It requires the services of technical, social, economic, cultural and political experts at all levels. Thus the responsibility for ensuring effective trans-boundary cooperation to conserve snow leopards cannot belong solely to particular sector institutions.

74. During project preparation, a stakeholder analysis was completed in order to identify key stakeholders and their roles in project implementation (see Table 4). This analysis is then further developed in PART IV: Stakeholder Involvement Plan.

Table 4. Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders in Project Implementation

Stakeholder	Anticipated Role in Project
Intergovernmental organizations, conventions and multilateral agencies	
GSLEP (Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program)	<p>These GSLEP was established in 2014 by the adoption of the <i>Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards</i>. The Steering Committee and Secretariat coordinate and support implementation of the GSLEP and its related NSLEPs. They conduct annual program consultations with all the range countries, donors and partners to review progress; organise periodic consultations to map flow and utilization of funds, review funding situation and coordinate energies at filling key gaps; conduct thematic and technical consultations on specific elements of the program to facilitate knowledge exchange, adoption of good practices, cross-sectoral engagement and coordination, and support leadership. The GSLEP Secretariat will play an integral role in the implementation of this project. Key responsibilities in the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project technical coordination and implementation of all project activities • Facilitation of discussion, approval and implementation of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems among range countries • Control of GSLEP implementation related measures at the global level • Facilitation of discussion, approval and implementation of GSLEP financial strategy • Organization of the Snow Leopard Forum in 2017 one key activity under the project • Initiation of collaboration with private sector to provide sufficient funding for GSLEP as part of project’s intervention in improving financial status for snow leopard conservation • Establishment of global monitoring center for snow leopard populations and ecosystems and quality assessment of the global monitoring framework developed under the project <p>In addition the GSLEP Steering Committee and Secretariat will coordinate closely with the Global Tiger Initiative Council and Global Tiger Forum on governance, financing and implementation issues, particularly at global level and in range states shared by the two species. The project will be advised by the GSLEP Secretariat on all such matters.</p>
UNDP	<p>The GEF implementing agency. UNDP environment programmes in Central Asia promote introduction of a holistic approach to the planning, management and conservation of land, water and forest resources and biodiversity as key areas of intervention to enhance resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable populations to the changing climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project supervision, monitoring and evaluation • Project funding from GEF resources • Negotiation with other donors on the project co-financing in Central Asian countries • Reporting to GEF on the project progress • Implementation of/coordination with complementary GEF projects in Central Asia
CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered	<p>This Convention aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented.</p>

Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in / advice on the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors in Central Asia
CMS (The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals)	<p>This Convention aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of development of international agreements and programs for conservation of transboundary populations of snow leopard and its prey species
Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) / GTI Council	<p>GTI was established as a global alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society, the conservation and scientific community, and the private sector committed to working together toward a common agenda to save wild tigers from extinction. The GTI assists the 13 tiger range countries to carry out their conservation strategies and drive the global tiger conservation agenda, through planning, coordination, and continuous communication. Up to 2015, at the request of the host government of the GSLEP, Kyrgyz Republic, GTI has been performing similar functions by accompanying the Secretariat in planning and conducting its operations. Following changes in governance arrangements in 2015, a high-level GTI Council has been set up. The Council is expected to support both the GTI and the GSLEP, leading to even closer links with GSLEP. Key roles of the GTI Council include but are not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating Political will and advocating for conservation; • Coordinating global support to the programs; • Mobilizing resources; • Enabling convergence and connectivity; • Building alliances, publicity and awareness.
World Bank Institute / Leadership, Learning and Innovation Vice Presidency of the World Bank	<p>The World Bank Institute was one of the Bank’s main instruments for developing individual, organizational, and institutional capacity through the exchange of knowledge delivering learning programs that create opportunities for development stakeholders to acquire, share, and apply global and local knowledge and experiences. In the case of the GSLEP, the WBI delivered leadership trainings similar to those offered as part of the GTI.</p> <p>WBI has recently transformed into the Leadership, Learning and Innovation Vice Presidency of the World Bank. LLI does not provide any project funding. It supports Bank projects by providing capacity development for country clients. With GTI moving out of the Bank, there is no longer any support going to biodiversity and conservation, although LLI does provide leadership development, knowledge management, learning and innovation in a number of environment and natural resources projects. Future opportunities for collaboration remain to be explored.</p>
GIZ	<p>German bi-lateral development assistance agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of sustainable natural resource consumption in snow leopard habitat in Central Asia • Participation in the development of international agreements and programs for conservation of transboundary populations of snow leopard and its prey species
ICSD (Inter-Governmental Commission for Sustainable Development in Central Asia)	<p>The international body for coordination of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives of Central Asian countries, established in 2000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration and approval of international agreements and programs for conservation snow leopard and its prey species, wildlife migration corridors, control of wildlife trade and transboundary nature reserves
ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development)	<p>ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas, including six GSLEP countries-Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in landscapes defined by ecosystems rather than administrative boundaries • mountain environment regional information system that encompasses long-term monitoring, database development and uptake of knowledge

<p>INTERPOL Environmental Crime Program</p>	<p>INTERPOL Environmental Security Sub-Directorate leads global and regional operations to dismantle the criminal networks behind environmental crime using intelligence driven policing; coordinates and develops international law enforcement best practice manuals, guides and other resources; provides environmental law enforcement agencies with access to our services by enhancing their links with INTERPOL National Central Bureaus. The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group brings together criminal investigators from around the world to share information and initiate targeted projects. INTERPOL’s Project Predator, primarily supported by USAID has been actively participating in international snow leopard conservation efforts for several years, including the drafting of the GSLEPs Law Enforcement Component.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Analysis of legislation of Central Asia’s countries for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in Central Asia
<p>National level – Governmental</p>	
<p>Governments of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kingdom of Bhutan, People’s Republic of China, Republic of India, Mongolia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation</p>	<p>The 8 range countries that are members of the GSLEP initiative, but which are not specifically targeted by the current project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion, approval and implementation of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems • Control of GSLEP implementation at the national level • Discussion, approval and implementation of GSLEP financial strategy • Participation in the Snow Leopard Forum in 2017
<p>Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>	<p>The national body responsible for GSLEP implementation in Kazakhstan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall supervision of project implementation in Kazakhstan • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Kazakhstan
<p>Republican State Institution “Okhotzooptom”, Kazakhstan</p>	<p>The national agency responsible for control of wildlife crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and international collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the snow leopard habitat • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Leading anti-poaching inter-agency collaboration in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary Landscape
<p>State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic</p>	<p>The national body responsible for GSLEP implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to GSLEP Secretariat • Overall Supervision of the project implementation in Kyrgyzstan • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Kyrgyzstan

State Agency for Environmental and Technical Safety of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic	<p>The national agency responsible for control of wildlife crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and international collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the snow leopard habitat • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Leading anti-poaching inter-agency collaboration in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary Landscape
Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	<p>The national body responsible for GSLEP implementation in Tajikistan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Supervision of the project implementation in Tajikistan • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Tajikistan
National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Tajikistan	<p>The national organisation responsible for CBD implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation • Participation in integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Tajikistan • Participation in the negotiations with private sector in Central Asia to provide funding for snow leopard conservation
State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan	<p>The national body responsible for GSLEP implementation in Kazakhstan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Supervision of the project implementation in Uzbekistan • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Uzbekistan
State Inspection for Protection of Wildlife and Plants (Gosbiokontrol), Uzbekistan	<p>The national agency responsible for control of wildlife crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and international collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the snow leopard habitat • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff
Customs Agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan	<p>The national customs agencies responsible for controlling illegal wildlife trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of international and inter-agency collaboration to control illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia
Border Guard Services of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan	<p>The national border agencies responsible for protection of state borders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of international and inter-agency collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in border zones of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
National level – Academic and Research	

Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan	<p>National institutes responsible for biodiversity research and monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development training materials for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Participation in the development of conservation and monitoring programs and action plans for transboundary snow leopard populations • Participation in discussion and adoption of the global snow leopard monitoring system at national level in Central Asia
Institute Biology and Soils of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan	
Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of Tajik Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan	
Institute of Genetic Diversity of Plant and Animals of Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan	
International NGOs working in Central Asia	
World Wildlife Fund -WWF (Central Asia Office)	<p>WWF is the world's leading international conservation organization and works in over 100 countries. WWF is a key stakeholder and will be a key co-financier for the project both through its regional and national offices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia • Participation in the development of international agreements and programs for conservation of transboundary snow leopard populations • Participation in the development of GSLEP financial strategy and negotiations with donors, including private sector • Project co-financing
Snow Leopard Trust (SLT)	<p>SLT will be the implementing partner responsible for delivery of the project. SLT is a US-based NGO with partners and staff members in China, India, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, and Pakistan as well as in the United States and Sweden. The SLT builds community partnerships by using sound science to determine priorities for protecting the endangered snow leopard. SLT is a key international NGO working on snow leopard conservation. SLT is closely supporting the development of GSLEP through two international secondments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing partner responsible for delivery of the project. • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Participation in the development of global snow leopard monitoring system at national level in Central Asia • Participation in the development of GSLEP financial strategy and negotiations with donors, including private sector • Project co-financing
Nature and Biodiversity	<p>NABU is one of the oldest and largest environment associations in Germany committed to the conservation of threatened habitats, flora and fauna, to climate protection and energy policy.</p>

Conservation Union (NABU)	<p>NABU's main objectives are the preservation of habitats and biodiversity, the promotion of sustainability in agriculture, forest management and water supply and distribution, as well as to enhance the significance of nature conservation in our society. It is a primary funder of GSLEP activities in Central Asia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Participation in the development of GSLEP financial strategy and negotiations with donors, including private sector • Project co-financing
Panthera	<p>Panthera's mission is to ensure the future of wild cats through scientific leadership and global conservation action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia • Participation in the development of programs for conservation of transboundary snow leopard populations in Central Asia • Project co-financing
Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC)	<p>SLC works on advancing community-based stewardship of the snow leopard through education, research and grassroots conservation action. SLC creates innovative, highly participatory, self-governing community-based conservation programs that serve as models for others, while simultaneously building in-country capacity of individuals and organizations for snow leopard conservation, research and education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of global snow leopard monitoring system • Providing trainings for PA staff and wildlife agencies on snow leopard monitoring • Analysis of conservation transboundary cooperation experience in Eurasia
Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	<p>FFI has been active in Central Asia for over 15 years, supporting work in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to combat poaching, monitor snow leopards and encourage local communities to get involved in conservation. FFI is supporting work to implement the management plan of the Sarychat Eertash reserve within the pilot landscape, including training, resource provision, biodiversity surveys etc., and will support and coordinate with the project in these areas.</p>
TRAFFIC	<p>TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The project will take opportunities to work with on specific outputs related to wildlife law enforcement and information sharing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Analysis of legislation of Central Asia's countries for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia
National NGOs engaged in snow leopard conservation in Central Asia	
Association for Biodiversity Conservation of Kazakhstan (ABCK)	<p>Key national conservation NGO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia • Participation in integration of global snow leopard monitoring system in the biodiversity monitoring system of Kazakhstan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of international and inter-agency cooperation for protection of snow leopard populations in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary landscape • Integration of data on snow leopard key population and habitat in the system of regional socio-economic planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary landscape
Snow Leopard Fund – Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Participation in integration of global snow leopard monitoring system in the biodiversity monitoring system of Kyrgyzstan
Association of hunters of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Providing basic data for national snow leopard monitoring system of Tajikistan
Private sector organizations	
Business companies (mining, development, tourism, others) in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the development, approval and funding of targeted national portfolios of projects for snow leopard conservation in Central Asia • Support of GSLEP implementation • Participation in the Confederation of Industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asia's countries • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
Hunting concessions in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the development, approval and funding of targeted national portfolios of projects for snow leopard conservation in Central Asia • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
Local communities in the Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
Local level stakeholders in pilot landscape	
Regional Governments: Administration of Issyk-Kul Region (Kyrgyzstan) Administration of Almaty Region (Kazakhstan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and transboundary collaboration for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape

<p>Directorate of Issyk-Kul Biosphere Territory (Kyrgyzstan)</p>	<p>Regional governments and Directorate of Issyk-Kul Biosphere Territory will play leading and coordinating role in the realization of the planned project activities and their integration in the existing government programmes and plans at the regional and local levels.</p>
<p>Protected Areas: Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve (KG) Karakol National Park (KG) Chon-Kemin National Park (KG) Kyrchyn National Park (KG) Almaty Nature Reserve (KZ) Ile-Alatau National Park (KZ) Kolsay Kolderi National Park (KZ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and transboundary collaboration for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Monitoring of snow leopard populations and ecosystems at regional level <p>Protected Area staff in the project landscape will play key and leading role in the monitoring of snow leopard population and ecosystems. Also they will be key participants of inter-agency and transboundary agreements to control poaching and wildlife trade in the area. Protected Areas will be key planners of activities and implementers of the decisions of the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape. They also will make suggestion on the optimization and development of the Protected Area Network in the pilot landscape while developing of the regional sustainable land management measures.</p>
<p>Kumtor gold mining company (KG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape <p>Kumtor will represent a key business partner for the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape. The company will be a main donor of anti-poaching activities in the landscapes, as well as the developer of sustainable land management suggestions with balance between industry and conservation.</p>
<p>Hunting concessions in the transboundary landscape: 15 in Kyrgyzstan part 30-35 in Kazakhstan part</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and transboundary collaboration for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape <p>Hunting concessions will play active role in the anti-poaching agreements and cooperation. They are also potential donors for the activities of the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape. They will play main role in the development of the model of sustainable hunting in the pilot landscape with tangible benefits for local communities.</p>
<p>Border guard stations: 3 in Kyrgyzstan part 5 in Kazakhstan part</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and transboundary collaboration for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape <p>Border guards are planned as a key member of anti-poaching brigades in the project area working in strong collaboration with wildlife agencies and Protected Areas.</p>
<p>Local communities: 8-10 villages in Kyrgyzstan part</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape

10-12 - in Kazakhstan part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape <p>Local communities will be key participants and beneficiaries of the Consortium of partners in the project landscape and main stakeholders in the sustainable land management in the SL habitat.</p>
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BASELINE ANALYSIS

75. Global snow leopard conservation programmes have a relatively long history—the species was declared Endangered in 1972 by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and in 1986 on the IUCN Red List. The first substantial efforts for international coordination were the Snow Leopard Survival Summit (Seattle, 2002), and the Rangewide Priority Setting Exercise for Snow Leopards (Beijing, 2008). These international events stimulated exchange of data on snow leopard distribution, population, threats and conservation efforts among 12 snow leopard range countries and demonstrated the high urgency for a global programme for protection of this endangered cat.
76. The next major landmark was the successful Global Snow Leopard Forum in October 2013, initiated by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and developed in collaboration with the World Bank/Global Tiger Initiative, range countries and other partners like GEF, UNDP, WWF, NABU, Snow Leopard Trust and other international organisations. Through the adoption of the *Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards*, this united all 12 range countries in a common programme¹¹³. This marked the launch of the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), which aims to establish a comprehensive, collaborative range-wide effort that unites range country governments, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities, and the private sector to conserve snow leopards and their valuable high-mountain ecosystems.
77. One of the GSLEP’s core principles of snow leopard conservation is ‘Ensuring landscape-level transboundary conservation’. The *Bishkek Declaration* provided the foundation for a global framework for government-led conservation of Snow Leopards and their habitat. This foundation, developed through a number of subsequent technical meetings has enabled the development of a set of 12 National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Priorities (NSLEP) and a Global Support Programme. A preliminary list of 23 snow leopard priority landscapes has been identified, and a goal of protecting 20 such landscapes by 2020 (“Secure 20 by 2020”). has been set. GSLEP Secretariat and Steering Committee has been established to coordinate and manage GSLEP implementation at global level. The total funding required for GSLEP implementation was identified as \$190.4 million with \$91.6 million from national budgets of the 12 range countries and \$98.8 million from international donors. Finally, in 2014, a revised and updated version of the *Snow Leopard Survival Strategy* was published by the Snow Leopard Network.

¹¹³ 77. The model for the effort was the Global Tiger Initiative’s Global Tiger Recovery Program (GTRP), launched by the Heads of Governments of the 13 tiger range countries (TRCs) at the International Tiger Forum in St. Petersburg in 2010

78. Thus, the global conservation community for snow leopard ecosystems is established, the priorities are largely known, and the key imperative now is to move from planning to action through a process of transboundary cooperation across the snow leopard's entire range.
79. Simultaneous to and supported by these global efforts, the four Central Asian range countries have undertaken many national and local initiatives contributing to snow leopard conservation. All have committed to conserve biodiversity through their ratifications of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES, except Tajikistan) taking on the related obligations for snow leopard conservation. In 1994, the Inter-Governmental Commission for Sustainable Development was established to coordinate and facilitate regional cooperation of Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan) on environment protection and sustainable development. The Framework Convention on Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development in Central Asia¹¹⁴ and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on cooperation in the sphere of biological diversity conservation of Western Tien Shan¹¹⁵ have been signed to protect the unique biodiversity of Central Asia, including snow leopards.
80. As described in the legislation and policy section above, they have also developed an impressive national legislative framework in each of the four countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) for addressing biodiversity conservation in general and snow leopard conservation in particular. This includes legislation for the establishment and management of PAs, for the control of hunting and illegal wildlife trade, and legislation to control the environmental impacts of developments. However, despite this legislative progress, capacity and resources to implement the measures is often severely lacking, and most importantly for the objectives of this project there are not yet any examples of good transboundary cooperation being applied for the conservation of snow leopard ecosystems.
81. The national programmes on protected areas, which aim to establish and maintain comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative networks of PAs have been one of the most important national contributions to snow leopard conservation. Together, the four target countries of this project have designated 37 PAs in Central Asia with a total area of 6,381,209 ha which includes 27% of the snow leopard habitat in the region. Within these PAs, they address the necessary legal framework, as well as governance, human capacity, management, research, public awareness and education, public participation, funding and infrastructure, and international cooperation. These elements align with the goals of the CBD Programme of Work on PAs, and all contribute importantly to snow leopard conservation.
82. Three countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan – have developed and officially approved National Strategies and Action Plans for Snow Leopard Conservation through 2020 with the budgets of \$18.6 million, \$1.0 million and \$0.3 million respectively. The budget for implementation of the National Plan is still not approved by the government of Kazakhstan, but implementation of the plans in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan mainly (up to 80%) depends on

¹¹⁴ <http://www.ecolex.org/server2.php/libcat/docs/TRE/Full/En/TRE-143806.pdf>

¹¹⁵ <http://www.ecolex.org/server2.php/libcat/docs/TRE/Full/Other/TRE-153527.doc>

international funding. Although transboundary cooperation is mentioned in the National Strategies and Action Plans, the agenda for international collaboration for conservation of snow leopard in Central Asia is not developed in the documents.

Component 1. Knowledge generation and sharing for transboundary landscapes

83. Several international initiatives are on-going, but among these the key baseline for this component is the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Conservation Program (GSLEP). This represents the first-ever comprehensive, coordinated effort to generate and share knowledge between the range countries to conserve snow leopards and their mountain habitats in Asia. With the GSLEP, snow leopard conservation moves from isolated interventions to collective impact initiatives that unify the efforts of countries and the global conservation community to achieve a shared vision and goal.
84. During 2013 and 2014, the 12 snow leopard range countries with technical support from international organizations, have developed and shared comprehensive summaries of their existing snow leopard conservation programmes and, in tandem, planned their individual National Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Priorities (NSLEPs). Implementation of these NSLEPs (including for the transboundary snow leopard landscapes) are the core of the GSLEP, supported by the cross-cutting Global Support Components (GSCs).
85. Despite this remarkable recent progress in information sharing at global level, formal cooperation between individual range countries and practical collaboration on the ground is very limited. Despite the existence of two multilateral agreements on environmental protection and biodiversity conservation between Central Asian countries (see Table 3), the value of these agreements for protection of snow leopard transboundary populations and ecosystems is low due to their very generalised nature and absence of action plans to bring these treaties to particular conservation actions.
86. Although much best-practice material exists in individual countries, no specific tools, methods or guidelines for effective transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems have yet been developed that could support collaboration between countries. Priorities would include templates for international Agreements (eg. on protection of transboundary snow leopard populations, maintaining wildlife migration corridors, cooperation in control of illegal wildlife trade, or establishment of Transboundary Protected Areas), conservation programmes for transboundary snow leopard populations, best practice handbooks and guidelines (eg. on legislation, illegal wildlife trade control, conflict resolution on human-snow leopard, landscape management in a transboundary context etc.). Similarly, no specific training materials or courses are available on illegal wildlife trade control, development of transboundary conservation cooperation, or inter-agency collaboration, and in the four target countries the capacity of staff of different agencies for transboundary conservation is considered to be very low (baseline of 24% according to the Capacity Assessment Scorecard). Of particular concern is the lack of transboundary cooperation and low capacity of the enforcement agencies to address illegal trade in snow leopards.

Component 2. Global and national monitoring framework for snow leopard ecosystems

87. Consistent range-wide monitoring of snow leopard populations and ecosystems is lacking and hampers efforts to plan and determine the success of conservation measures especially on national and global levels. There is currently no harmonised global monitoring framework for snow leopard ecosystems (including snow leopard populations, their prey species and their habitats) across the 12 range countries, nor between the four Central Asian countries that are the target of this project. Biodiversity monitoring differs significantly between the four countries in terms of the extent of coverage, methodologies, reporting and the human and financial resources available. No national snow leopard monitoring programmes have been developed for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan yet. Generally, governmental resources for monitoring of snow leopard and its prey species populations are very inadequate, with as little as US\$3,000 and US\$1,800 being made available in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan for snow leopard monitoring annually. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are planning to spend annually about \$180,000 and \$7,000 respectively in 2015-2020 for snow leopard monitoring, but this funding was not confirmed by the national Governments yet¹¹⁶.
88. Many of the governmental monitoring programmes for snow leopard are supplemented by local programmes led by international and national NGOs. For example:
- ABCK's project in Kazakhstan "Distribution, population number and limiting factors for snow leopard in Dzhungar Alatau" funded by Carlsberg company, supports study of snow leopard distribution and population density in Dzhungar Alatau
 - Snow Leopard Fund is collecting camera-trapping data for monitoring of snow leopard populations in Eastern Kazakhstan
 - WWF Project in Kyrgyz Republic "Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities" 2012-2015 includes snow leopard monitoring in Central Tien Shan (camera-trapping and scat collection for DNA analysis)
 - SLT/SLF Project "Conservation of Snow Leopard in Central Tien Shan" supports monitoring of snow leopard and prey species populations in Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve
 - Panthera project in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan "Study of snow leopard spatial ecology and monitoring of snow leopard populations and its prey species" 2015-2018 supports training of local communities in snow leopard monitoring and a snow leopard telemetry study
 - NABU Project "Camera-trapping of snow leopards in Tien Shan Mountains" collects data on snow leopard distribution and occupancy in Tien Shan, Kyrgyz Republic.
 - NABU Project "Conservation of Biodiversity in the transboundary region "Mountains of Northern Tien Shan"" supports snow leopard camera-trapping programmes in 5 PAs of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic.

¹¹⁶ Snow Leopard Working Secretariat. 2013. Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme. Annex. Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; Action Plan for snow leopard study and conservation in the Republic of Kazakhstan 2015-2020. Draft prepared for Government approval.

While these NGO-led programmes may be more intensive and use modern technology, they are frequently limited in area, intermittent and subject to the vagaries of project funding. Almost no attempts have been made by the NGOs to convert these local monitoring programs to regional or national snow leopard monitoring systems, nor to institutionalize them.

89. Governmental monitoring programmes for snow leopard populations (and even the programmes of most NGOs) are generally limited only to PAs rather than wider snow leopard landscapes. For example the official monitoring system / database for biodiversity in the PAs of Kazakhstan is currently limited to only 4 PAs and does not include a special sub-programme for monitoring of snow leopard populations and their habitat. Monitoring of prey species and of habitat quality in snow leopard ecosystems is even more limited. Of note is that currently, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have very limited national funds for monitoring of wild ungulates (prey of snow leopard) for 2015-2018, ranging from \$20,000 to \$33,000 in each country.
90. Monitoring methods (techniques, timing, analysis of data and reporting) also differ widely between countries and between organisations. A general and very popular method that is used for snow leopard monitoring in all 12 range countries, including Central Asia, is camera-trapping. This technique allows users to obtain pictures and videos of snow leopards and to use these data not only for research and monitoring purposes, but also for fundraising and public outreach. All above mentioned NGOs in Central Asia use camera-traps as the main tool for snow leopard research and local monitoring. In the majority of cases in Central Asia this technique is used to prove presence of snow leopard in the area of interest and assess snow leopard population locally. More or less true monitoring of snow leopard population with camera-traps is currently conducted only in Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve, where camera-trapping of snow leopard has been ongoing for at least 10 years. However, no descriptions of the standard monitoring system for the Reserve or other places have been developed yet. Different organizations have different systems of camera-trapping, including survey protocols, places to set up camera-traps, and analysis of collected data. Thus, the data are very difficult to aggregate even for regional estimation of snow leopard populations, let-alone national or global ones. Another popular method for estimation of snow leopard populations and their monitoring is non-invasive genetics (identification of snow leopards using analysis of DNA extracted from scat samples). In Central Asia this technique has been used only for Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve by WWF and the Russian Academy of Sciences to assess snow leopard population in the area. Despite many limitations, non-invasive genetics is a promising tool for nation-wide snow leopard surveys in Central Asia and other range countries. No adequate population assessments for snow leopard and its prey species exists for Snow Leopard Priority Landscapes in Central Asia and the majority of other range countries.
91. Thus, in order to better understand and plan the conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and evaluate the progress of national conservation programs and the entire GSLEP, there is an urgent need to develop a common monitoring framework, covering snow leopard populations, populations of their prey species, and habitat quality across entire snow leopard landscapes (not just separate PAs). This requires the adoption of a series of agreed indicators and harmonised methodologies by all range countries to measure in standard intervals: (a) distribution and abundance of snow leopard and prey species; (b) distribution and severity of key threats for snow leopard; (c) quality of habitat; and (d) socio-economic situation in the 23 Snow Leopard Priority

Landscapes selected for GSLEP implementation. A set of standard indicators, protocols and approaches approved by all 12 range countries will allow assessment of snow leopard populations and ecosystems at different levels: local, regional, national and global. Therefore, such a common monitoring framework will provide a reliable tool to measure conservation success of GSLEP at all levels and manage conservation actions of multiple partners and donors. To be a real working tool, global snow leopard monitoring framework should be embedded into national biodiversity monitoring programs of the 12 range countries.

92. There is also a great need to establish a common spatial database that can be used at the global level and by each country to store, analyse and report on the information that is collected using the standard monitoring framework for each snow leopard landscape. Having such a tool available will enable not only effective exchange of information between national and global snow leopard ecosystems databases, but also ensure land management priorities for snow leopards to be identified and incorporated into landscape level and regional land management plans and socio-economic plans, and for the results to be tracked. Currently national socio-economic development planning in Central Asia and other range countries does not incorporate data on important snow leopard populations and ecosystems. Also information on snow leopard populations and ecosystems has to be included in the national biodiversity monitoring databases. One such database – the national biodiversity management database for Kazakhstan - is in progress of development by the Committee for Forest and Wildlife and UNDP¹¹⁷.

Component 3. Ensuring sustainability of snow leopard conservation

93. The launch of the GSLEP initiative in October 2013 has undoubtedly provided the most significant baseline activity with regard to this component, with a commitment of all the range countries to work together towards a shared goal until 2022. Already, a summary of the existing situation and priorities (NSLEPs) in each of the 12 range countries has been published, 23 snow leopard landscapes have been identified and, with support from interested organizations, the countries have agreed to work together to identify and secure at least 20 healthy populations of snow leopards across the cat's range by 2020.
94. The 12 individual National Snow Leopard and Ecosystems Priorities (NSLEPs) are the major vehicle through which the GSLEP priorities and actions will be delivered. The NSLEPs are designed to provide a set of priority, concrete project activities to be implemented to meet national goals and, collectively, the overarching global goal. The Global Support Components (GSCs), which were prepared by international organizations aim to address issues that transcend national boundaries and go beyond the capacity of any one country to address alone. The GSCs aim to support and assist the range countries, as needed, in the areas of wildlife law enforcement; knowledge sharing; transboundary cooperation; engaging with industry; and research and monitoring. The GSLEP and the NSLEPs aim to secure the snow leopard landscapes through a set of related activities that include: engaging local communities in conservation, including promoting sustainable livelihoods, and addressing human-wildlife conflict; managing habitats and prey based upon monitoring and evaluation of populations and range areas; combating poaching and illegal trade; transboundary management and enforcement; engaging industry;

¹¹⁷ Joint Project of UNDP-Kazakhstan and Committee of Forestry and Wildlife of Kazakhstan "Development and introduction of biodiversity monitoring information system in pilot Protected Areas of the Republic of Kazakhstan"

research and monitoring; building capacity and enhancing conservation policies and institutions; and building awareness.

95. In March 2015, key decisions were taken to establish the main governance and institutional mechanisms for the GSLEP, which will be crucial to ensuring its long-term sustainability. These include:

- the inter-Ministerial *GSLEP Steering Committee* which is responsible for overall governance of the GSLEP, comprises representatives of the range countries with NGOs participating as observers. It is currently chaired by Pakistan and co-chaired by Kyrgyz Republic.
- the *GSLEP Secretariat* was established as a permanent Secretariat with currently 4 staff plus two secondments from the Snow Leopard Trust and one from NABU. It is hosted by the SAEPF, located in Bishkek and is responsible for: coordinating the implementation of GSLEP, assisting in resource mobilization, facilitating the implementation of the GSCs, providing a hub for collating information.

However the sustainability of these structures is severely at risk since only a one year budget of US\$ 93,300 for the operation of the Secretariat has been secured from UNDP Small Grants Programme¹¹⁸ and in-kind UNDP support (\$79,200), with additional in kind support for office space being provided by the host government (\$14,100).

96. Whilst these measures are an important step toward ensuring the sustainability of global snow leopard conservation, they still need to be fully operationalised over a period of several years in order to bring the desired benefits of global coordination. Required measures will include organising regular meetings of the Steering Committee and range countries, developing and implementing a 5 year operational plan and budget for the Secretariat, strengthening the technical support to the range countries, establishing an information sharing centre at the Secretariat to collect data from range countries to evaluate and report on progress of GSLEP, and to develop a fully effective web site.

97. The total funding required for the NSLEPs to conserve snow leopards and their habitat across their range has been estimated to be about US\$ 190 million for the period 2014 to 2020. This estimate will be further refined as the program evolves and as further inputs are received from agencies and sectors, such as customs, education, and infrastructure, whose costs and contribution were not accounted for. The 12 range countries together have earmarked at least half (approx. US\$ 91 million) of the estimated total, while the GTI, WWF, SLT and NABU together have agreed to commit around \$450,000 per year of in-kind support. The situation in the four target countries of Central Asia (Table 5) is that almost US\$ 14 million is required to implement the NSLEPs from 2014-2020, while only 20.6% (approx. US\$ 2.9 million) is available from national budgets and the remaining 79.4% needs to be secured from donors.

¹¹⁸ GEF Small Grant Program Project "Preservation of the Red-Listed mammals of the Issyk-Kul region through support of the local nature protection areas, strengthening the coordination and development of the income-generation activities in local communities"; GEF Small Grant Program Project "Conservation of snow leopards and mountain ecosystems of Kyrgyzstan through the strengthening of international cooperation and the development of an action plan and a broad information campaign among the population".

Table 5. Summary of funds required for NSLEPs for the four Central Asian countries (US\$).

Range Country	Total Costs 2014-2020	National budget (earmarked)	Donor Funding required	% required
Kazakhstan	867,000	867,000	-	0
Kyrgyz Republic	10,460,000	1,770,000	8,690,000	83.1
Tajikistan	1,200,000	240,000	960,000	80.0
Uzbekistan	1,465,000	-	1,465,000 ¹¹⁹	100
TOTAL	13,992,000	2,877,000	11,115,000	79.4

98. There is therefore a very major funding gap both for the GSLEP central coordination costs and for NSLEP activities, particularly in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. A top priority is to develop and implement a funding strategy for at least a 5 year period, to assist the range countries to secure the necessary funds and to cover the central coordination costs. This should explore both traditional and innovative funding sources.
99. The Global Tiger Initiative has already had considerable success in obtaining substantial financial support from multinational and national companies. However, there is no experience yet of replicating such approaches for the conservation of snow leopards and their mountain ecosystems, with the exception of a few isolated examples developed by NGOs (eg. the ABCK Project "Distribution, population number and limiting factors for snow leopard in Dzhungar Alatau" funded by Carlsberg company to the value of US\$ 50,000).
100. **Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan Pilot Landscape Baseline:** The Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape covers 39,500 km² and is shared between the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan. It provides ideal habitat for snow leopard, with an estimated population of perhaps 100-160 individuals. The following section briefly describes the current baseline in the pilot landscape related to the three components of the project, which totals an estimated investment of US\$ 4.86M. Further details are available in the pilot landscape report (see Annex 4)
101. Knowledge generation and sharing for transboundary landscapes: Despite the border location of Chon-Kemin National Park and Kyrchyn National Park (Kyrgyz Republic) and Almaty Nature Reserve, Ile-Alatau National Park, and Kolsay Kolderi National Park (Kazakhstan), no transboundary cooperation and joint management of the snow leopard population and ecosystems exists in the area. The existing PAs are not aligned with land use planning in the wider transboundary landscape for effective habitat conservation. Due to very limited funding and lack of equipment, anti-poaching raids of wildlife agencies in Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan parts of the landscape are rare and ineffective. No inter-agency cooperation for anti-poaching activities has been developed yet. In the Kazakhstan part, funding of territorial inspections of the Committee for Forestry and Wildlife is better than in Kyrgyz Republic, but still the inspections have not enough staff and equipment to fight poaching in snow leopard habitat effectively¹²⁰.

¹¹⁹ Assumed 100% required from donor funding as no national budget is indicated in GSLEP report

¹²⁰ Action Plan for Snow Leopard Study and Conservation in Kazakhstan 2015-2020

102. Global and national monitoring framework for snow leopard ecosystems: There is no agreed protocol for a common monitoring framework for the pilot landscape and no mechanism is in place to share information. Only one PA in the pilot landscape - Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve – has regular monitoring of snow leopard population which is funded generally by international NGOs (SLT and WWF). Four more PAs – Almaty Naure Reserve, Ile Alatau National Park, Kolsay Kolderi National Park and Chon Kemin National Park – started snow leopard monitoring with camera-traps in 2014. Population estimates of ungulate species only exist for some PAs. No monitoring of the quality of snow leopard habitat and mountain ecosystems is going on in the transboundary landscape right now. Capacities of local PAs in GIS and analysis of satellite imageries to detect land cover and vegetation changes are almost absent. Therefore, no spatial databases exist for snow leopard population and ecosystem monitoring in the transboundary landscape. Thus there are no effective tools to plan and monitor the impacts of grazing, infrastructure developments and climate change – all of which are affecting the area. There is no harmonised sustainable land use plan for the area.
103. Ensuring sustainability of snow leopard conservation: PAs in Kyrgyzstan part of the landscape are chronically underfunded and generally have finances only for staff salaries: e.g., annual budget of Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve does not exceed 20,500 US dollars. Thus, capacities of the PAs to protect snow leopard populations and ecosystems are low. In Kazakhstan part of the transboundary landscape PAs have much better funding (\$320,000- 400,000 annual budget), but still their technical resources for effective snow leopard protection are limited. There are no specific measures to conserve snow leopard ecosystems across the wider landscape outside these protected areas. In these areas, the annual incomes of local people are very low: (\$240 is the yearly per capita income in the Kyrgyz Republic communities and \$895 in the communities on the Kazakhstan side). This adds to the risk of illegal activities, over-grazing and other human impacts on snow leopard ecosystems. However, there are many opportunities to engage communities more effectively – for example in tourism, hunting concessions and conservation programmes. There are also opportunities to engage the private sector (eg. the mining companies, hunting concessions and tourism companies) in snow leopard conservation. For example, Kumtor gold mining company in Kyrgyzstan and Kokjaylau Ski Resort Construction Company potentially might be good donors to support snow leopard conservation and sustainable development in the transboundary landscape.
104. Despite these severe funding limitations, several NGOs are making important investments (totalling over US\$1.3 million) into snow leopard conservation within the pilot landscape. These include the following projects:
- NABU Project "Conservation of Biodiversity in the transboundary region Mountains of Northern Tien Shan", 2014-2016
 - NABU Project "Snow Leopard anti-poaching brigade in Kyrgyzstan", 2015-2018
 - NABU Project "Snow Leopard Rehabilitation Center in Central Tien Shan", 2015-2018
 - NABU Project "Camera-trapping of snow leopards in Tien Shan Mountains"
 - SLT/SLF Project "Conservation of Snow Leopard in Central Tien Shan", 2015-2018
 - WWF Project "Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities", 2012-2015

PART II: Strategy

PROJECT RATIONALE AND POLICY CONFORMITY

Fit with the GEF Focal Area Strategy and Strategic Programme

105. The project directly addresses the GEF 5 Strategic Objective 1 in the Biodiversity Focal Area: *Improve sustainability of protected area systems*. In particular, it will contribute to Outcome 1.1: *Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas*, by building capacity for transboundary cooperation, and Outcome 1.2: *Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures*. It also addresses the GEF 5 Strategic Objective 2 in the Biodiversity Focal Area: *Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors*. In particular, it will contribute to Outcome 2.1: *Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation*. The persistence of biodiversity, including threatened species such as the snow leopard that are not solely dependent on site-based action, requires the sustainable management of wider landscapes that include PAs and a variety of other land and resource uses outside of these PAs. This forms the rationale for a mainstreaming approach to biodiversity conservation. The project will support a paradigm shift from PA-focused management to transboundary and landscape-scale management, to reduce the conjunction pressures arising from different land uses. The successful implementation of this project will set the foundations for replication of the approach in other important snow leopard landscapes across their range.
106. The project will also contribute to the achievements of MDG7 on environmental sustainability, particularly Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss.

Rationale and summary of GEF Alternative

107. This Project aims to strengthen transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes to ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats.
108. **In the baseline scenario**, the Governments of the 12 snow leopard range countries have identified the development of the GSLEP as a priority. They are continuing to invest in national efforts to conserve snow leopards and their critical ecosystems. However, the lack of transboundary cooperation hinders their ability to address key threats such as international wildlife trade, interruption of migration paths and population connectivity for snow leopard and its prey species, and unsustainable economic development in the mountain regions. Capacity for transboundary cooperation also remains very low, and there are few demonstrations yet of successful transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation. Therefore, without the proposed project, the governments would still work towards the implementation of the CBD and snow leopard conservation, but the process would take considerably longer, and it would be more difficult to achieve the international standards for best practice required. Investment by donors and the private sector would be less likely, and capacity for effective coordination and governance for the GSLEP initiative would be greatly reduced. Efforts to date have been inadequate to remove the existing barriers to the introduction of an effective transboundary

cooperation that will contribute towards conservation of snow leopard ecosystems. Therefore biodiversity losses and ecosystem degradation will continue and the opportunity for better conservation of snow leopards and Central Asia's exceptional mountain ecosystem biodiversity will be missed, with consequences for all those who benefit from the ecosystem services they support.

109. **In the GEF alternative scenario:** The project will support further development of transboundary cooperation by knowledge and information sharing and development of international cooperation to fight illegal wildlife trade and manage transboundary snow leopard populations. It will build capacities and frameworks for transboundary cooperation among key stakeholders in the four target Central Asian countries and facilitate testing of approaches in one pilot transboundary landscape. The project will develop and introduce to the snow leopard range countries a standard monitoring framework and indicators to measure success of GSLEP implementation at regional, national and global levels. The project will also strengthen the capacity of the global coordination mechanism provided by the GSLEP Secretariat and identify options for sustainable financing both for GSLEP and the 12 NSLEPs. The results and lessons learned will be shared between snow leopard range countries as well as regionally and internationally, contributing to global best practices and the ongoing regional and global processes on transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation.

PROJECT GOAL, OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS/ACTIVITIES

110. **The project's goal is:** "Global snow leopard populations, and their critical mountain ecosystems, are in favourable conservation status".
111. **The project objective is:** "To strengthen transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes to ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats with special focus on Central Asia".
112. Despite the extensive baseline efforts reported in Part I, the operationalization of transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation has not yet happened, particularly due to the limited institutional and personnel capacity, and limited experience in transboundary conservation collaboration in Central Asia. Additionally, the enabling framework for transboundary landscape level planning is not yet in place. Consequently, the governments have requested support from the GEF and UNDP to embark on a project to alleviate the above barriers and create the necessary enabling policy and institutional conditions for such a framework to be fully operationalised and demonstrated.
113. This project is designed in line with the needs and gaps identified under a multi-stakeholder process in developing the GSLEP, and to stimulate the implementation of the individual NSLEPs with particular focus on the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary snow leopard landscape. It aims at significantly enhancing capacities of concerned national institutions and partners for designing, managing and monitoring snow leopard conservation actions that otherwise would not occur, given the limited know-how and tools available currently and limited

resources that have been presently leveraged to fund both national, regional and transboundary actions.

114. The project objective will be achieved through the implementation of three inter-connected components. Component 1 will improve knowledge sharing through the development of tools, guidelines and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation made available through an on-line platform. Institutional and personnel capacity will be developed for wildlife agencies, PAs, customs agencies and border guards, as measured by the UNDP Capacity Assessment Scorecard. Effective enforcement mechanisms will be introduced to relevant agencies. Component 2 will develop a common monitoring framework for snow leopard populations and ecosystems and test it across the pilot landscape. Results will be incorporated into a spatial database for monitoring and management which will be used to identify sustainable landscape management measures in the snow leopard habitat. These will be presented to stakeholders for implementation. Component 3 will strengthen the GSLEP Secretariat's capacity to provide technical coordination and other support to the range countries. It will develop, pilot and share global and national tools for financing snow leopard ecosystem conservation and establish dialogue platforms with the private sector. The three components will result in the following project outcomes:

Outcome 1: Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems. Under this outcome stakeholders will gain increased understanding of the approaches and tools required to address key gaps for successful transboundary snow leopard population and landscape management and protection. The project will provide support to identify knowledge gaps related to designing, planning, implementing and monitoring transboundary landscape management and use the results of this to inform the development of a knowledge and information sharing mechanism. The range countries will be enabled to access technical and process-oriented information on experiences and lessons and guide the development of landscape management plans, programmes for conservation of transboundary snow leopard populations and international agreements on transboundary PAs. Tools, methods and guidelines to advance the actions in snow leopard transboundary landscape conservation and management will be developed. These tools and guidelines will take into consideration current guiding principles, case studies on lessons and good practices that exist both at the national level and internationally. These will be made available to all range countries involved in transboundary snow leopard conservation. Training materials and a training strategy to control international wildlife trade in snow leopard habitat will be developed. In addition, taking advantage of the existing on-line platforms such as those created under initiatives such as NBSAP Forum and BES-Net led by UNDP, developed training materials and tools will be made available through an on-line facility to allow easy and wider access. The project will map out the various wildlife law enforcement models existing across the range countries, analyze these in terms of what works and what does not and provide recommendations to improve wildlife crime management effectiveness through a multi-agency approach. The training strategy and materials developed based on this analysis will improve capacity for wildlife protection agencies in four Central Asian countries. The new model for transboundary cooperation in law enforcement, snow leopard population monitoring and management will be piloted in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape.

Outcome 2: Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range countries. This Outcome aims to support the development of an appropriate national and global monitoring framework that will ensure harmonised monitoring mechanisms across the snow leopard range countries. It will cover snow leopards, their prey and their mountain ecosystems, including the key threats and socio-economic parameters in the GSLEP landscapes. The monitoring framework will allow to assess and monitor success of GSLEP at regional, national and global levels via a set of standard indicators. It will be supported by development of a spatial GIS database, and will be tested in the pilot landscape. Both tools will be made available to range countries in the region to assist national and regional / global management decisions to address landscape level stressors and guide strategic planning and evaluation of snow leopard conservation strategies, at different levels. Moreover, the developed standard monitoring framework and indicators will be introduced to all 12 snow leopard range countries for approval and integration into national biodiversity monitoring systems.

Outcome 3: Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems. This Outcome focuses on fostering an effective global partnership for snow leopard conservation including: strengthening the GSLEP Secretariat, its information-sharing mechanisms and financing; developing the GSLEP Forum as the global collaborative mechanism for governments, international partners and donors; and establishing platforms for engagement with the private sector to secure their support and resources for snow leopard conservation actions at national and global levels. In the pilot transboundary landscape, the project will design and put in place an appropriate multi-partner coordination mechanism that will bring together local stakeholders to coordinate actions and mobilise resources more effectively. Particularly, the project will explore and implement following financial mechanisms to improve funding of snow leopard conservation: development of robust GSLEP Funding Strategy, establishment of a consortium of partners to provide share funding for snow leopard conservation in the selected transboundary landscape, feasibility study for promotion of PES in the project pilot landscape, building Targeted National portfolios of projects to engage the business sector in SL conservation in Central Asian Countries, engagement of large corporations to support conservation of SL Priority Landscapes and GSLEP implementation in cooperation with GTI, and establishment of a confederation of Industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asian countries. Such mechanisms will serve to leverage additional financial resources that are necessary to ensure the sustainability of global, national and local actions on snow leopard conservation. An important output under this component will be the establishment of dialogue platforms at local, national and global levels to engage with the private companies that are working in, or making use of resources, from snow leopard landscapes, such as mining, tourism, hunting and pharmaceutical companies.

115. In addition, implementation of the project is supported by monitoring and evaluation inputs in order to achieve effective and efficient project implementation based on results-based management. This will include assessment of capacity development as well as use of the Biodiversity Tracking Tool in order to substantiate related SRF indicators.
116. The project's Stakeholder Involvement Plan (see Section IV, Part IV) provides details of stakeholder organizations and their roles in project implementation, including mechanisms for

participation. This includes central government agencies, inter-governmental platforms, PAs, environmental NGOs, research and academic institutions, and private sector organizations.

117. Activities under the three outcomes will focus on three main levels of intervention: (i) the global level, in order to share best practices, knowledge and information to further develop the transboundary cooperation framework among all 12 range countries; (ii) the regional level to develop national capacities for transboundary cooperation and technical support measures for its implementation among the 4 target countries; and (iii) the transboundary pilot landscape level, to test and demonstrate transboundary cooperation with local stakeholders in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape.

Outcome 1: Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems

Total cost US\$ 3,015,027; GEF US\$ 399,091; Co-financing US\$ 2,815,936

118. The three outputs and outline activities proposed to achieve this outcome are described below.

Output 1.1: Tools, methods and guidelines for effective transboundary cooperation developed, tested and made available to stakeholders.

119. Under this Output an assessment will be made of the extent of poaching and illegal transboundary trade of Snow Leopard and other wildlife in the four target countries of the Central Asian Region. The findings will be used to make recommendations to relevant agencies for improvement of illegal transboundary wildlife trade control, and these will be followed-up to ensure weaknesses are addressed to give lasting improvements. An atlas and posters of wildlife species and derivatives involved in illegal transboundary trade in the Central Asian Region will be prepared and distributed widely, and training materials and wildlife derivatives collections (confiscated subjects) will be prepared for Customs Departments to increase their capacity to control illegal transboundary wildlife trade. At the same time, the adequacy of legislation for wildlife trade control, of Snow Leopard and other wildlife in the four target countries of the Central Asian Region, will be reviewed and followed up as necessary with relevant agencies for improvement of legislation.
120. Given the very limited transboundary cooperation for protection of transboundary Snow Leopard populations, their prey and their habitats in the four target countries, the project will develop agreement templates, mechanisms and guidelines for transboundary cooperation covering *inter alia*: monitoring and information sharing, research, harmonised management of threats, trans-boundary action plans and reporting. These agreement templates and tools will be promoted both bilaterally, and multi-laterally through recommendations and appropriate follow-up with the Inter-Governmental Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia. This is the key international body for coordinating biodiversity conservation and sustainable development initiatives of Central Asian countries and can play a core role in the development of transboundary collaboration between the target countries for conservation of snow leopard populations and their habitats.

121. Finally, the project will publish a user-friendly handbook based on analysis of lessons learned / best practices (successes & failures) of transboundary cooperation for snow leopards, building also on experience for other endangered species in Eurasia (and globally).

Output 1.2: Training materials and methods developed and disseminated, including through an on-line platform.

122. This output will strategically address one of the most significant barriers to effective snow leopard conservation, which is the current very low baseline individual and institutional capacity for transboundary cooperation, as evidenced by the Capacity Development scorecard (see Annex 1), which recorded a baseline score of 24%. Although the GSLEP initiative has been launched with ambitious targets, there are large gaps in capacity for developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements, for transboundary monitoring, information sharing, law enforcement, snow leopard ecosystem management, action planning and resource development. All these areas of capacity need to be significantly re-inforced.

123. The first step, to be achieved during the project inception phase through consultation with relevant stakeholders, will be to finalise a comprehensive Training Plan based on a detailed needs assessment for each target group as already achieved by the GSLEP programme. This will cover all relevant stakeholders (national in the four countries, plus those in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape) including public sector organisations, NGOs and the private sector. Particular attention will be given to ensuring a high level of gender mainstreaming in the plan to maximise participation of, and benefits to, women. The Training Plan will be implemented through user-friendly manuals, training workshops, facilitated learning by doing, and exchange visits. This targeted training will adopt the training of trainers approach so that a greater number of staff in each of the range countries can benefit and a critical mass of staff able to use the tools and approaches will be created. As a result: (i) government organizations will gain capacity for establishing transboundary cooperation agreements covering joint activities; (ii) customs and border agencies will gain skills and knowledge to ensure wildlife crime is addressed using best practices; (iii) local authorities, businesses and NGOs in the pilot landscape will gain capacity for joint working to conserve snow leopard populations, their prey and habitats. Progress in capacity development in the four range countries will be closely monitored using the Capacity Assessment Scorecard

124. Because there is such limited experience of transboundary cooperation in the region, the development and dissemination of knowledge resources based on global best practice is important. Dissemination of materials prepared in the framework of Output 1.1. among relevant agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders will be assured via the project Web-site and other on-line resources such as NBSAP Forum and BES-Net.

Output 1.3: Effective enforcement mechanisms developed and introduced to enforcement agencies.

125. More effective enforcement of international conventions and national legislation concerning illegal wildlife trade is considered a high priority for achievement of the project Objective. Several wildlife law enforcement models exist across the range countries. In some cases, the wildlife authorities are empowered to apprehend and prosecute poachers and traffickers while in some countries their role may simply be restricted to monitoring, with apprehension and prosecution roles mandated to other actors such as the police. The project will map out the various enforcement mechanisms (regulations, monitoring, apprehending, and prosecution) from the range countries, analyze these in terms of what works and what does not and provide recommendations to improve wildlife crime management effectiveness through a multi-agency approach. The Customs Departments of the four target countries will be a key focus of activity under this output. The project will collaborate with key partners such as INTERPOL and TRAFFIC to benefit from their immense experience with environmental crime enforcement, in particular taking advantage of INTERPOL's joint initiative on snow leopard protection to enhance law enforcement responses to the poaching of snow leopards in Central Asia.
126. Regional and national meetings of Customs Departments, police and border agencies will be organised on international cooperation and information exchange to improve illegal wildlife transboundary trade control in Central Asia. In addition, specific trainings for Customs Departments on illegal wildlife transboundary trade control will be organised, including use of detection dogs for identification of wildlife derivatives and other best practice approaches.
127. Specific measures will be piloted and demonstrated on the ground in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape. Coordination meeting of wildlife agencies of Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan will be arranged to find mechanisms to exchange information and experience on poaching and illegal wildlife trade control. Inter-agency agreements for organization of anti-poaching brigades for snow leopard protection involving wildlife agencies, PA inspectors, border guards and hunting outfitters will be organised. Trainings will be arranged for relevant agencies/border guards on advanced techniques and inter-agency cooperation for anti-poaching activities using modern technology and intelligence networks. Finally, cooperation will be arranged between regional wildlife experts and officers of regional Customs and Border Posts for identification of wildlife derivatives discovered.

Outcome 2: Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range countries
Total US\$ 814,016; GEF US\$ 300,000; Co-financing US\$ 714,016

128. The three outputs and outline activities proposed to achieve this outcome are described below.

Output 2.1: Common monitoring indicators and methods for snow leopard landscapes and populations developed, tested and disseminated

129. Information gathering and monitoring concerning snow leopard populations, their prey species and ecosystems is currently conducted (if at all) without particular system and according to a wide range of different methodologies and protocols in each range country. This makes the

results of different snow leopard monitoring initiatives incomparable. Thus, sharing of information on the status of different snow leopard populations and tracking of conservation results between countries to assess the progress of GSLEP implementation is very challenging. This output will therefore focus on complementing these efforts by developing a common monitoring framework based on set of universal indicators and standard tools for monitoring of snow leopard landscapes (including snow leopard and prey species populations, and ecosystem health) at regional, national (NSLEP) and global (GSLEP) levels.

130. The common monitoring framework will be based on a review of different methods being used in each country, plus an analysis of international best practices, plus practical experiences gained during working with relevant stakeholders in the pilot landscape. The draft monitoring framework will be finalised based on feedback from range countries and partners (including the Project Technical Committee) and will then be submitted for approval by all 12 range countries at a workshop to be organised through the GSLEP mechanism in 2016. Once approved, the monitoring framework will feed directly into the monitoring functions of the GSLEP Steering Committee, through a mechanism for periodic data sharing. It will also serve as a key tool for landscape level management planning and reporting in each country.
131. Once approved, the project will support the four target countries to embed the common monitoring framework in their national monitoring programmes and institutions. This may be achieved through regional workshops, targeted technical support to national agencies as well as a specific training course for PA staff, wildlife agencies and other relevant organizations of Central Asian countries on monitoring methods of snow leopard and its prey species and habitats (held in the pilot transboundary landscape).

Output 2.2: Spatial database for monitoring and management of one transboundary landscape is developed

132. Key to the successful utilisation of the common monitoring framework as a tool for harmonised information gathering and sharing between range countries will be the development of a related spatial database, employing appropriate GIS / Remote Sensing technologies based on national and internationally available geo-spatial information, that can be used to capture and analyse the information for each snow leopard landscape. This will require the development and testing of a database structure and user-friendly interface which would be advised by the Project Technical Committee and then approved by all range countries using the same mechanism as proposed under Output 2.1 for the common monitoring framework. Once approved, the GIS database would be made available to stakeholders and the public via powerful online servers (e.g. ESRI).
133. A significant activity for the project would be the testing and demonstration of the application of this spatial database for assessing and monitoring of snow leopard populations and ecosystems in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary snow leopard landscape. This will involve striving for reasonable estimation and mapping of snow leopard populations and their prey using available scientific estimation methods and also carrying out a comprehensive enumeration and analysis of various threats that are common across the landscapes. Information generated will be categorised according to actual spatial coverage,

health status of habitats and type and level of threats. Where necessary and appropriate, participatory GIS techniques will be used, for example to fill data gaps on grazing pressures, and other livelihood activities. By the end of the project, the database will have been incorporated into institutional frameworks at pilot landscape level (eg. local authorities), as well as providing GIS training on using the GIS database to relevant organizations.

Output 2.3 Sustainable landscape management measures are identified and presented to stakeholders for implementation

134. The final output under this outcome will be to operationalise the use of the spatial database as a tool for developing sustainable landscape management measures for the pilot landscape and integrating them into local and regional development planning.
135. This will involve a series of local stakeholder events including community representatives, firstly to discuss the baseline environmental and socio-economic situation in the pilot landscape and to obtain a broad understanding of the key drivers of change. Stakeholders will then be supported to develop a common vision and objectives (environmental, social and economic) for the pilot landscape, based upon a range of scenarios derived from the GIS database. Management measures for achieving each of the objectives will then be formulated and agreed for inclusion into local and regional development planning. Issues regarding habitat connectivity resulting from human activities and from climate change will be given high priority. Implementation of the recommendations will be promoted through joint working with national level UNDP/GEF and other partner programmes in the the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary snow leopard landscape.

Outcome 3: Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems

Total US\$ 652,048; GEF US\$ 210,000; Co-financing US\$ 642,048

136. The three outputs and outline activities proposed to achieve this outcome are described below.

Output 3.1: Global coordination mechanism for technical support, resource development and knowledge-sharing is strengthened.

137. Following the establishment of the GSLEP Steering Committee and Permanent Secretariat in March 2015, the urgent priority is now to operationalise these new structures in favour of global snow leopard conservation and to ensure their sustainability. A first key step is to develop for immediate implementation an operational 5 year plan and budget for GSLEP Secretariat coordination activities on conservation and monitoring of snow leopard Priority Landscapes. This will identify the key areas for technical support of the GSLEP Secretariat to the range countries on conservation and monitoring of snow leopard Priority Landscapes, as well as establishing the Secretariat as the GSLEP information sharing centre to collect data from range countries to evaluate and report on progress of GSLEP. A top priority will be to enhance the GSLEP website and communication mechanisms in support of the range countries and partners.

138. During the course of the project, two key international meetings will be organised by the GSLEP secretariat for the 12 range countries. The first, to be held in Year 1 of the project, will be an expert community of practice event to share best practices in transboundary cooperation, and to approve the common monitoring framework. The second, to be held in Year 3 of the project will be a GSLEP Summit of range countries and international partners to evaluate success of National and Global GSLEP programmes, disseminate lessons learned and plan future activities. Both meetings will be largely funded by the project partners with a small share of the GEF funding to support participation of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Output 3.2: Global and national tools for financing snow leopard ecosystem conservation developed, piloted and shared.

139. Critical to the long-term success of the GSLEP initiative is the securing of financial resources for both the global and national programmes. An international financing specialist will be hired to work alongside a local consultant, to develop a 5 year sustainable funding strategy for GSLEP based upon a feasibility study. To achieve this, the project will facilitate organisation of donor coordination and multi-stakeholder consultations including a donor meeting in the second half of the project (including range countries, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, private sector) leading to approval of a long term strategy and commitment to mobilize resources to implement GSLEP and NSLEP actions. In addition, guidelines on integrated financing strategies for implementing NSLEPs, considering resource mobilization from a range of sources including government budgetary resources, official donor assistance, private sector and other innovative funding mechanisms (eg. PES, conservation bonds, biodiversity offsets etc.) will be developed and made available to range countries. Particularly, the project will explore and support the development of robust GSLEP Funding Strategy which would include fund-raising from diverse sources, with the establishment of a consortium of partners to provide share funding for snow leopard conservation in the selected transboundary landscape, building Targeted National portfolios of projects to engage the business sector in SL conservation in Central Asian Countries, engagement of large corporations to support conservation of SL Priority Landscapes and GSLEP implementation in cooperation with GTI, and establishment of a confederation of Industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asian countries. This may also involve the creation of a new financial mechanism involving the allocation of a percentage share of annual revenue from hunting concessions to the Snow Leopard Trust.

140. Whilst this strategy must cover global and national needs, it will be informed by and tested through a consortium of partners who will work to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape. As part of this work, a rapid economic valuation of the pilot landscape ecosystem services will be conducted, leading to a feasibility study for promotion of PES in the project landscape as a sustainable financing tool.

Output 3.3 Private sector dialogue platforms established

141. An important output under this outcome will be the establishment of dialogue platforms at both national and global levels to engage with the private companies that are working in or

making use of resources from the snow leopard range, such as mining and hydropower companies, tourism companies, and pharmaceutical companies.

142. Sector specific discussions will be organised on the links between snow leopard landscapes and ecosystems and private sector operations. These will have dual aims: firstly to explore opportunities for private companies to identify and adopt measures that reduce negative impacts on snow leopard ecosystems, for example through modifying infrastructure plans and developments and operating procedures. Secondly options will be explored to increase resource flows from the private sector to snow leopard conservation actions at national and global levels, using mechanisms such as Payments for Ecosystem Services, Offsetting, and Corporate Social Responsibility contributions.
143. Specific activities to be undertaken will include preparation of targeted national portfolios of projects to engage the business sector in snow leopard conservation in Central Asian Countries and globally, based on assessment of potentials. Based on these portfolios, large corporations will be engaged to support conservation of snow leopard priority landscapes and GSLEP implementation in cooperation with the Global Tiger Initiative which already has much experience in this regard. Finally, efforts will be made to establish a Confederation of Industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asian countries.

PROJECT INDICATORS

144. The project indicators contained in Section II / Part II (Strategic Results Framework) include only impact (or ‘objective’) indicators and outcome (or ‘performance’) indicators. They are all ‘SMART’¹²¹. The project will additionally need to develop a certain number of process-oriented indicators to comprise the ‘M&E framework’ to assist project planning and management both at national level and for measuring the progress in the selected pilot landscape. These process indicators will feed into the project’s overall M&E framework.
145. The organisation of the logframe is based on the general assumption that: *if* key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems (Outcome 1); *and if* the global monitoring framework is developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range countries (Outcome 2); *and if* an effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems is developed (Outcome 3); *then* transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes will be strengthened to ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats with special focus on Central Asia (Project Objective). This logic is based on the barrier and root cause analysis carried out during the project preparation (refer to Section I, Part I, chapter “Long-term solution and barriers to achieving the solution”).
146. In turn, the choice of indicators was based on two key criteria: (i) their pertinence to the above assumption; and (ii) the feasibility of obtaining / producing and updating the data

¹²¹ Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound.

necessary to monitor and evaluate the project through those indicators. The following are therefore the project's key indicators:

Table 6. Elaboration on Project Indicators

INDICATOR	EXPLANATORY NOTE
At objective level: To strengthen transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes to ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats with special focus in Central Asia.	
Snow leopard populations in the 4 project countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The end of project target is: No decline from baseline. The indicator refers to the estimated number of individuals (numerical range) and the baseline figures are taken from the most recent estimates available – see references in the situation analysis section. The end of project assessment should again be made from the most recent estimates available.
Transboundary Snow leopard landscapes with active conservation/cooperation programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The end of project target is: 1. The indicator should be assessed according to the presence of bilateral agreement or MOU for the transboundary snow leopard landscape, together with an agreed plan of conservation actions that are being implemented in both countries
Level of key threats in pilot transboundary landscape (poaching, retaliatory killing, habitat destruction)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The end of project target is: Reduction in poaching and retaliatory killing of snow leopards, and no net loss of quality habitat. The indicator refers to: (i) the number of records of poaching of snow leopards per year; (ii) the number of records of retaliatory killing of snow leopards for predation of livestock per year; and (iii) the area of mining or infrastructure developments in key snow leopard habitat that are not compensated by appropriate environmental measures. Parameters (i) and (ii) may be assessed from both formal and informal sources.
At Outcome 1 level: Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems	
Global knowledge toolkit available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The end of project target is: Toolkit available through on-line platform. The toolkit will comprise a modular set of knowledge and training materials based upon best practice approaches from the 12 range countries. These will be available on-line on the GSLEP Website in both English and Russian (or national) languages.
SL crime enforcement guidance and mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The end of project target is: Model systems developed and operationalised in at least 2 countries. The model systems will include best practice guidelines for addressing snow leopard wildlife crime, including an Atlas and posters of wildlife species and derivatives involved in illegal transboundary trade, and wildlife derivatives collections (confiscated subjects) for Customs Departments to increase their capacity to control illegal transboundary wildlife trade
Level of institutional capacity for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem conservation as indicated by Capacity scorecard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The end of project target is: Improved capacity indicated by an increase of at least 30% over baseline (i.e. a score of 30 which equals 31%). The standard Tracking Tool questions (see Annex 1) were adapted during PPG to address the project objective. Scores for each question were summed and divided by the total possible score in order to reach the total percentage score. The scorecard should be completed including explanatory notes at project midterm and completion in order to assess progress. Supporting information will be available in project progress reports and evaluation reports; training reports; and key informant interviews.
At Outcome 2 level: Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range countries	
# Countries using approved and adopted common monitoring indicators/framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The end of project target is: at least 2. The indicator refers to a common monitoring framework based on set of universal indicators and standard tools for monitoring of snow leopard landscapes including populations and socio economics at regional, national (NSLEP) and global (GSLEP) levels. It will have

INDICATOR	EXPLANATORY NOTE
	been approved and adopted at an expert/official meetings of the range states, and will be being applied in at least two countries
# transboundary snow leopard landscapes with sustainable management measures agreed to reduce key threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The end of project target is: 1. The indicator refers to the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot transboundary landscape. The target will have been achieved when the spatial database for the pilot landscape has been used to develop sustainable land management measures and that have been agreed for integration into local and regional development planning
# women in the pilot landscape directly benefiting from new sustainable management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The end of project target is 20% of the population of women in the Kyrgyz part and 2% of the population in the Kazakhstan part of the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot transboundary landscape. The difference between the two parts reflects the large difference in population size and poverty.
At Outcome 3 level: Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems	
Capacity of, and satisfaction with, GSLEP coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The end of project target is: 20% increase on the baseline score. The baseline will be set during the inception phase. The indicator refers to a multiple choice questionnaire survey to all GSLEP members and partners, conducted over the internet (perhaps using surveymonkey.com). The survey will be repeated at the end of the project, using the same questions.
Level of financing for the GSLEP Secretariat and at least 2 national programmes (NSLEPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The end of project target is: 25-30% increase on the baseline (at least 5% of which from private sector). The indicator refers to the level of financing, excluding GEF funds, available for the functioning of the GSLEP secretariat, and for the implementation of the NSLEPs in the four target countries. The baseline figures were taken from 2013 GSLEP report and cover the average annual national investment for the period 2014-2020.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

147. The project strategy, described in detail within this project document, makes the following key assumptions in proposing the GEF intervention:

- That if the range countries of the snow leopard have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools (including a common monitoring framework), and if the global coordination mechanisms for transboundary cooperation are strong and sustainable financing is available, then:
- The range countries will be able to strengthen transboundary conservation of snow leopards and address the drivers of existing and emerging threats to snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes to ensure stability of the global snow leopard population.

148. During the PPG phase, project risks were updated based on those presented at the PIF stage. They were further elaborated and classified according to the UNDP/GEF Risk Standard Categories, and assessed according to criteria of ‘impact’ and ‘likelihood’ (see **Box 1** and **Table 7** below). These risks and the mitigation measures will be continuously monitored and updated throughout the project, and will be logged in ATLAS and reported in the PIRs. The UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (see **Annex 2** of the Project Document) has been applied during project preparation and did not identify any significant environmental or social risks associated with the proposed project. In general, the project will contribute positively towards conserving ecosystem quality in the critical mountain ecosystems inhabited by snow leopards. This will help to ensure that important ecosystem services provided by these landscapes are maintained to the benefit of people and biodiversity.

Box 1. Risk Assessment Guiding Matrix						
		Impact				
Likelihood		CRITICAL	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLECTIBLE
	CERTAIN / IMMINENT	Critical	Critical	High	Medium	Low
	VERY LIKELY	Critical	High	High	Medium	Low
	LIKELY	High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
	MODERATELY LIKELY	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Negligible
	UNLIKELY	Low	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Considered to pose no determinable risk

Table 7. Project Risk Assessment and Mitigation Measures

Identified Risks	Category	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Assessment	Mitigation Measures
Methodological outputs of the project will not be adopted at national level	Regulatory	High	Moderately Likely	Medium	The project will develop methodologies based on global best practice and will follow the recommendations of the Bishkek Declaration. Methodologies will be developed in full consultation with government and international experts. Special capacity building campaign will be implemented to support outreach of the tools developed. The methodological frameworks will be adjusted to be compatible with existing national monitoring and planning standards.
The period of the project may be too short to result in improvements in transboundary cooperation including securing of required financing	Strategic	Medium	Likely	Medium	The project should develop a sustainable exit plan with GSLEP (which will live on after the project) to ensure that the tools and approaches developed will continue to be embedded and applied by the range countries. The project will include an active program of dissemination of the project outputs, including capacity building and development of sustainable financing. The focus of Component 3 on strengthening the operations and sustainability of the GSLEP Secretariat will ensure continued investment beyond EOP.
The project resources are too limited when compare to the ambitious objective	Financial	Medium	Likely	Medium	Strengthen the involvement of collaborating partners for providing additional financing during implementation. In particular the project will interact seamlessly with related national GEF financed and other initiatives which will deliver on the ground implementation.
Climate change mayacerbate the existing threats while also directly impacting the fragile snow leopard ecosystem thereby adversely affecting	Environmental	Negligible	Very Likely	Low	With climate change, snow leopard ecosystems are expected to be impacted in different ways including altitudinal changes, habitat and prey species distributional changes, etc. These impacts have a potential to shift, shrink, and fragment snow leopard ecosystems and change practices of local communities. The project's approach of moving away from a PA centric

conservation dividends achieved by the project in the long term					approach to secure transboundary snow leopard landscapes will provide a framework for habitat connectivity and for integration of PAs within a sustainably managed production landscape.
Limited capacity within Wildlife agencies in the concerned range countries may limit or delay project implementation and / or completion	Operational	Low	Unlikely	Negligible	The project is primarily about capacity building and providing tools to assist these agencies. One of the primary strategies of the project is to enhance staff and institutional capacities by building on existing capacities and related initiatives such as the leadership development previously led by the World Bank Institute. In addition, the project will engage relevant staff and institutions in all relevant activities, for example in the mapping of transboundary landscapes, compilation and analysis of best practices on sustainable management of land and natural resources in transboundary landscapes, tackling wildlife crime, etc.
Disagreements among range countries on focussing actions on the Tian Shan transboundary landscape may delay delivery of related outputs	Political	Medium	Unlikely	Negligible	As part of the GSLEP's action plan to advance the implementation of the programme, 23 landscapes including transboundary ones have already been identified and approved by the Steering Committee, including 4 in Central Asian countries. The Sarychat / Northern Tian Shan is an important transboundary landscape that has been identified through these processes (see Appendix 4). These discussions have been conducted in a fully consultative way with decisions made on a consensus basis. Criteria for the selection of the project pilot landscape were developed, and have been followed. The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic has confirmed the selection of the proposed pilot landscape, and other stakeholders had no objections about selected area.

INCREMENTAL REASONING AND EXPECTED GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL BENEFITS

149. This global project aims to strengthen transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes to ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats. By doing so, it will assist the 12 range countries in Asia, and the governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in particular to implement their international obligations and national policies, and contribute towards the protection and sustainable management of their outstanding snow leopard landscapes and related biodiversity, and the ecosystem services and rural livelihoods that they support. The project's alternative from the baseline and the expected global benefits are described below. Global environmental benefits are further quantified in the GEF Biodiversity Tracking Tool (see Annex 3).
150. **The incremental approach of the proposed project is summarized as follows:** Through the 2013 *Bishkek Declaration* which established the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), the governments of the 12 range countries of the snow leopard have agreed on the vital importance of effective transboundary cooperation as a priority for addressing the conservation of snow leopards and their

critical mountain ecosystems. While they are investing in national efforts, securing effective conservation of viable populations of this wide-ranging carnivore and its prey species requires a larger transboundary scale in order to be effective. A transboundary approach is required that enables knowledge generation and sharing between countries and across transboundary landscapes, effective border controls on illegal wildlife trade, combined with a monitoring framework implemented at national, transboundary ecosystem and global scales to support management actions, and supported by a sustainable financing strategy. Only such a collaborative approach can deliver the global environmental benefits from protecting this apex species. These crucial requirements would not otherwise be delivered from isolated and fragmented national and sub-national efforts.

151. Although GSLEP has been officially established, and much planning done, there is a severe lack of tools, mechanisms, capacity and knowledge to ensure that transboundary cooperation is operationalised effectively. Furthermore, there are no examples of transboundary cooperation to conserve large-ranging carnivores such as the snow leopard being successfully applied in the four target countries of Central Asia. Finally, there is a serious funding gap both for global coordination of these efforts, and for the individual national programmes (NSLEPs).
152. **Without GEF investment in the proposed project**, the governments of the Central Asian countries would still work towards the implementation of their obligations under CBD including the conservation of snow leopards and their critical mountain ecosystems, but the process would take considerably longer, and it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve the international cooperation required. Despite this, further pressures on the already Endangered snow leopard and its prey species and habitats are expected from illegal trade, retaliatory killing, over-grazing and mining and tourism infrastructure development. These issues have large potential impacts on snow leopards, ecosystem quality and services, biodiversity and communities, and will be compounded by other natural and anthropogenic stressors, including climate change.
153. Despite the relatively strong environmental legislative framework (international conventions and national legislation) in the four target countries, implementation and enforcement of the required conservation measures will continue to meet significant challenges because of insufficient knowledge, tools, mechanisms and institutional capacity for transboundary cooperation. There will continue to be a lack of technical expertise to use international best practices to address wildlife crime and other threats, and lack of a common monitoring framework as a basis for planning actions and sharing results that will safeguard some of the most important landscapes and ecosystems in Central Asia. Furthermore, the global coordination mechanism of the GSLEP Secretariat will remain inadequate and the funding gap for the NSLEPs will remain large.
154. Thus, without the proposed investment in targeted support to operationalise the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program, the efforts of the 12 range countries and in particular those in the Central Asian region to conserve their fragile high mountain ecosystems and maintain healthy wildlife populations, particularly those of the snow leopard, are likely to remain inadequate.
155. **In the Alternative scenario enabled by the GEF**, the project develops capacity, tools and mechanisms for effective transboundary cooperation to address direct and indirect threats to snow leopards and their critical mountain ecosystems in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (and indirectly across the 1.8 million km² of snow leopard habitat in all 12 range countries), and demonstrates application

of effective transboundary cooperation on the ground, through piloting activities in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan snow leopard landscape, with replication mechanisms to upscale successful approaches in place by the end of the project.

156. Key stakeholders in the target countries gain sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems. Tools, methods and guidelines are developed, tested and made available to stakeholders, including models for international transboundary agreements and mechanisms to control illegal wildlife trade. Institutional capacity is raised through developing and implementing a training plan for target agencies, and training materials and methods are disseminated, including through an on-line platform. A global monitoring framework is developed for snow leopard ecosystems and adopted by the range countries, including common monitoring indicators and methods and a spatial database that can be used to inform conservation through sustainable land management. Finally, effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanisms for conserving snow leopard ecosystems are established through strengthening of the GSLEP Secretariat, as well as resource development mechanisms for both global and national levels, and improved knowledge-sharing.
157. In the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape, transboundary cooperation is demonstrated through development and implementation of inter-agency agreements covering anti-poaching activities, coordination of monitoring and research and establishment of a spatial database to support sustainable land management. A rapid economic valuation of ecosystem services is undertaken, and a consortium of partners is established to develop sustainable funding for snow leopard ecosystem conservation through PES and other mechanisms.
158. The results and lessons learned from the project, and from demonstration activities, are disseminated widely through the GSLEP and other websites, international partner organisations, the GSLEP forum and other mechanisms, contributing to national and international best practices, as well as to replication and up-scaling.

National and local benefits will include strengthened institutional capacity for transboundary cooperation to address snow leopard and critical mountain ecosystem conservation, as well as increased knowledge and best practice tools and mechanisms. The project will clarify responsibilities for different national level stakeholders (for example in addressing wildlife crime) and identify and help address weaknesses and inconsistencies in the legislation for transboundary cooperation. It will also support improved national level monitoring and sharing of information and catalyze more effective financing and motivation for snow leopard conservation. Stakeholders whose capacity has been developed are expected to continue their activities beyond the life of the project, and the tools and mechanisms that are developed will be used at national level in the long-term. Thus, the project will play a critical role in supporting the four target countries and (indirectly) all 12 range countries in safeguarding the region's high mountain ecosystems and in particular the Endangered snow leopard, its prey and their habitats. Benefits at a local level will be realised by each range country in the implementation of their enhanced approaches to snow leopard conservation which will deliver benefits for local communities.

Local communities in the pilot transboundary landscape will benefit from sustainable land management measures integrated into local and regional development planning elaborated on the basis of the landscape spatial database and participatory planning (for sustainable use of pastures, wood, wildlife and other natural resources). The consortium of partners for snow leopard

conservation in the pilot landscape with active participation of local communities will provide local people with access to capacity development and resources for sustainable development and improvement of their livelihood options. Local people are expected to benefit in the following ways through project implementation:

- Improvement of their current livelihoods through development and implementation of sustainable pasture and wildlife management based on increased capacity and rights of local people to manage natural resources in the area of their traditional livelihood;
- Development of new livelihoods through small business and ecotourism development in the local communities as a result of training, new partnerships and resources provided by the consortium of partners to local people for SL conservation. A particular focus will be given to supporting livelihoods developments in the very poor households (average annual income of US\$240) of the 10-12 villages in the Kyrgyz republic part of the transboundary landscape

Global environmental benefits: The project will achieve global environmental benefits through effective transboundary cooperation for snow leopards and their critical mountain ecosystems in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and indirectly across 1.8 million km² of snow leopard habitats in the 12 range countries, particularly the 23 snow leopard landscapes totalling almost 600,000 km² that have already been identified through GSLEP activities. Specific approaches will be tested and demonstrated in the 39,500 km² of the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape that is shared between the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan.

The global environmental benefits will be: (1) conservation of snow leopard populations (classified as globally Endangered on the IUCN Red List) in the four target countries by a reduction of key threats; (2) increase in the number of transboundary snow leopard landscapes with active transboundary conservation programmes from zero to one, through implementation of demonstration activities in the 39,500 km² of the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape; (3) improved conservation of globally significant biodiversity and related ecosystem services in high mountain ecosystems of four Central Asia's countries in particular the 4 snow leopard landscapes totalling almost 180,000 km² which have been identified by GSLEP for its "20 by 2020 target" in Central Asia, and indirectly through the sharing of best practices across the 12 range states of the snow leopard; (4) improved overall institutional and individual capacity in the four target countries to implement transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystem conservation as indicated by an increase of at least 30% over the baseline score of 23 (=24%) as measured by the adapted Capacity Assessment Scorecard.

159. This will result in enhanced national contributions towards the achievement of the CBD's main goal on the conservation of biodiversity and to all five strategic goals of its Strategic Plan 2011-20.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS

160. The lack of transboundary cooperation and adequate capacity for its effective implementation, are significant barriers impeding the reduction of impacts from human activities on Central Asia's biodiversity, particularly the snow leopard. These barriers also negatively affect critical ecosystem conservation efforts, as the full value of Central Asia's diverse mountain ecosystems cannot be realized and sectoral land uses such as grazing, mining, hydropower and associated infrastructure compete for priority over the maintenance of ecosystem services, foregoing future opportunities for sustainable development. By taking a transboundary approach, whereby relevant government institutions and international partners work together

to achieve snow leopard ecosystem conservation may initially require some additional efforts and investments, but in the longer term it is expected to be more effective by avoiding duplication of efforts and contradictory actions across the range countries and in transboundary landscapes. Furthermore, the project strategy builds on the existing administrative set-up and infrastructure of the government agencies, without creating new institutions. While on-site implementation is beyond the scope of the project, the guidelines and tools developed for landscape level management will, among other things, recommend moving away from a PA-centric approach to address threats both within and outside PAs. Recommendations for transboundary conservation efforts will enlist the use of models of PA management by non-government actors such as community conserved areas, and reserves managed by private entities. These will be more cost-effective and engender a higher level of ownership and stewardship among local communities and other stakeholders.

161. During implementation, the project will adopt a standard set of measures required for GEF-funded projects to achieve cost-effectiveness and maximise the financial resources available to project intervention activities while decreasing management costs (as already planned in this project document). All activities will be included in the Annual Work Plan, which will be discussed and approved by the Project Board to ensure that proposed actions are relevant and necessary. When the activities are to be implemented and project outputs monitored and evaluated, cost-effectiveness will be taken into account but will not compromise the quality of the outputs.

162. When hiring third party consultants, the project will follow a standard recruitment and advertising process to have at least three competitors for each consultant position. Selection will be based on qualifications, technical experience and financial proposal, to ensure hiring the best consultant (individual or organization) for optimal price. Economy fares will be applied for necessary air and road travel, and appropriate lodging facilities will be provided to the project staff that ensures staff safety and cost-effectiveness. Expenses will be accounted for according UNDP rules and in line with the GEF policy. The project will follow a tendering process for equipment purchase and any printing/publishing that accounts for more than US\$ 10,000, comparing at least three vendors. In case there is a single vendor only for any activity, appropriate official norms will be followed to obtain approval from UNDP and GEF. Co-location of the SLT-PMU with the GSLEP Secretariat will also deliver significant cost-effectiveness in terms of reducing the need to hire technical staff within the SLT-PMU.

PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

163. The proposed global project is fully consistent with the national development policies, programmes and plans of the participating countries, as laid out in the following documents:

- National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Programmes (NSLEPs): the project will advance actions that the four target countries in particular (and all 12 range countries) are committed to implement as part of their NSLEPs, which have been prepared to address key threats at the national level to snow leopard ecosystems while enhancing capacity of national institutions for research and knowledge generation, increasing awareness among policy makers and local communities on the importance of snow leopard ecosystems, and securing snow leopard landscapes.
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs): The project contributes to their NBSAP objectives, through knowledge sharing, capacity development, establishment of a common monitoring

framework and by strengthening coordination and support for the conservation of snow leopard ecosystems.

- Additionally, the project will assist the four Central Asian focal countries in particular to address multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets, specifically:
 - Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably. Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems. Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
 - Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
 - Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
 - Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
 - Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building. Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied. Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

COUNTRY OWNERSHIP: COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY AND COUNTRY DRIVENNESS

164. All snow leopard range countries, including the four target Central Asian countries for this project, have ratified the CBD and are therefore eligible for GEF grants. This project will directly assist snow leopard

range countries to meet their obligations under the CBD Strategic Plan and specifically relates to the following Strategic goals and targets:

- Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society - Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
- Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use - Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity - Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services -Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

165. The project is in line with the national policies and priorities identified above. The governments of the snow leopard range countries are making serious efforts to conserve biodiversity including snow leopards and their critical ecosystems. They have shown their commitment to international cooperation through adoption of the “Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards” on 23 October 2013. The PPG phase benefited from the substantial work of the GSLEP Secretariat with the range countries since October 2013, and with inputs from the relevant government agencies through bilateral meetings, the mini log-frame workshop and the provision of information. The outcomes, outputs and proposed activities reflect the involvement of government ministries and organizations, academic institutions, and active international organisations and donors. In order to ensure strong ownership, the project has been designed to strengthen existing coordinating structures and mechanisms and to involve all key stakeholder groups.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT GEF-FINANCED AND OTHER INITIATIVES

166. Implementation of the proposed project will be fully coordinated with a number of on-going relevant GEF-financed initiatives, in order to avoid duplication and increase effectiveness. At global level, strong coordination will be sought with the GEF-6 Programmatic Approach on Illegal Wildlife Trade as proposed to be delivered through the *Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development*. Coordination, will be pursued both at governance level through the GTI Council and the GSLEP Steering Group, and at technical level through the GSLEP Secretariat to maximize the opportunities for sharing lessons learned and methodologies and benefiting from inter-agency collaborations.

167. The project will also build on the achievements, best-practices and lessons-learned of a large number of on-going and completed initiatives in Central Asia of GEF and other development partners, as follows (see further details in the baseline analysis):

168. There are several GEF financed biodiversity conservation projects in snow leopard landscapes and ecosystems, the majority of which are implemented by UNDP. Table 8 lists these initiatives and also explains the links between those projects and snow leopard ecosystem protection. Most importantly, there are national implementation projects relating to snow leopards and/or snow leopard ecosystems in each of the four target countries during the project period. The proposed project will work closely with each of these national projects – providing technical coordination and advice, as well as harmonised tools, guidelines, mechanisms and training, and seeking opportunities to improve synergies between them. Efforts will also be made to cross-fertilize good practices from across all 12 range countries and make these available to the national-level projects. In turn, the national level projects will be the field implementers of the key results from this global project. For example, the “Improving the coverage and management effectiveness of PAs in the Central Tian Shan Mountains” will increase representation of snow leopard habitats in the PA system while also ensuring that land use is regulated in the buffer zones and corridors. This project will also demonstrate anti-poaching and patrolling to improve enforcement in Kyrgyzstan part of the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape. Lessons from the implementation projects in each country will inform the design of related outputs on best-practice guidelines and handbooks, monitoring framework, transboundary landscape management and improving enforcement mechanism, and resource development.

169. A working group of the key partners (Consortium of Partners”) will be established specifically for the pilot landscape that will coordinate all project activities with ongoing baseline activities for SL conservation, including those of local government, protected areas, NGOs, private sector and other GEF interventions. The working group will have quarterly meetings for coordination and effective implementation of the project and baseline activities.

Table 8. Relevant GEF-financed initiatives

Project and Duration	GEF Funding USD	Relations to snow leopard conservation
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC		
UNDP/GEF Project “Improving the coverage and management effectiveness of PAs in the Central Tian Shan Mountains” 2013-2017	950,000	Among the project objectives are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Khan Tengri National Park (187,000 ha) and its buffer zone in Sarychat GSLEP Landscape at the border of China and Kazakhstan (part of selected for the global UNDP/GEF 5413 Project Tian-Shan Transboundary Landscape); • Establishment, equipping and organization of work of joint anti-poaching group to protect Snow Leopard and other endangered species in Sarychat GSLEP Landscape; • Capacity building for PA staff protecting Snow Leopard habitat in Tian-Shan Ridge; • Improvement of legislation for establishment of new PAs, including in Snow Leopard habitat; • Incorporation of planned PAs in district land use plans in Sarychat GSLEP Landscape; • Development of alternative income sources for local communities in Sarychat GSLEP Landscape.

UNDP/GEF Project “Conservation of globally important biodiversity and association land and forest resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain ecosystems and support to sustainable livelihoods” 2015-2019	3,988,575	The project intends to achieve the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of two National Parks - <i>Alatai</i> (65,705 ha) and <i>Kanattuu</i> (36,780 ha) in Snow Leopard habitat in Western Tian Shan region; • Increase capacity of PA staff in the Western Tian Shan Ridge, including PAs important for Snow Leopard conservation; • Restoration of degraded pastures and development of sustainable pasture use plans in Snow Leopard habitat; • Development of alternative income sources for local communities in Western Tian Shan; • Adoption of standard Snow Leopard monitoring system (developed by global UNDP/GEF 5413 Project) in Kyrgyzstan; • Enhance enforcement capacity of Government agencies to fight poaching, wildlife trade and habitat destruction for Snow Leopard, based on frameworks developed by the global UNDP/GEF 5413 Project; • Support of GSLEP Secretariat in coordination with the global UNDP/GEF 5413 Project
UNDP/GEF Project “Strengthening of institutional and legal capacities to enable improvement of the national monitoring system and management of environmental information” 2015-2017	950,000	Strengthening of an Environmental Information Monitoring and Management System and policy frameworks for implementation of CBD, including protection of Snow Leopard Ecosystems. Environmental Information Monitoring and Management System will be a basis for adoption of standard Snow Leopard Ecosystem Monitoring System (developed by the global UNDP/GEF 5413 Project) for implementation in Kyrgyzstan.
GEF Small Grant Program Project "Preservation of the Red-Listed mammals of the Issyk-Kul region through support of the local nature protection areas, strengthening the coordination and development of the income-generation activities in local communities". 2015	50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for GSLEP Secretariat • Awareness raising among local population on snow leopard conservation • Protection of snow leopard habitat in PAs
GEF Small Grant Program Project “Conservation of snow leopards and mountain ecosystems of Kyrgyzstan through the strengthening of international cooperation and the development of an action plan and a broad information campaign among the population”. 2015	50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of GSLEP Secretariat • Organization of GSLEP Steering Committee meeting in Bishkek
KAZAKHSTAN		
UNDP/GEF Project for snow leopard Ecosystem Conservation in Kazakhstan. 2016-2020 (planned)	?	Note this project is only in the planning stages, and funding has not yet been approved.
UNDP/GEF Project “Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of the Kazakhstan Sector of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion” 2007-2011	2,420,700	Expanded PAs in Snow Leopard habitat in Altai-Sayan Ecoregion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Ontustyk Altay Wildlife Refuge (197,623 ha); • Ecological corridor (379,800 ha) connecting key Snow Leopard habitats; • Markakol Nature Reserve was expanded by 27,931 ha; Also the project provided equipment and training to PAs in Altai-

		Sayan on Snow Leopard monitoring; supported anti-poaching campaign in Snow Leopard habitat and raised public awareness for Snow Leopard conservation.
UNDP/GEF Project “In Situ Conservation of Kazakhstan’s Mountain Agrobiodiversity” 2007-2011	3,022,967	The project contributed to expansion of PA network in Snow Leopard habitat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment Jongar-Alatau State National Park (356,022 ha) • Expansion of Ile Alatau National Park from 236,000 ha to 271,403 ha (increase by 35,403 ha). Ile Alatau National Park is located in GSLEP Northern Tian Shan Landscape (part of selected for the global UNDP/GEF 5413 Project Tian Shan Transboundary Landscape)
GEF Small Grant Program Project “Monitoring of snow leopard population in Eastern Kazakhstan” 2013-2015	30,000 (?)	Starting monitoring program for snow leopard in Katon-Karagay National Park, purchase of camera-traps, trainings on snow leopard camera-trapping for the Park staff and local people
TAJIKISTAN		
UNDP/GEF Project “Conservation and sustainable use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan ecosystems for Snow Leopard protection and sustainable community livelihoods” 2016-2020	4,181,370	The project is planning the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of PAs in Snow Leopard habitat in Pamir Alay and Tian Shan by at least 600,000 ha; • Increase capacity of PA staff in law enforcement and management of Snow Leopard habitat; • Restoration of degraded pastures in Snow Leopard habitat and incorporating of Snow Leopard habitat conservation in regional planning; • Development of alternative income sources for local communities; • Adoption of standard Snow Leopard monitoring system (developed by global UNDP/GEF 5413 Project) in Tajikistan; • Targeted support of Tajikistan in participation of GSLEP implementation; • Development of National Management Plan for Conservation of Snow Leopard
GEF Small Grant Program Project “Snow Leopard is in danger” 2013	36,145	Community-based conservation of snow leopard in Pamir Mountains, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of livestock corrals from snow leopard attacks; • Ecotourism development; • Management of wild ungulates; • Cooperation with border guards and awareness rising among local communities • Study of snow leopard distribution and population density with camera-traps
UNDP/GEF Project “Demonstrating new approaches to Protected Areas and Biodiversity Management in the Gissar Mountains as a model for strengthening the national Tajikistan Protected Areas System” 2006-2012	1,000,000	The project had following achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added 3,100 ha of Snow Leopard habitat into PA estate in Gissar Mountains; • Strengthened monitoring and enforcement capacities of PAs at 28,100 ha of Snow Leopard habitat; • Revised Law on PAs (approved by Parliament in Dec 2011) introducing restrictions on economic use in buffer zones and corridors; • Mapped Snow Leopard habitat in key PAs, trained PA in GIS-based monitoring

UNDP/GEF Project “Strengthening Capacity for an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System in Tajikistan” 2014-2017	720,200	To introduce a national integrated and coordinated environmental information management and monitoring system in Tajikistan. Can be used as a basis for setting up universal snow leopard monitoring system on national level in Tajikistan
UZBEKISTAN		
UNDP/GEF Project “Strengthening Sustainability of the National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas” 2008-2013	1,000,000	Feasibility studies and legal papers prepared for establishment of 3 new PAs in Snow Leopard habitat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Eastern Gissar PA (683,771 ha); • Upper Pskema River PA (212,125 ha); • Chatkalski Nature Reserve (proposed extension by 16,474 ha)
UNDP/GEF Project “Sustainable natural resource and forest management in key biodiversity areas important for Snow Leopard” 2016-2020	7,913,059	The project is planning the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of PAs in the habitat of snow leopard; • Development of business and management plans for PAs in snow leopard habitat; • Capacity building for PA staff and wildlife agencies • Alternative income program for local communities living in snow leopard habitat • Development of system of snow leopard monitoring in Uzbekistan
RELATED PROJECTS IN OTHER RANGE COUNTRIES		
Biodiversity Conservation in the Russian Portion of the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion 2007-2011	3,515,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,317,372 ha of new PAs created in habitat: • 2,155,075 ha of existing PAs strengthened to support critical habitats: • Interagency anti-poaching brigades formed, equipped and snow leopard trained • Awareness campaign for herders. • National Snow Leopard monitoring programme.
Linking and Enhancing Protected Areas in the Temperate Broadleaf Forest Ecoregion of Bhutan (LINKPA) 2003-2008	792,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened PA in snow leopard habitat: 135,129 ha Thrumshingla National Park (78,461 ha) and its biological corridors (56,669 ha). Park boundary extended to include a wilderness area 90,503 ha • Strengthened monitoring and enforcement capacities of the PA and the corridor, as well legal establishment and protection of the new biological corridors with management plan and regulatory framework. • Improvement in livelihoods of the park residents and adjoining local communities, reducing the frequency of environmentally damaging activities.
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Altai-Sayan Eco-Region of Mongolia 2006-2011	2,720,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 PAs covering 7,971,829 ha established by the project • Six PAs covering 1,572,340 ha strengthened • Trans-boundary cooperation agreement and a joint management plan between the adjoining Uvs Nuur PA (Mongolia) and Nuurskay Kotlovina (Russia). • A cooperation agreement was also signed between the Khovd Aimag and the Altai Province, in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 513,500 ha of land is now officially managed by herder groups, including conducting wildlife monitoring, and benefit from pasture improvement in the area. 58 communities have an adopted community plan and established a community fund.
<p>Ecosystem Based Adaptation Approach to Maintaining Water Security in Critical Water Catchments - Adaptation Fund</p> <p>2014-19</p>	5,500,000 (Adaptation Fund)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened management of Kharhira/Turgen Watersheds in Altai Sayan Ecoregion (530,000 ha) Support to government and local communities to maintain the water provisioning services supplied by mountain and steppe ecosystems One of the two demonstration watersheds is in the Altai region within the snow leopard range and will contribute to maintaining snow leopard habitats
<p>Strengthening the effectiveness of the protected area system in Qinghai Province, China to conserve globally important biodiversity</p> <p>2012-2018</p>	5,354,545	<p>The project strengthens Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve (15,230,000 ha.) including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of area and species management and local co-management Emplacement of monitoring and adaptive resource management system, Piloting of eco-compensation schemes in demonstration areas for the reduction of biodiversity threats
<p>Strengthening the management effectiveness of protected areas in Altai Mountains and Wetlands Landscape in Xinjiang Autonomous Region</p> <p>2014-18</p>	2,654,771	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will aim at improved management and financing of the Altai Mountains and Wetland Landscape (AMWL) PA Cluster covering 568,900 ha Envisaged expansion of the PA system in snow leopard habitat by 150,000 ha
<p>Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal</p> <p>1993-1998</p>	3,800,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the National Biodiversity Action Plan implementing key elements of this plan in the 233, 000 ha Makalu-Barun National Park and Conservation Area (MBNPCA) and the 1,14800 ha of Sagarmatha National Park where the majority of snow leopards are found. also supported greater participation of local communities in PA management
<p>Mountain Areas Conservancy Project including the (PRIF) Maintaining Biological Diversity in Pakistan With Rural Community Development phase</p> <p>1999-2006</p>	10,600,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented in the previously called the Northwest Frontier Areas and the Northern Areas, it encompassed snow leopard areas such as Kyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan. Introduced the approach of conservancies (a highly innovative approach then) as a vehicle for empowering and organizing local communities to conserve biodiversity. Introduced trophy hunting as a biodiversity conservation measure and also as an effective mechanism for increasing local communities' income.
<p>Mountains and Markets – Biodiversity and Business in Northern Pakistan</p>	1,793,182	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project builds on the success of the MACP (above), focusing on areas where trophy hunting is not feasible and aims to create market demand for and strengthen capacities of

2012-2016		<p>local communities to manage and market biodiversity friendly NTFP enterprises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also secures sustainable resource use agreements with local communities ensuring that critical biodiversity resources are protected.
<p>Establishing integrated models of protected area management and their co-management in Afghanistan</p> <p>Under development</p>	6,441,819	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project's objective is to establish a national system of protected areas to conserve biodiversity and mitigate land degradation pressures on habitats in key biodiversity areas. • Target areas also include the Pamir mountains a prime snow leopard habitat. In tandem with making operational the national PA system, in the pilot sites, the project will also improve institutional and technical capacities for PA site management while also improving land management to reduce threats to PAs from land degradation.

SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY

170. The project will invest considerable resources in the improvement of legal and enforcement frameworks, development of international agreements and transboundary conservation programmes, development and approval among range countries of standardized a monitoring framework, providing guidance to regional development planning documents in the pilot transboundary landscape, development of five year financial strategy for GSLEP implementation and strengthening GSLEP Secretariat, establishment of long-term partnerships for snow leopard conservation with the private sector. These proposed results will have lasting effects for at least 5-15 years after project completion and high probability of prolonged government support. Successful implementation will catalyze greater interest among other donors, enhancing financial sustainability of project outcomes. By building capacity of stakeholders, the project will ensure continued implementation of project outcomes, and replication of successful models outside the pilot transboundary landscape and the four Central Asian countries. Increased attention to big cat conservation through the building of partnerships with the private sector will also ensure that conservation of snow leopard populations and ecosystems remains a high priority into the future.

171. The sustainability of the project's interventions will also be achieved through development of a strong appreciation among range countries and concerned government institutions of the importance of managing a mix of national and transboundary landscapes to secure the long-term survival of the snow leopard and the sustainability of the ecosystems in which it plays a key role. Implementation will promote a much stronger and renewed commitment of range countries in implementing their individual NSLEPs, which is expected to generate further resource leverage opportunities. The project will be proactive in exploring sustainability in the design and implementation of all its outputs. For instance, the development of the guidelines and tools will be carried out in collaboration with national wildlife training institutes or regional institutes so that these materials and associated trainings can be made available to interested range countries after the project.

172. Environmental sustainability: The overall objective of the project is to strengthen conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes and ensure stability of global snow leopard populations by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats. Thus, the project will contribute directly to the achievement of obligations of participating countries under a number of international conventions, including those supported

through the GEF mechanisms (CBD, CMS) and CITES. The overall environmental impact is expected to be overwhelmingly positive and an important contribution to sustainable development. Several tools, guidelines and mechanisms will be developed ensuring enhanced environmental sustainability is further embedded in national development programs of participating countries as well as regional and global frameworks, with special attention to transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems.

173. The focus on transboundary landscapes, and the activities to be conducted in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot, is crucial for sustainability of conservation efforts in that it recognizes the importance of addressing threats that span or originate from beyond a single national boundary, especially combating wildlife crime. Besides, the project will also provide an important forum for sharing and collaboration that is critical for conservation across landscapes.
174. Social sustainability of project activities will be in compliance with the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure conducted during project preparation (see **Annex 2** for the SESP summary). Overall, the project is expected to result in long-term positive impacts for conservation of snow leopard mountain ecosystems in Central Asia, which are expected to improve local community livelihoods and wellbeing through securing the ecosystem services that healthy ecosystems provide and development of conservation partnerships with private sector. The SESP identified no expected issues that would result in negative social impacts. Although this global project will not be involved in field implementation activities that will affect local communities, inclusive, transparent and gender-equitable approaches will be incorporated into all tools, mechanisms and guidelines that the project develops. Examples include the use of traditional knowledge, citizen science and participatory GIS in monitoring snow leopard ecosystems, and the need for full community consultation and engagement when making recommendations for land use planning and land management.
175. The project will promote gender mainstreaming and capacity building within its project staff to improve socio-economic understanding of gender issues, and will appoint a designated focal point for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally. This will include facilitating gender equality in capacity development and women's empowerment and participation in the project activities. The project will also work with UNDP experts in gender issues to utilize their expertise in developing and implementing GEF projects. These requirements will be monitored by the UNDP Gender Focal Point during project implementation. Women living in the project pilot landscape will benefit from their participation in the consortium of partners for snow leopard conservation via capacity building and proactively targeted access to initiatives for sustainable development of local communities in the snow leopard habitat and provided opportunities for ecotourism development (e.g., homestay small business that is generally ruled by women), and additional permanent and seasonal jobs for local women as a result of small business and ecotourism development. A specific gender-responsive indicator is included in the project results framework.
176. Financial sustainability: The project will promote financial sustainability for the conservation of snow leopard ecosystems. This will be achieved primarily through Outcome 3 which will support mechanisms to develop new sources of funding covering the global, transboundary landscape and national scales. Firstly, at the global level the project will develop a long-term funding strategy for the GSLEP Secretariat based on a feasibility study of financing options. Secondly, at the level of the transboundary landscape, the project will pilot the establishment of a consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape, building on a rapid economic evaluation of the ecosystem services and

a feasibility study for promotion of payments for ecosystem services (PES). Finally, the project will create a conducive environment for investment from international and national companies by establishing dialogue platforms with the private sector to engage large corporations to support conservation of snow leopard priority landscapes and GSLEP implementation, and establish a confederation of industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asian countries. Thus, the project aims to develop sustainable sources of income that will contribute towards the conservation of snow leopard ecosystems for the long term. Approaches piloted in the four target countries are likely to incentivize similar practices elsewhere across the other eight range countries.

177. Institutional sustainability: The project's fundamental approach to sustainability lies in building the underlying institutional capacities to make more informed decisions, based on best practice approaches, for the conservation of snow leopard ecosystems. This project is strategically designed to meet the Rio Convention priorities through a targeted set of capacity building activities that seeks to engage stakeholders at all levels in the four target countries, and more widely all 12 range countries. The range countries have the primary mandate for implementing the GSLEP programme through their NSLEPs. The project will equip a diverse set of personnel including wildlife authorities, protected area managers, border and customs agencies and other concerned staff with the knowledge and tools required for implementing an adaptive snow leopard landscape management approach in both individual countries but importantly across borders in transboundary snow leopard landscapes. In this way, the project will motivate cooperation at different levels – local, regional and global levels with multiple partners from several institutions. Institutional sustainability is also underpinned by the fact that GSLEP programme and PPG activities have already included extensive consultation with stakeholders at all levels, and that the project will support a continued inclusive and consultative approach.
178. Finally, in order to maximise the sustainability of the project, an exit plan will be developed by the end of year 2, for implementation and tracking during the final year. This will identify a key owner and sustainability mechanism for each of the project's results.
179. Replicability: The outcomes of the project will be made available regionally and globally for replication through the dissemination of project results, lessons learned and experiences including demonstration of best practices. This will be achieved through making project information available in a timely manner through GSLEP's website, through a GSLEP forum in 2017, as well as through participation in international fora including CBD events. Demonstration activities in the project's pilot landscape will allow cross-learning between countries as well as replication and up-scaling to accelerate the dissemination of best practice approaches that lead to more cost-effectiveness. The upscaling potential of the project is significant within the four target countries as well as to almost 600,000 km² in the already identified 23 snow leopard landscapes across its 1.8 million km² range.

THE GEF AGENCY'S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS PROJECT

180. Five GEF Agencies are potentially suitable for implementation of this project: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), , United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank, and World Wildlife Fund Inc. As the development arm of the United Nations, UNDP has the comparative advantage in being adequately equipped to address challenges of both environmental conservation and sustainable development. A large portfolio of

biodiversity conservation projects managed by UNDP and financed by the GEF exists in the range countries in the region and also across all 12 countries. Protected area management, planning and financing are core to UNDP's work in these countries and globally. UNDP will bring experience from these projects to bear under the proposed project. In addition, the project will contribute to addressing the broad strategic objective of UNDP's Biodiversity Global Framework, to "Maintain and enhance the goods and services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems in order to secure livelihoods, food, water and health, enhance resilience, conserve threatened species and their habitats, and increase carbon storage and sequestration." UNDP is the implementing agency for the majority of current GEF investment in snow leopard conservation totally 18 projects with an approximate value of around US\$ 55 million. Finally the present project will benefit from coordination capabilities at the local level from UNDP's presence on the ground through its country offices in all the range countries including the strong Country Office in Kyrgyz Republic, where the Secretariat of the GSLEP is located.

PART III: Management Arrangements

Implementation Arrangements

Project Execution and Oversight

181. During the three year implementation period, the project's implementation and execution arrangements will focus on delivery of the project's multi-year work plan to achieve quality outcomes, maintaining strong collaboration and cooperation, resolving disparities and avoiding duplication of effort among biodiversity-related initiatives in Central Asia.
182. The project will be executed by the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), in accordance with the NGO Implementation Modality, whereby SLT becomes UNDP's Implementing Partner. In order to operationalise the implementation arrangements, UNDP and SLT will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) once the project is approved, that will lay out the roles and responsibilities of each party. The Project Document including the implementation arrangement will be approved in a Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) at the CO level organised in tandem with or after the CEO Endorsement. In this case, UNDP has carried out the necessary capacity and risk assessments to ensure that SLT has the technical and administrative capacity to assume the responsibility for mobilizing and applying effectively the required inputs in order to reach the expected outputs, and these assessments will be appraised at the above LPAC meeting.
183. SLT (through the SLT-Project Management Unit (see below)) therefore assumes overall management responsibility and accountability for project implementation, according to the detailed arrangements agreed in the PCA. SLT as the NGO implementing partner will recruit key project personnel based on clear terms of reference and job descriptions that are agreed by partners. Further, where SLT signs the employment contract it must ensure that recruitment is done in accordance with its own procedures and it should use its own contract modalities. Alternatively, SLT may choose to use UNDP contract modalities¹²², but the UNDP standard contract must be modified to show that SLT - not UNDP - is hiring the individuals. Documentation supporting compliance with procedures (e.g. documentation of the recruitment process, copies of CVs, job descriptions, contracts, etc) should be maintained by SLT as they will be subject to audit by the internal and external auditors of the executing agency. (The documentation will also be subject to audit by the NEX auditor, which typically is either the national audit office or a commercial audit firm hired by UNDP.) The SLT-PMU staff will report to SLT and SLT will involve key partners including UNDP in the annual performance review and contract management. The implementing partner is responsible for ensuring that job descriptions (sometimes called "terms of reference") are prepared for all UNDP-supported personnel. The partners concerned must agree on their content. These must be updated and must clearly identify the outputs the person is expected to produce. Individual work plans are also recommended for all staff. As general principles, the following must always apply¹²³: a) All personnel are recruited by the implementing partner unless otherwise specified (e.g., UNDP provides support services); b) The salaries and other entitlements of locally-recruited personnel must not exceed those within the United Nations system for comparable functions and types of contracts in the country concerned; c) The entitlements for travel of personnel funded by the project must not exceed those for UNDP staff.

¹²² The NEX procedures as reflected in the POPP Manual make clear that under NEX projects, the Executing Agency can apply its own rules or choose to apply those of UNDP (6.16;)

¹²³ Guidance extracted from UNDP's POPP manual

184. SLT will also recruit technical consultants and procure goods and services on SLT contracts, and will directly arrange travel and other necessary implementation activities, as required. Financial management of the GEF grant is the responsibility of SLT. The transfer of funds to SLT will be based on the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) rules and modalities prevailing in the country. SLT will manage the funds in accordance with its financial rules and regulations, monitor expenditures and maintain fiscal oversight of all expenditures. Costs for direct project services (DPC) will be accrued to UNDP-CO based on the Universal Price List (UPL).
185. The UNDP Kyrgyzstan Country Office will act as the Principal Project Representative (PPR) and will be responsible for project oversight and assurance, and is accountable to the GEF for the use of funds and reporting to GEF on all aspects of the project per the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. When projects are being implemented by the implementing partners, UNDP's role is mainly to¹²⁴: a) Monitor the project's progress towards intended outputs; b) Monitor that resources entrusted to UNDP are utilized appropriately; c) Ensure national ownership, ongoing stakeholder engagement and sustainability; d) Ensure that the project's outputs contribute to intended country programme outcomes; e) Participate in the project management board; e) When UNDP is identified as a responsible party, perform duties as associated with this role including, when requested and agreed to, provide implementation support services¹²⁵; f) Report on progress to donors and to UNDP through corporate reporting mechanisms. UNDP Kyrgyzstan Country Office oversight of the project will also include ensuring that the project practices due diligence with regard to UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (see **Annex 2**). The UNDP Regional Hub in Istanbul (IRH) will provide a semi-independent quality assurance mechanism and ensure additional regional coordination and oversight.
186. The Project Board will provide overall oversight of project activities. The structure of project management and oversight arrangements is shown in the organogram in Section IV Part II below.

Project Board

187. The project will be implemented over a period of three years. At the policy and upstream management level, a **Project Board** will be established to provide high-level guidance and oversight to the project. The Project Board will be chaired by the co-Chair of GSLEP who is the Director of SAEPF, and co-chaired by UNDP Principal Project Resident Representative (or his/her official designee). Members will consist of GSLEP Focal Points from the four target central Asian countries, SLT, as well as managers of GSLEP Secretariat and key international partner organisations (WWF, NABU, Panthera, etc.). GSLEP Secretariat will serve as the secretary to the Board. The Board will be responsible for high-level management decisions and guidance required for implementation of the project, including recommendations and approval of annual work plans and revisions. The Project Board decisions are to be made in accordance to standards that ensure efficiency, cost-effectiveness, transparency, effective institutional coordination, and harmony with overall development policies and priorities of the governments of the target countries, UNDP and their development partners. As the project progresses, the Project Board must continually address the following questions: Is the project still relevant and effectively contributing to the intended outcomes? Is the project yielding the desired results? Are risks managed? Is the project being implemented as planned? Is there a need to redesign,

¹²⁴ Guidance from UNDP's POPP manual

¹²⁵ Direct Project Costs (DPC) for the CO: UNDP CO will prepare details on the services provided based on request from the IP for certain type of services, e.g.: a) Identification and/or recruitment of project and programme personnel; b) Identification and facilitation of training activities; c) Procurement of goods and services. No DPC for audits or evaluations will be charged as these are part of the oversight functions of UNDP.

cancel or modify the project in any way in order to ensure meaningful contribution to development results? In addition to periodic reviews within the year, an annual review shall take place to assess results achieved against yearly targets and to review the multi-year work plan, including UNDP's related financial commitment.

188. The Project Board will meet after the Inception Workshop and at least once each year thereafter. Specific functions will include:

At the initiation of the project:

- Review and endorse the Terms of Reference of the SLT-Project Management Unit (SLT-PMU)
- Appraise the overall project multi-year work plan;
- Review and approve the Annual Work Plan and budget for the first project year;
- Delegate any project assurance function as appropriate.

After the initiation of the project:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains consistent with national policies of the beneficiary countries, and the planned activities are in line with the project objectives and timeframe;
- Address project issues raised by the SLT-PMU for the Project Board's attention and guidance;
- Appraise Annual Project Review Reports and offer recommendations for the subsequent Annual Work Plan;
- Review and approve Annual Work Plans and budgets;
- Commission the internal Mid-term Review of the project, appraise the MTR Report and provide direction to the project to address the recommendations emanating from the MTR Report;
- Review project progress reports submitted by the SLT-PMU and notify, or provide guidance to, the SLT-PMU for corrective actions should they find any issue with the project progress.

At the close of the project:

- Assure that all project deliverables have been produced satisfactorily;
- Commission the Terminal Evaluation of the project, and appraise and endorse the TE Report;
- Provide recommendations for follow-up actions;
- Notify operational completion of the project.

Project Technical Committee

189. At the operational and programmatic level, the project will be supported by a **Project Technical Committee** (PTC), chaired by the Head of the GSLEP Secretariat. The PTC will primarily consist of the technical experts from the participating countries and partner organisations. Such a multi-disciplinary group is deemed necessary especially given the scientific, technical and operational intricacies that are expected to arise during implementation.

190. The PTC will meet at least once each year, prior to the meetings of the Project Board and will have the responsibility for the following specific functions:

- Ensure that the planned activities are technically sound and in line with the project objectives and time-frame;
- Promote inter-institutional coordination, where such coordination is necessary and where opportunities for synergy exist;
- Provide guidance, and/or clarifications, where technical and inter-institutional issues are confronted;
- Ensure that the project activities are carried out in accordance with the desired standards and norms;

- Review and endorse proposals for transboundary agreements. This process will exclude members should they belong to a proponent agency, to prevent conflict of interest;
- Review and endorse ToRs for consulting tasks and assist selection of project consultants (as requested), review consulting reports/ deliverables and provide feedback on them.
- Submit recommendations on any matter to the Project Board.

SLT-Project Management Unit (SLT-PMU)

191. The project will be managed by an SLT-Project Management Unit (PMU) based in Bishkek and co-located with the GSLEP Secretariat. Senior management of SLT will provide oversight of the SLT-PMU. Additional administrative support functions will be provided by UNDP, as described in the cooperation agreement. The SLT-PMU will provide the day-to-day management and coordination function for project activities. Among others it will prepare the Inception Report, closely follow the implementation of project activities, handle day-to-day project issues and requirements, and ensure a high degree of transnational and inter-institutional collaboration (international and regional organizations and donors). It will be responsible for production of various UNDP-GEF progress and financial reports. It will also assist the UNDP's EO in preparing final evaluation of the project. The SLT-PMU will report to the Project Board and will be made up of the following staff positions (see Part III – Terms of Reference for Key Project Staff):

- **Regional Project Coordinator** responsible for coordination, monitoring and reporting of project activities. This position will be recruited by SLT and is funded at 20% (1 day per week) of a full time equivalent from the GEF project management budget line..
- **Project Assistant** responsible for management of project funds and expenditures, M&E and maintaining project records. This position will be recruited by SLT and is funded at 60% (3 days per week) of a full time equivalent from the GEF project management budget line.

192. The management arrangements for project implementation in the transboundary pilot landscape will be entirely consistent and integrated with those for the overall project, including the project M&E Plan, reporting requirements and budget disbursement. The local management arrangements for the pilot landscape will include representation of principal stakeholders such as relevant government authorities, local communities and other partners in their implementation. There will be equitable participation of women on local level committees and groups related to agreement negotiations, community implementation, and training and awareness activities. See PART IV: Stakeholder Involvement Plan for further details.

PART IV: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

193. Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF procedures and will be provided by the SLT-PMU supported by the UNDP Principal Project Representative Office. The Strategic Results Framework in **Section II Part I** provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The M&E plan includes: inception report, project implementation reviews, quarterly and annual review reports, and mid-term review and terminal evaluation. The following sections outline the principal components of the M&E Plan and indicative cost estimates related to M&E activities (see **Table 9** below). The project's M&E Plan will be

presented and finalized in the Project's Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

Project Inception and Implementation

194. A Project Inception Workshop will be conducted within two months of the commencement of the project. This workshop will involve the full project team, implementation partners, co-financing partners, the UNDP PPR office and UNDP-IRH, as appropriate.
195. A fundamental objective of this Inception Workshop will be to assist the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goals and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first Annual Work Plan (AWP) on the basis of the project's strategic results framework (SRF). This will include reviewing the SRF (indicators, means of verification, assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise finalize the AWP with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project.
196. Additionally, the Project Inception Workshop will: (i) detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP-CO and IRH staff vis à vis the SLT-PMU; (ii) provide a detailed overview of UNDP-GEF reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), Tripartite Review Meetings, as well as mid-term review and terminal evaluations. Equally, the Inception Workshop will provide an opportunity to inform the SLT-PMU on UNDP project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews, and mandatory budget rephasings.
197. The Workshop will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff and decision-making structures will be discussed again, as needed, in order to clarify for all, each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase.

Monitoring responsibilities and events

198. A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the project management, in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: (i) tentative time frames for Project Board Meetings and (ii) project related Monitoring and Evaluation activities. Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Regional Project Coordinator based on the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. The Regional Project Coordinator will inform the UNDP PPR (UNDP Krygystan CO) of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion. The Regional Project Coordinator will fine-tune the progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team at the Inception Workshop with support from UNDP.. Specific targets for the first year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at this Workshop. These will be used to assess whether implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction and will form part of the Annual Work Plan. Targets and indicators for subsequent years would be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team.

199. Measurement of impact indicators related to global benefits will occur according to the schedules defined in the Inception Workshop. The measurement of these will be undertaken through subcontracts or retainers with relevant institutions if necessary. Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNDP-CO through quarterly meetings with SLT, or more frequently as deemed necessary. This will allow parties to take stock and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure smooth implementation of project activities.
200. Annual Monitoring will occur through the Project Board meetings. This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Project Board meetings at least once each year. The first such meeting will be held after the Inception Workshop to approve the Year 1 Annual Work Plan and other arrangements.
201. The SLT-PMU will prepare a UNDP/GEF PIR/ARR and submit it to Project Board members at least two weeks prior to the Project Board meeting for review and comments. The PIR/APR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions in the Project Board meeting. The Regional Project Coordinator will present the PIR/APR to the Project Board, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the Board members. The Regional Project Coordinator also informs the members of any agreement reached by stakeholders during the PIR/APR preparation on how to resolve operational issues. Separate reviews of each project component may also be conducted if necessary. The Project Board has the authority to suspend disbursement if project performance benchmarks are not met. Benchmarks will be developed at the Inception Workshop, based on delivery rates, and qualitative assessments of achievements of outputs.
202. The terminal Project Board meeting is held in the last month of project operations. The SLT-PMU is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to UNDP Krygyzstan CO and UNDP IRH. It shall be prepared in draft at least two months in advance of the terminal Board meeting in order to allow review, and will serve as the basis for discussions in the terminal Board meeting. The terminal meeting considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. It decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to sustainability of project results, and acts as a vehicle through which lessons learnt can be captured to feed into other projects under implementation of formulation.
203. UNDP Kyrgyzstan Country Office and UNDP IRH as appropriate, will conduct yearly visits to project sites based on an agreed schedule to be detailed in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Any other member of the Project Board can also accompany. A Field Visit/Back to Office Report will be prepared and circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team, all Project Board members, and UNDP-GEF.

Monitoring & Reporting

204. The SLT-PMU in conjunction with the UNDP PPRO will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process. The first six reports are mandatory and strictly related to monitoring, while the last two have a broader function and the frequency and nature is project-specific to be defined throughout implementation.
205. A Project Inception Report: will be prepared immediately following the Inception Workshop. It will include a detailed Annual Work Plan for the first year divided in quarterly time-frames detailing the activities

and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This Work Plan would include the dates of specific field visits, support missions from the UNDP-CO, the UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor or consultants, as well as time-frames for meetings of the project's decision making structures. The Report will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the Annual Work Plan, and including any monitoring and evaluation requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12 months time-frame.

206. The Inception Report will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions and feedback mechanisms of project-related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. When finalized, the report will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. Prior to this circulation of the Inception Report, the UNDP Country Office and UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Advisor will review the document.

207. The Annual Project Report (APR): is a UNDP requirement and part of UNDP's central oversight, monitoring, and project management. It is a self-assessment report by project management to the CO and provides input to the country and regional reporting processes, as well as forming a key input to the Tripartite Project Review. An APR will be prepared on an annual basis prior to the Tripartite Project Review, to reflect progress achieved in meeting the project's Annual Work Plan and assess performance of the project in contributing to intended outcomes through outputs and partnership work. The format of the APR is flexible but should include the following:

- An analysis of project performance over the reporting period, including outputs produced and, where possible, information on the status of the outcome;
- The constraints experienced in the progress towards results and the reasons for these;
- The three (at most) major constraints to achievement of results;
- AWP, CAE and other expenditure reports (ERP generated);
- Lessons learned;
- Clear recommendations for future orientation in addressing key problems in lack of progress

208. The Project Implementation Review (PIR): is an annual monitoring process mandated by the GEF. It has become an essential management and monitoring tool for project managers and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from ongoing projects. Once the project has been under implementation for a year, a PIR must be completed by the project. The PIR can be prepared any time during the year (July-June) and ideally prior to the TPR. The PIR should then be discussed in the TPR so that the result would be a PIR that has been agreed upon by the project, the executing agency, UNDP CO and the concerned RCU (IRH).

209. The individual PIRs are collected, reviewed and analysed by the RCUs prior to sending them to the focal area clusters at the UNDP-GEF headquarters. The focal area clusters supported by the UNDP-GEF M&E Unit analyse the PIRs by focal area, theme and region for common issues/results and lessons. The TAs and PTAs play a key role in this consolidating analysis.

210. The focal area PIRs are then discussed in the GEF Interagency Focal Area Task Forces in or around November each year and consolidated reports by focal area are collated by the GEF Independent M&E Unit based on the Task Force findings.

211. The GEF M&E Unit provides the scope and content of the PIR. In light of the similarities of both APR and PIR, UNDP-GEF has prepared a harmonized format for reference.
212. UNDP ATLAS Monitoring Reports: A Combined Delivery Report (CDR) summarizing all project expenditures, is mandatory and should be issued quarterly. The Regional Project Coordinator should send it to the Project Board for review and the Implementing Partner should certify it. The following logs should be prepared: (i) The Issues Log is used to capture and track the status of all project issues throughout the implementation of the project. It will be the responsibility of the Regional Project Coordinator to track, capture and assign issues, and to ensure that all project issues are appropriately addressed; (ii) the Risk Log is maintained throughout the project to capture potential risks to the project and associated measures to manage risks. It will be the responsibility of the Regional Project Coordinator to maintain and update the Risk Log, using Atlas; and (iii) the Lessons Learned Log is maintained throughout the project to capture insights and lessons based on good and bad experiences and behaviours. It is the responsibility of the Regional Project Coordinator to maintain and update the Lessons Learned Log.
213. Quarterly Progress Reports: Short reports outlining main updates in project progress will be provided quarterly to the UNDP Country Office and the concerned UNDP-GEF regional office by the project team.
214. Project Mid-term Review report: The internal MTR will result in a short report summarising the project's progress against expected results and indicators. This will result in a series of recommendations for adaptive management to the Project Board. The Board will consider and approve these recommendations as well as an MTR response prepared by the Regional Project Coordinator.
215. Project Terminal Report: During the last three months of the project the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements and outputs of the Project, lessons learnt, objectives met or not achieved, structures and systems implemented, etc. and will be the definitive statement of the Project's activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the Project's activities.
216. Periodic Thematic Reports: As and when called for by UNDP, UNDP-GEF or the Implementing Partner, the project team will prepare specific Thematic Reports, focusing on specific issues or areas of activity. The request for a Thematic Report will be provided to the project team in written form by UNDP and will clearly state the issue or activities that need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of lessons learnt exercise, specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. UNDP is requested to minimize its requests for Thematic Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for their preparation by the project team.
217. Technical Reports: are detailed documents covering specific areas of analysis or scientific specializations within the overall project. As part of the Inception Report, the project team will prepare a draft Reports List, detailing the technical reports that are expected to be prepared on key areas of activity during the course of the Project, and tentative due dates. Where necessary this Reports List will be revised and updated, and included in subsequent APRs. Technical Reports may also be prepared by external consultants and should be comprehensive, specialized analyses of clearly defined areas of research within the framework of the project and its sites. These technical reports will represent, as appropriate, the project's

substantive contribution to specific areas, and will be used in efforts to disseminate relevant information and best practices at local, national and international levels.

218. Project Publications: will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating the results and achievements of the Project. These publications may be scientific or informational texts on the activities and achievements of the Project, in the form of journal articles, multimedia publications, etc. These publications can be based on Technical Reports, depending upon the relevance, scientific worth, etc. of these Reports, or may be summaries or compilations of a series of Technical Reports and other research. The project team will determine if any of the Technical Reports merit formal publication, and will also (in consultation with UNDP, the government and other relevant stakeholder groups) plan and produce these Publications in a consistent and recognizable format. Project resources will need to be defined and allocated for these activities as appropriate and in a manner commensurate with the project's budget.

INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS

219. Mid-Term Review: A rapid internal Mid-Term Review of the project will be conducted, as per UNDP requirements, at the mid- point of the project through a participatory meeting involving national focal points and key international partners. Although not mandatory for Medium-Sized Projects, this internal MTR is considered necessary to ensure the project is on track, and to secure maximum engagement and alignment of all partners. It will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course-correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The Terms of Reference for this Mid-Term Review will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the UNDP IRH. The management response and the review will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).
220. Terminal Evaluation: An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Project Board meeting in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO based on guidance from the UNDP IRH. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and will require a management response, which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the [UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center](#) . The various GEF tracking tools will also be completed during the final evaluation.
221. The Terminal Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center.
222. Prior to the Terminal Evaluation, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems encountered and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out

recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

223. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based, and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

BRANDING AND VISIBILITY

224. Full compliance is required with the GEF's Communication and Visibility Guidelines (the "GEF Guidelines"). The GEF Guidelines can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf. Amongst other things, the GEF Guidelines describe when and how the GEF logo needs to be used in project publications, vehicles, supplies and other project equipment. The GEF Guidelines also describe other GEF promotional requirements regarding press releases, press conferences, press visits, visits by Government officials, productions and other promotional items.
225. Full compliance is also required with UNDP's Branding Guidelines. These can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>, and specific guidelines on UNDP logo use can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/branding/useOfLogo.html>. Amongst other things, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP logo needs to be used, as well as how the logos of donors to UNDP projects needs to be used. For the avoidance of any doubt, when logo use is required, the UNDP logo needs to be used alongside the GEF logo. The [GEF logo](http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo) can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo. The [UNDP logo](http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml) can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>. Where other agencies report through co-financing, their branding policies and requirements should be similarly applied.
226. The Audit will be conducted in accordance with UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable audit policies on UNDP projects. There are certain pre-requisites according to which the project is being audited. The risk based model for selection NIM/NGO projects to be audited is based on risk rating determined by OAI and assigned to each country. Audits will be conducted at least 3 times in the project period. Budget for audit and evaluation will be directly managed by UNDP and will be indicated as such in the TBWP and excluded from the Project Cooperation Agreement, which will mention the portion of the grant the NGO will directly manage.

Table 9. M&E Activities, Responsibilities, Indicative Budget and Time Frame

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ (excluding project team staff time)	Time frame
Inception Workshop (IW)	SLT-PMU UNDP CO UNDP/GEF RTA	15,000	Within first two months of project start up
Inception Report	SLT-PMU UNDP CO	Included in the workshop budget	Immediately following IW
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Outcome Indicators	SLT-PMU will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members.	None	Start, mid and end of project
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress and Performance (measured on an annual basis)	Oversight by UNDP CO/GEF Regional Technical Advisor Measurements by GSLEP Sec and national implementing agencies	None	Annually prior to APR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans (\$2,000 / year)
APR and PIR	SLT-PMU UNDP-CO UNDP-GEF RTA	None	Annually
CDRs	SLT-PMU	None	Quarterly
Project Board meetings	SLT-PMU UNDP CO	12,000	Following Project IW and subsequently at least once a year
Project Technical Committee Meetings	SLT-PMU UNDP CO	12,000	At least once a year during project duration
Periodic status reports	SLT-PMU	3,000	To be determined by the PMU and UNDP CO
Technical reports	SLT-PMU Hired consultants as needed	Tbd	To be determined by the SLT-PMU and UNDP-CO
Mid-Term Review (Internal exercise only)	SLT-PMU UNDP- CO UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor	2,000	18 months after project implementation (project mid-point).
Terminal Evaluation	SLT-PMU UNDP- CO UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor External Evaluators (i.e. international/ national consultants)	30,000	At the end of project implementation
Terminal Report	SLT-PMU UNDP-CO	None	Prior to the Terminal Evaluation
Lessons learned / Knowledge Management	SLT-PMU UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor (suggested formats for documenting best practices, etc.)	7,000	Annually: – Y1 \$1000; Y2 \$3000; Y3 \$3000

Audit	UNDP-CO SLT-PMU	15,000	Annual financial audit by independent Audit Company; one audit through UNDP CO
Visits to field sites	UNDP Country Office UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor (as appropriate) SLT-PMU, National Implementing Agencies	0	As and when necessary. Co-financed by UNDP CO
TOTAL INDICATIVE COST Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses		\$96,000	

PART V: Legal Context

If the country has signed the [Standard Basic Assistance Agreement \(SBAA\)](#), the following standard text must be quoted:

This document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA [or other appropriate governing agreement] and all CPAP provisions apply to this document.

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner.

The implementing partner shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>.

This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

227.

228. The UNDP Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic will serve as the Principal Project Resident Representative and is authorized to effect in writing the following types of revision to this Project Document provided that the project steering committee endorses the changes and that he has verified the agreement thereto by the UNDP-GEF Unit:

- Revision of, or addition to, any of the annexes to the Project Document;
- Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangement of the inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation;
- Mandatory annual revisions which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility, and
- Inclusion of additional annexes and attachments only as set out here in this Project Document.

229. The responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. The Implementing Partner shall: (a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan,

taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried; (b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the Implementing Partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

230. The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.

SECTION II: STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK (SRF) AND GEF INCREMENT

PART I: Strategic Results Framework, SRF (formerly GEF Logical Framework) Analysis

Project Title: Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation

Project's Development Goal: The long term survival of the global snow leopard populations and their critical mountain ecosystems is secured.

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
Objective: To strengthen transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes that ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats with special focus in Central Asia.	Snow leopard populations in the 4 project countries	Kazakhstan: 100-110 Kyrgyz Republic: 300-350 Tajikistan: 180-220 Uzbekistan: 30-45	No decline from baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring reports 	<p><u>Risks:</u> Range countries unwilling to establish transboundary cooperation agreements</p> <p>Lack of consensus among key stakeholders on best practice methods and tools</p> <p><u>Assumptions:</u> The governments remain committed to conservation of snow leopards & their critical ecosystems</p> <p>There is no upsurge in the key Central Asian states in activity by international criminal syndicates trading in snow leopard furs and other parts</p>
	Transboundary Snow leopard landscapes with active conservation/cooperation programme	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signed MOUs ▪ Project progress reports 	
	Level of key threats in pilot transboundary landscape (poaching, retaliatory killing, habitat destruction)	<p>Poaching: Snow Leopard (2014) – 1 individual</p> <p><u>Retaliatory killing:</u> 0 (Zero), although snow leopard predation on livestock was</p>	<p>Reduction in poaching and maintain zero cases of retaliatory killing of snow leopards</p> <p>Habitat loss reduced and quality snow leopard habitat maintained</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PA guard and customs reports ▪ Community interviews ▪ Rapid habitat suitability assessment results or results of assessment of transboundary landscapes (methodology developed under GSLEP process) 	

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
		<p>recorded in 2014: 2 yaks and 3 goats</p> <p><u>Habitat destruction:</u> # mines in the area: 1 Total area of the mine: 8-10km²; (concession: 263 km²)</p> <p>Kokjaylau Ski Resort (planned):420 km²</p>			Co-financing is mobilised from international partners and government allocations
Outcome 1: Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems	<p><u>Output 1.1:</u> Tools, methods and guidelines for effective transboundary cooperation developed, tested and made available to stakeholders</p> <p><u>Output 1.2:</u> Training materials and methods developed and disseminated, including through an on-line platform</p> <p><u>Output 1.3:</u> Effective enforcement mechanisms developed and introduced to enforcement agencies</p>				
	Global knowledge toolkit available	0	Toolkit available through on-line platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toolkit ▪ On-line platform ▪ Project reports 	<p><u>Risks:</u> Lack of consensus among key stakeholders on best practice methods and tools</p>
	SL crime enforcement guidance and mechanisms	0	Model systems developed and operationalised in at least 2 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Model system and guidance for implementation ▪ Implementation reports 	<p><u>Assumptions:</u> Cooperation is forthcoming from enforcement agencies</p>
	Level of institutional capacity for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem conservation as indicated by Capacity scorecard	23 out of a possible 96 = 24%	Improved capacity indicated by an increase of at least 30% over baseline (ie. a score of 30 = 31%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project progress reports ▪ Capacity Scorecard assessments at Mid-term and in Terminal Evaluation report ▪ Training reports 	

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
Outcome 2. Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range countries	Outputs: <u>Output 2.1:</u> Common monitoring indicators and methods for snow leopard landscapes and populations developed, tested and disseminated <u>Output 2.2:</u> Spatial database for monitoring and management of one transboundary landscape is developed <u>Output 2.3:</u> Sustainable landscape management measures are identified and presented to stakeholders for implementation				
	# Countries using approved/adopted common monitoring indicators/framework	None	At least 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Common monitoring framework ▪ Approval document 	<u>Risks:</u> Monitoring framework is not used because it is not aligned with existing national monitoring frameworks <u>Assumptions:</u> Stakeholder institutions are willing to share information with other countries
	# transboundary snow leopard landscapes with sustainable management measures agreed to reduce key threats	0	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geospatial assessment ▪ Agreed management priorities with M&E system ▪ Project reports 	
	# women in the pilot landscape directly benefiting from new sustainable management measures:	0 Kyrgyz part 0 Kazakhstan part	20% 2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project reports 	
Outcome 3. Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems	<u>Output 3.1:</u> Global coordination mechanism for technical support, resource development and knowledge-sharing is strengthened <u>Output 3.2:</u> Global and national tools for financing snow leopard ecosystem conservation developed, piloted and shared <u>Output 3.3:</u> Private sector dialogue platforms established				
	Capacity of, and satisfaction with, GSLEP coordination	To be determined during inception phase	20% increase on the baseline score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity/Satisfaction surveys of GSLEP coordination from focal points and international partners 	<u>Risks:</u> Long-term core funding for the GSLEP Secretariat does not materialise Further economic downturn hinders private sector commitment to environmental sustainability <u>Assumptions:</u> Government of Kyrgyz Republic maintains its support for GSLEP after the
	Level of financing for GSLEP Secretariat and at least 2 national programmes (NSLEPs)	GSLEP Secretariat: \$ 93,300 p.a. Kazakhstan: \$123,857 p.a. Kyrgyzstan: \$252,857 p.a.	25-30% increase on the baseline (at least 5% of which from private sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financing records ▪ Agreements with private sector 	

Objective/ Outcome	Indicator	Baseline	End of Project target	Source of Information	Risks and assumptions
		Tajikistan: \$34,286 p.a. Uzbekistan: : \$107,000 p.a			elections.

Part II: Incremental Cost Analysis

231. This project aims to conserve snow leopards and their high mountain landscapes. By doing so, it will assist the governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (and indirectly the other 8 snow leopard range countries) to meet their obligations under the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), contributing towards the conservation and sustainable use of the region's outstanding biodiversity, and supporting enhancement of the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. It specifically relates to the following Strategic goals and targets:

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society	Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
	Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services	Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

In addition, the project will also advance actions that the countries are committed to implement as part of their National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection programmes (NSLEPs), which have been prepared to address key threats at the national level to snow leopard ecosystems. It will also enhance capacity of national institutions for knowledge generation and monitoring to secure snow leopard landscapes.

232. **Baseline trends:** The governments of the 12 range countries of the snow leopard (including Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) have agreed through *the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards* the need to conserve snow leopards and their critical high mountain ecosystems, and are investing in national efforts as a priority. Snow leopards are Endangered, suffering from wildlife crime, and degradation of their critical habitats by overgrazing and infrastructure development (mines, hydropower and tourism). Because their huge range spans many international borders, because of their great mobility, and because of international wildlife crime (both of snow leopards and their prey species), they can only be conserved with a high level of international cooperation in knowledge-sharing, monitoring, enforcement and land management.

233. Economic development is crucial to the Central Asian economies, and current trends including increasing wildlife crime have the potential to exacerbate and compound the existing threats to snow leopard ecosystems significantly. These threats, if not addressed effectively will have wider consequences on the remarkable biodiversity of high mountain ecosystems, the delivery of ecosystem services, and therefore the health and economic wellbeing of the poor rural communities who live in snow leopard landscapes and the many millions who live downstream from them.

234. **Without GEF investment in the proposed project**, the conservation of snow leopards and their critical habitats would take considerably longer, and it would be more difficult to improve the conservation status of this Endangered apex predator, its prey species and critical high mountain ecosystems. There would continue to be no effective framework to operationalise transboundary cooperation for the conservation of snow leopards and snow leopard landscapes beyond the current baseline levels of GSLEP (forums and planning). It would be very difficult for the range countries to achieve international standards for best practice in knowledge sharing and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation. The necessary tools, guidelines and supporting information-sharing mechanisms will not be available – for example a common monitoring framework. Inter-agency and inter-country coordination for implementing the transboundary cooperation will remain weak, resulting in ongoing wildlife crime, potential conflicts and confusion which may adversely affect conservation gains.
235. Lack of capacity for transboundary cooperation has been identified as a key constraint for the conservation of snow leopards and their critical habitats across a wide range of stakeholders and at national, transboundary landscape, and sectoral levels. Resources will not be adequate to support the level of capacity building needed to bring these stakeholders to implementation readiness in the short term, and information-sharing on snow leopards, their prey species and habitats will remain inadequate. Development impacts will continue without taking regard of transboundary snow leopard conservation issues, and therefore biodiversity and ecosystem services will continue to degrade, impacting local and more distant communities across the region.
236. There would continue to be no model (operationalised) international agreements for transboundary cooperation to conserve snow leopards and their critical ecosystems. There is therefore a strong need for the introduction of best practice models of transboundary mechanisms and tools to support sustainable land management measures and reduce wildlife crime. Further, it is important that all players are able to understand the provisions and implications of such agreements, the sometimes complex issues involved, and their roles in implementation.
237. Investment in transboundary cooperation to conserve snow leopards and their critical ecosystems by national governments and NGOs and international organisations would be less likely in the absence of an effective framework and mechanisms. Overall, the constituency and financial resources for global, national and landscape level snow leopard and critical ecosystem conservation will not advance beyond baseline levels.
238. **Global environmental benefits:** The increment of the project in terms of global environmental benefits is represented by: (1) conservation of snow leopard populations (classified as globally Endangered on the IUCN Red List) in the four target countries by a reduction of key threats; (2) increase in the number of transboundary snow leopard landscapes with active transboundary conservation programmes from zero to one, through implementation of demonstration activities in the 39,500 km² of the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape; (3) improved conservation of globally significant biodiversity and related ecosystem services in high mountain ecosystems of four Central Asia's countries in particular the 4 snow leopard landscapes totalling almost 180,000 km² which have been identified by GSLEP for its “20 by 2020 target” in Central Asia, and indirectly across the 12 range states of the snow leopard through the sharing of best practices; (4) improved overall institutional and individual capacity in the four target countries to implement transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystem conservation as indicated by an increase

of at least 30% over the baseline score of 23 (=24%) as measured by the adapted Capacity Assessment Scorecard; This will result in enhanced national contributions towards the achievement of the CBD's main goal on the conservation of biodiversity and to all five strategic goals of its Strategic Plan 2011-20.

239. In addition, the project will generate global benefits indirectly through sharing and implementation of international best practices for snow leopard conservation. This will include: (6) the development of tools and mechanisms such as a Global Knowledge Toolkit and a Common Monitoring Framework; and (7) Increased financial investments and effectiveness of GSLEP and NSLEP.
240. **In the Alternative scenario enabled by the GEF**, an effective framework to operationalise transboundary cooperation for the conservation of snow leopards and their high mountain ecosystems is operationalised in the four target countries and made available globally. Model transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation is designed and operationalised in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape (39,500km²), shared between Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Strategic capacity building is conducted for target groups including public and private sector, to address key threats. Transboundary cooperation tools methods and mechanisms are developed and disseminated including a common monitoring framework and a spatial database for informing sustainable land management. Finally, enhanced financial planning and innovative financing mechanisms are developed and implemented both for GSLEP (thereby improving global coordination) and for at least 2 NSLEPs (thereby improving national implementation). Best practices and lessons learned will be drawn from the 12 range states and project experiences, and will be disseminated internationally through the internet, publications and regional/global events, providing critically needed guidance to the ongoing GSLEP and NSLEP processes.
241. **System Boundary:** This project aims to develop and support implementation of the global framework for transboundary cooperation for the conservation of snow leopards and their high mountain ecosystems, build capacities at regional level in Central Asia and thereby strengthen the global and regional efforts for the conservation of this Endangered cat. Geographically the project is relevant to all 12 range countries of the snow leopard, but implementation will be focused in four countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape where various activities will be demonstrated is more localized and is described in the pilot landscape report (see Annex 4).
242. **Summary of Costs:** The Baseline associated with this project is estimated at US\$12,711,921. The GEF Alternative has been costed at US\$17,907,921. The total Incremental Cost to implement the full project is US\$5,196,000. Of this amount, US\$1,000,000 is requested from GEF. GEF funds have leveraged US\$4,196,000 in co-financing for the Alternative strategy. Most co-financing will be contributed by the four national participating governments through baseline investments for transboundary cooperation for conservation of snow leopards, as well as UNDP and international partners. Incremental costs have been estimated for three years, the duration of the planned project Alternative. These costs are summarized below in the incremental costs matrix.

Table 10. Incremental Cost Matrix

Cost/Benefit	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
BENEFITS			
Global benefits	<p>There is no effective framework to operationalise transboundary cooperation for the conservation of snow leopards and their high mountain ecosystems beyond the current baseline levels of GSLEP (forums and planning)</p> <p>There are no transboundary snow leopard landscapes with active conservation/cooperation programmes in place</p> <p>There is inadequate institutional capacity and awareness to implement transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation.</p> <p>Lack of a common (global) monitoring framework for monitoring snow leopards, their prey and their habitats</p> <p>Financial planning and resources for GSLEP coordination will not advance beyond current baseline levels, limiting the capacity to support NSLEP implementation</p>	<p>An effective framework to operationalise transboundary cooperation for the conservation of snow leopards and their high mountain ecosystems is operationalised in the four target countries and made available globally</p> <p>Operationalisation of model transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation in one pilot landscape addresses critical threats and results in improved conservation outcomes</p> <p>Strategic capacity building conducted for target groups including public and private sector</p> <p>Common monitoring framework, including suite of indicators and a spatial database is developed.</p> <p>Enhanced financial planning and innovative financing mechanisms for GSLEP are developed and implemented, improving global coordination</p>	<p>Snow leopard populations in the 4 project countries do not decline from baseline levels</p> <p>Contributions towards the maintenance of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem services</p> <p>The Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape (39,500km²), shared between Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz republic is a model for transboundary cooperation for snow leopards</p> <p>There is a reduction in poaching and retaliatory hunting, and no net loss of quality habitat in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape</p> <p>Improving the overall institutional and individual capacity to implement transboundary cooperation for snow leopard populations and ecosystems from a baseline of 24%, to a final value of 31% as measured by the adapted Capacity Assessment Scorecard.</p> <p>Common monitoring framework is approved by all 12 range countries and adopted by at least two countries</p> <p>Level of financing for GSLEP Secretariat increases by 15% on the baseline (at least 5% of which from private sector)</p> <p>Capacity of, and satisfaction with, GSLEP coordination increases by 20%</p>
National and local benefits	<p>Lack of knowledge, tools and mechanisms to effectively operationalise transboundary</p>	<p>Transboundary cooperation tools methods and mechanisms are developed and disseminated</p>	<p>Global Knowledge Toolkit developed and made available through on-line platform</p>

Cost/Benefit	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
	<p>cooperation for snow leopard conservation</p> <p>Lack of sustainable land management measures to reduce key threats to snow leopard populations, their prey and habitats in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape</p> <p>Financial resources to implement NSLEPs will not advance beyond current baseline levels</p>	<p>Sustainable land management measures are developed based on common monitoring framework and spatial database and discussed with stakeholders</p> <p>Enhanced financial planning and innovative resource development mechanisms are introduced</p>	<p>Snow leopard crime enforcement guidance and mechanisms developed and demonstrated</p> <p>Agreed sustainable land management measures for the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary snow leopard landscape</p> <p>Level of financing for at least 2 NSLEPs increases by 15% on the baseline (at least 5% of which from private sector)</p> <p>Innovative financing mechanisms established to support transboundary cooperation in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan transboundary snow leopard landscape</p>
COSTS			
Outcome 1: Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems	Baseline: \$10,156,229	Alternative: \$13,371,256	<p>GEF: \$399,091</p> <p>COF: \$2,815,936</p> <p>TOTAL \$3,215,027</p>
Outcome 2: Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range countries	Baseline: \$2,464,740	Alternative: \$3,478,756	<p>GEF \$300,000</p> <p>COF: \$714,016</p> <p>TOTAL \$1,014,016</p>
Outcome 3:	Baseline: \$90,952	Alternative: \$943,000	<p>GEF \$210,000</p>

Cost/Benefit	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems			COF: \$642,048 TOTAL \$852,048
Project Management	\$0	\$114,909	GEF \$90,909 COF: \$24,000 TOTAL \$114,909
TOTAL COSTS	Baseline: \$12,711,921	Alternative: \$17,907,921	Incremental Cost \$5,196,000

SECTION III: Total Budget and Work plan

Short Title:	Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation									
Award ID:	00085504									
Project ID:	5886									
Business Unit:	KRY10									
Project Title:	Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation									
PIMS #:	5413									
Implement. Partner:	SLT									
GEF Outcome/ Atlas Activity	Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Acct Code	Atlas Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Total (USD)	Budget Note
OUTCOME 1: Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems	UNDP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	20,000	20,000	32,500	72,500	1
				71300	Local Consultants	8,000	9,000	10,200	27,200	2
				71600	Travel	18,000	20,000	23,400	61,400	3
				72100	Contractual Services - Company	35,000	40,000	20,000	95,000	4
				75700	Training/Workshop	30,000	34,000	30,000	94,000	5
				74200	Audio-visual and printing production costs	11,000	17,000	15,000	43,000	6
				74500	Miscellaneous	2,000	2,000	1,991	5,991	7
					Total			124,000	142,000	133,091
OUTCOME 2: Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems,	UNDP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	-	-	-	-	8
				71300	Local Consultants	8,000	9,000	8,600	25,600	9
				71600	Travel	15,000	17,000	17,000	49,000	10

demonstrated and adopted by range states				72100	Contractual Services - Company	35,000	45,000	30,000	110,000	11
				75700	Training/Workshop	25,000	30,000	34,000	89,000	12
				74200	Audio-visual and printing production costs	5,000	9,000	9,400	23,400	13
				74500	Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	14
					Total	89,000	111,000	100,000	300,000	
OUTCOME 3: Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems	UNDP	62000	GEF	71200	International Consultants	16,000	20,000	16,000	52,000	15
				71300	Local Consultants	10,000	10,000	12,800	32,800	16
				71600	Travel	6,000	6,000	7,600	19,600	17
				72100	Contractual Services - Company	-	-	-	-	18
				75700	Training/Workshop	20,000	15,000	50,000	85,000	19
				74200	Audio-visual and printing production costs	5,000	5,600	7,000	17,600	20
				74500	Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000	21
					Total	58,000	57,600	94,400	210,000	
Project Management				71200	International Consultants	7,133	7,133	7,133	21,399	22
				71300	Local Consultants	10,080	10,080	10,080	30,240	23
				74100	Audit	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000	24
				74500	Direct Project Costs	3,000	2,000	2,000	7,000	25
				74500	Miscellaneous	13,871	2,000	1,399	17,270	26
					Total	39,084	26,213	25,612	90,909	
TOTAL PROJECT						310,084	336,813	353,103	1,000,000	

BUDGET NOTES	
1	Domestic expertise in transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation is still limited and regional/international expertise to provide best practice support and quality control for Outputs 1.1-1.3 would be critical for ensuring transformational change. International consultant "Technical Advisor on Best practices (US\$2000 X 28pw = 56,000); Terminal evaluation by International Project evaluator (US\$2750 X 6 pw = \$16,500). Total = \$72,500. See detail on tasks in Table 11.
2	Overall technical support in delivering all project activities under Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3. GSLEP Secretariat Manager US\$400 X 6pw = 2,400); GSLEP Communications specialist (US\$400 X 18pw = \$7,200); Transboundary landscape facilitator US\$ 400 X 38pw = \$15,200; Terminal evaluation by Local Project evaluator (US\$400 X 6 pw = 2,400) Total = \$27,200. See further detail on tasks in Table 11.
3	Pro rata travel for international and national consultants and project staff, including international and domestic flight costs, terminal expenses and DSAs.
4	Service contract "Illegal Wildlife trade" (\$70,000); Service contract "Legislation and transboundary agreements" (\$25,000). Total \$95,000. See further detail on tasks in Table 12.
5	Key planning, consultation and training meetings for, inter alia: inception workshop (\$15,000); 3X project board meetings (\$12,000), 3 X Project Technical committee meetings (\$12,000), regional workshop on wildlife trade control (\$15,000); regional training course on illegal wildlife trade (\$15,000); regional meeting for customs departments (\$10,000); Local coordination meetings in pilot landscape and other meetings (\$15,000). Total = \$94,000 Venues will generally be provided under national co-financing.
6	Editing, design and printing of reports (Russian language), training and awareness materials including: Atlas and posters of wildlife species and derivatives involved in illegal transboundary trade in Central Asian Region (8,000), Training materials and wildlife derivatives collections (5,000), user-friendly handbook based on analysis of lessons learned /best practices (8,000) etc . Most materials will be distributed electronically.
7	Contingency to cover exchange rate fluctuations, and miscellaneous costs associated with organizing specialized meetings eg M&E
8	None
9	Overall technical support to PMU in delivering all project activities under Outputs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3: GSLEP Manager (US\$400 X 4 pw = 1,600); GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist (US\$400 X 40 pw = 16,000); Transboundary landscape facilitator US\$ 400 X 20pw = \$8000. Total = \$25,600 See further detail on tasks in Table 11.
10	Pro rata travel for international and national consultants and project staff, including international and domestic flight costs, DSAs and accommodation and ground transport.
11	Service contract/s to support: a) development and approval of common monitoring framework (Output 2.1 - \$55,000); b) Spatial database (Output 2.2 and 2.3 - \$55,000). Total = \$110,000 See further detail on tasks in Table 12.
12	Key technical and consultation sessions including: 12 range state expert meeting in YR1 for approval of monitoring framework and GIS (20,000 - see also Output 3); regional workshop in YR3 to embed SL landscape monitoring framework to NSLEPs in CA countries (15,000); Regional training course on monitoring methods (YR2) \$15,000; Regional training course on GIS (YR2) \$15,000; Pilot landscape management measures meeting YR3 \$8,000. Additional technical meetings 16,000. Total = 89,000. Venues will generally be provided under national co-financing.
13	Editing, design and printing of reports, manuals and Russian language learning materials, brochures etc. Software for dissemination of database.

14	Contingency to cover exchange rate fluctuations, and miscellaneous costs associated with organizing specialized meetings eg M&E
15	International expertise to provide best practice support and quality control for Outputs 3.1-3.3 would be critical for ensuring transformational change. . International consultant – Web design expert US\$2000 X5pw = 10,000; International consultant “Technical Advisor on Best practices (US\$2000 X 4pw = 8,000); International consultant – Financing / PES US\$2000 X17pw = 34000. Total = 52,000 See further detail on tasks in Table 11.
16	Overall technical support to SLT-PMU in delivering all project activities under Outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.3: GSLEP Manager - US\$400 X 15 pw = 6,000; GSLEP Fundraising Specialist - US\$400 X 35 pw = 14,000; GSLEP Monitoring and information specialist US\$400 X 25pw = 10,000, GSLEP Comms Specialist US\$400 X 7pw = 2,800. Total = \$32,800. See further detail on tasks in Table 11.
17	Pro rata travel for international and national consultants and project staff, including international and domestic flight costs, DSAs and accommodation and ground transport.
18	None
19	Key technical and consultation sessions including: 12 range state expert meeting in YR1 \$20,000 (contribution also from Outcome 2); 12 Range state summit in Year 3 \$40,000; Pilot landscape Partners Financing Meeting in Year2 \$5,000; Rapid ES valuation / PES workshop for pilot landscape YR2 \$5000; Donor meeting in YR2 \$5,000; Regional meeting for Confederation of Industries in YR3 \$10,000. Total = \$85,000. Venues will generally be provided under national co-financing.
20	Editing, design and printing of reports and Russian language learning materials, brochures, web development etc
21	Contingency to cover exchange rate fluctuations, and miscellaneous costs associated with organizing specialized meetings eg M&E
22	Project management and coordination (Regional Project Coordinator @ 1 day per week (=20%) pro rata of US\$ 2972 X 36 months = \$21,399)
23	Project Assistant @ 3 days per week pro rata of US\$ 1400 X 36 months = \$30,240.
24	Audit fees at US\$ 5,000 per annum (due to the NGO implementing modality, an external audit of the implementing partner will be conducted each year.
25	Direct Project costs for services provided by UNDP
26	Contingency each year to cover exchange rate fluctuations, and miscellaneous costs associated with organizing specialized meetings eg M&E. Year 1 costs also include \$11,871 for equipping and security of the PMU


DETAIL OF CALCULATIONS

Summary of Funds (US\$)				
Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
GEF (excl. PPG & Agency fee)	309,217	336,946	353,837	1,000,000
UNDP	130,000	130,000	140,000	400,000
Government of Kyrgyz Republic	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Republic of Tajikistan	200,000	250,000	250,000	700,000
Snow Leopard Trust	200,000	200,000	200,000	600,000
NABU	191,000	200,000	225,000	616,000
Panthera	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
FFI	30,000	30,000	20,000	80,000
WWF-US	300,000	300,000	-	600,000
Total	1,760,217	1,846,946	1,588,837	5,196,000

SECTION IV: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PART I: Other agreements

CO-FINANCING LETTERS

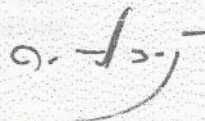
<p>КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫН ОКМӨТҮНӨ КАРАШТУУ КУРЧАП ТУРГАН ЧӨЙРӨНҮ КОРГОО ЖАНА ТОКОЙ ЧАРБАСЫ МАМЛЕКЕТТИК АГЕНТТИГИ</p> <p>720001, Бишкек ш. Токтогул көч. 228 тел. (996-312) 352727, факс: 353102, 353094 e-mail: nature.kg@mail.ru, ecokg@aknet.kg, www.nature.kg Биринчи май КРБ, ЖИИ: 02001200610051 э/б: 129052238181004, БИК: 129052 Банк: Бишкек Филиалы ААК «РСК-Банк» ОКПО: 23994204 0253101 2</p>		<p>ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ОХРАНЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ И ЛЕСНОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА ПРИ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕ КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ</p> <p>720001, г. Бишкек, ул. Токтогула, 228 тел. (996-312) 352727, факс: 353102, 353094 e-mail: nature.kg@mail.ru, ecokg@aknet.kg, www.nature.kg Первомайский РСК, ИНН: 02001200610051 р/с: 129052238181004, БИК: 129052 Банк: Бишкекский Филиал ОАО «РСК-Банк» ОКПО: 23994204 0253101 2</p>
<p>25.06.2015 г. № 01-28/293</p>		
<p>Секретариат Глобального Экологического Фонда</p>		
<p>№ _____</p>		
<p><i>Тема: Подтверждение софинансирования Кыргызской Республикой проекта ГЭФ «Трансграничное сотрудничество для сохранения снежного барса и его экосистем»</i></p>		
<p>Настоящим письмом выражаем свое глубокое уважение и признательность за поддержку, оказываемую Глобальным экологическим Фондом природоохранным мероприятиям экологического сектора Кыргызской Республики.</p> <p>Одним из направлений наших усилий по сохранению биоразнообразия является охрана и восстановление популяции снежного барса, который является индикатором здоровья высокогорных экосистем. Мощным импульсом для сохранения снежного барса стал Всемирный форум по сохранению снежного барса, который прошел 22-23 октября 2013 в Бишкеке по инициативе и под руководством Президента Кыргызской Республики Атамбаева А., в ходе которого высокими должностными лицами всех 12 стран ареала снежного барса были одобрены Бишкекская декларация и Глобальная программа по сохранению снежного барса и его экосистем (GSLEP). Данная приверженность стран ареала выдвинула важность защиты снежных барсов и высокогорных экосистем на первый план.</p> <p>С момента проведения Всемирного форума страны ареала определили 23 ландшафта, которые будут сохранены к 2020, а также согласовали основные направления деятельности и функции управления в процессе реализации Глобальной программы. В настоящее время страны ареала разрабатывают национальные планы по сохранению отобранных высокогорных ландшафтов. Данные планы включают такой важнейший компонент, как эффективное трансграничное сотрудничество.</p>		
<p>011098</p>		

Отмечаем важность проекта ГЭФ «Трансграничное сотрудничество для сохранения снежного барса и его экосистем», направленного на сохранение уникального биоразнообразия Центрального Тянь-Шаня, который имеет огромное значение, как для нашей страны, так и для всего региона.

Учитывая значимость данного проекта, мы имеем честь подтвердить софинансирование со стороны Кыргызской Республики в размере 900 тыс. долл. США в течение 3 лет в качестве не денежного вклада.

Надеемся на продолжение плодотворного сотрудничества.

Директор



С.Атаджанов

Unofficial translation of co-financing letter from the Kyrgyz Republic

To: Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility

Subject: Confirmation of co-financing by the Kyrgyz Republic for GEF project "Transboundary cooperation snow leopard and ecosystems conservation"

We express our deep appreciation for the support provided by the Global Environment Fund for activities pertaining to environment protection in the Kyrgyz Republic.

As an indicator of the health of high altitude ecosystems, protection and restoration of snow leopard populations is one of our priority areas in the field of biodiversity conservation. A powerful impetus to the conservation of the snow leopard was provided during the Global Forum of the Snow Leopard Conservation, which was held on 22-23 October 2013 in Bishkek on the initiative and leadership of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Honorable Mr. Almazbek Atambaev. During this event, senior officials from all 12 snow leopard range countries adopted the Bishkek Declaration and the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystems Protection Program (GSLEP). In a first of its kind, this commitment from the snow leopard range countries defines the importance of protecting the snow leopard and high altitude ecosystems.

Since the Global Forum, the range countries have identified 23 landscapes to be secured by 2020, and agreed on the basic guidelines to develop management plans for securing these. Currently, the range countries are developing the national Management plans for selected landscapes. These plans will require effective transboundary cooperation as an effective management tool.

We note the importance of the GEF project "Transboundary cooperation snow leopard and ecosystems conservation" aimed to the preserving the unique biodiversity of the Central Tien Shan, which has great importance for our country as well as the entire region.

Given the importance of this project, we confirm an amount of USD 900,000 as co-financing for the next 3 years in the form of non-monetary contribution on behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic. We look forward to continue the fruitful cooperation.

Director

S.Atadjanov

КУМИТАИ
ҲИФЗИ МУҲИТИ ЗИСТИ
НАЗДИ ҲУКУМАТИ
ҶУМҲУРИИ ТОҶИКИСТОН

734003, шаҳри Душанбе, кӯчаи Шамси, 5/1
тел./факс: (992 37) 236-40-59, 236-13-53
Веб-сайт: www.hifztabiat.tj
Почтаи электронӣ: muhit@hifztabiat.tj



КОМИТЕТ
ОХРАНЫ ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ
ПРИ ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ ТАДЖИКИСТАН

734003, город Душанбе, улица Шамси, 5/1
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Электронная почта: muhit@hifztabiat.tj

COMMITTEE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

5/1 Shamsi str., 734003, Dushanbe city, tel./fax: (992 37) 236-40-59, 236-13-53, web-site: www.hifztabiat.tj, e-mail: muhit@hifztabiat.tj

№ 1/9-03-1185 » 16. 07 соли 2015
Ба № _____ аз « _____ » соли 2015

To: **Dr. Naoko Ishii**
CEO and Chairperson
Global Environment Facility

Re: Letter of commitment for the UNDP/GEF Project "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation"

The Committee for Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan presents its compliments to the Global Environment Facility, and is grateful for the long-term and fruitful cooperation in the promotion and implementation of environmental programs and projects in Tajikistan.

The Committee also notes that the UNDP/GEF Project "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation", which aims at preserving the unique biodiversity of the Central Tien Shan, complies with the environmental priorities of the Republic of Tajikistan and is a catalyst for action to preserve ecosystems and valuable species of snow leopard.

Given the importance of this project, the Committee confirms that the Republic of Tajikistan wishes to contribute USD 700,000 as of in-kind co-financing to the project.

Committee for Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Global Environment Facility the assurances of its highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. Khayrullo Ibodzoda

Chairman of the Committee on
Environmental Protection under the
Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

GEF Operational and Political Focal Point
Republic of Tajikistan



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

13 July 2015
5718

Dear Ms. Dinu,

UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic is pleased to confirm co-funding of activities for the GEF-UNDP "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation" medium-size project. This co-funding amounts up to 400 000 USD and will be allocated for implementation of relevant project activities during 2015-2018. This amount will be provided from the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS) project implemented by UNDP as a flagship of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (the Ministry of the Environment of Japan). In accordance with country's national priorities, the COMDEKS project is providing technical and expert support in establishing a working level Secretariat on conservation of Snow Leopards and its fragile habitats that now serves thematic needs and ensures coordination with all twelve snow leopard range countries.

We understand that the GEF project is also aiming to establish a transboundary landscape in the Issyk Kul area between Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Hence and as part of its ongoing work, following outputs will be supported:

- Activities aimed at protecting snow leopards, their fragile habitats and natural coastal ecosystems of the Issyk-Kul Province;
- Support for socially vulnerable segments of the population, enabling environmental leadership among women and the youth;
- Information and knowledge sharing, creation of a database of traditional environmental knowledge and successful innovative practices;
- Promotion of principles of sustainable agriculture and innovative "cyclic" natural resources management practices on the farms;
- Joint management of natural resources through cooperation of stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pradeep Sharma', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Pradeep Sharma
Resident Representative a.i.

Ms. Adriana Dinu,
UNDP/GEF Executive Coordinator,
BPPS, UNDP NY

UNDP in Kyrgyzstan · 160 Chui ave., 720040, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Tel.: +996 (312) 611211 · Fax: +996 (312) 611217 · E-mail: registry.kg@undp.org · www.undp.kg



Snow Leopard Trust

25 June 2015

**Mr. Alexander Avanesov
Resident Representative of UNDP
in Kyrgyz Republic**

Dear Mr. Alexander Avanesov,

In my position as the Executive Director of the Snow Leopard Trust, I am pleased to confirm that the Snow Leopard Trust is providing co-funding for the medium-size GEF funded project "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation", for which UNDP Kyrgyzstan acts as an implementation agency.

As part of the Snow Leopard Trust co-funding we are ready to support:

- Training and capacity building on wildlife research and monitoring;
- Improved trans-boundary coordination of conservation and research activities;
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of conservation programs; and
- Strengthening the GSLEP Secretariat.

Co-funding will be provided via Snow Leopard Trust project implementation from 2016 to 2018 in the amount of not less than \$600,000.

Sincerely yours,

**Brad Rutherford
Executive Director**

Snow Leopard Trust
www.snowleopard.org

4649 Sunnyside Ave. N. #325
Seattle, WA 98103, USA

Tel: +1 206 632 2421
info@snowleopard.org



Исполнительному координатору
Программы развития ООН
Глобального экологического фонда
Г-же Адриане Дину

Boris Tichomirow
Leiter Mittelasienprogrammen

Telefon: 030.284 964-17 12
Telefax: 030.284 964-37 12

Berlin, 30. Jan 2015

Тема: *Со-финансирование проекта ГЭФ-ПРООН «Трансграничное сотрудничество для сохранения снежного барса и его экосистем» от имени Союза охраны природы Германии.*

Уважаемая госпожа Дину!

Настоящим письмом Союз охраны природы Германии (НАБУ) отмечает важность мобилизации усилий всех партнеров и стран Центральной Азии в деле сохранения уникального биоразнообразия. Данный регион является приоритетным для НАБУ, в котором мы уже более 20 лет осуществляем деятельность, направленную на охрану видов, находящихся под угрозой исчезновения, создания особо охраняемых природных территорий и устойчивое развитие.

В этой связи НАБУ идентифицировал объем поддержки реализации проекта ГЭФ-ПРООН «Трансграничное сотрудничество для сохранения снежного барса и его экосистем» (Кыргызстан, Казахстан, Таджикистан и Узбекистан) через параллельное финансирование в размере порядка 550 000 евро (примерно 616 000 долларов США). Данные средства будут направлены в период 2015 - 2018 годы на реализацию природоохранных мероприятий НАБУ в странах-участницах указанного проекта, в частности:

- ежегодная поддержка реабилитационного центра НАБУ «Снежный барс» и антибраконьерской «Группы Барс» (Кыргызстан);
- реализация трансграничной деятельности по охране биоразнообразия (в рамках финансирования со стороны BMZ) по Северному Тянь-Шаню (Казахстан и Кыргызстан);
- информационно-просветительская деятельность по сохранению биоразнообразия и мониторингу снежного барса (Казахстан, Кыргызстан, Таджикистан), выпуск зоологического ежегодника «Selevinia» (Казахстан) и т.д.

Выражаем надежду на успешную реализацию проекта ГЭФ-ПРООН и надеемся на продолжение плодотворного сотрудничества.

Б.Л. Тихомиров



Директор среднеазиатских программ НАБУ

Bankverbindung

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K. 00 618 00

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NABU - National Association for the Conservation of Birds

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Informationen und
Service im Internet:
www.NABU.de

NABU International

Der NABU ist Mitglied der Internationaler Naturschutzjugend - IJUN und deutscher Partner von BirdLife International

Unofficial translation of co-financing letter from NABU

**To: Ms. Adriana Dinu
Executive Coordinator
UNDP - Global Environment Facility**

Subject: Co-financing of the GEF-UNDP project, "Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard and ecosystem conservation" on behalf of the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union of Germany (NABU).

Dear Ms. Dinu,

Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union of Germany (NABU) notes the importance of mobilizing all partners and Central Asian countries for conservation of its unique biodiversity. The region is a priority area for NABU where we have more than 20 years of experience of implementing activities focused around protecting threatened species, creating protected areas and sustainable development.

For realization of the GEF-UNDP project "Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard and ecosystem conservation in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan", NABU will provide support through parallel financing equivalent to 560 000 EUR (approx. 616,000 USD). These funds will be spent during the period between 2015 and 2018 for the implementation of the following environment protection activities by NABU in the participating countries:

- Annual support to the rehabilitation center "Snow Leopard" and the anti-poaching team "Group of Bars" (Kyrgyzstan);
- Implementation of transboundary activities on biodiversity protection (within the framework of funding from BMZ) in the Northern Tien Shan (Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan);
- Outreach activities on biodiversity conservation, snow leopard monitoring (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and publication of Zoological Yearbook "Selevinia" (Kazakhstan), etc .;

We hope for a successful implementation of the project and look forward to continue our fruitful cooperation.

B.L. Tichomirov

Director of Central Asia Program NABU



9 July 2015

Mr. Alexander Avanesov
Resident Representative of UNDP
in the Kyrgyz Republic

Dear Mr. Alexander Avanesov:

In my position as the Executive Director of the Snow Leopard Program at Panthera, I would like to confirm that Panthera is ready to provide co-funding for the medium-size GEF funded project entitled "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation", for which UNDP Kyrgyzstan acts as an implementation agency.

Co-funding will be provided via Panthera project implementation from 2016 to 2018 in the amount of USD\$300,000. Note, this will be contingent on our ability to raise the required funding.

As part of the Panthera co-funding we can support the following outputs:

- Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems (\$100,000); and
- Effective enforcement mechanisms developed and introduced to enforcement agencies (\$200,000)

Sincerely,

Thomas McCarthy
Executive Director – Snow Leopard Program

tmccarthy@panthera.org

8 West 40th Street, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Tel: 646-786-0412, Fax: 646-365-1601
Website: www.panthera.org



Mr. Alexander Avanesov
Resident Representative of UNDP
in Kyrgyz Republic

7th July 2105

Dear Mr Avanesov,

Letter of support for the GEF project "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation"

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) is an international conservation organization with its headquarters in the UK, operating in more than 40 countries worldwide to protect threatened species and ecosystems, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and take account of human needs. FFI serves as a strategic catalyst for the conservation of biological diversity in key regions and habitats around the world, engaging strategically and constructively with key stakeholders in government, the corporate sector, and civil society through a series of projects that directly protect species or habitats. Within these initiatives, FFI has a strong focus on capacity building of Protected Area authorities and other local stakeholders to deliver enhanced conservation.

FFI has been active in Central Asia for over 15 years and has an ongoing programme to support the work of the Sarychat-Eertash reserve within the Tien Shan landscape. Project activities focus on implementing actions identified as priority within the management plan previously developed by the reserve with FFI support, and include training and resource provision, biodiversity survey and monitoring, awareness and eco-education, and improving protection. All these actions increase the effectiveness of the protected area and enhance conservation of an important snow leopard population and habitat.

Over the next 2.5 years, FFI will be spending c. \$80,000 grant funding on our project "Biodiversity Conservation and Management in the Sarychat-Eertash Zapovednik". We are happy for this to be considered co-financing for the GEF project "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation" as support for training and capacity building for conservation and monitoring. This co-financing will be provided via FFI project implementation from 2015 – 2017.

FFI is also willing to cooperate in the wider implementation of the GEF project, where our mutual interests overlap, and in general supports the goal and objectives of the project "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Hotham".

Paul Hotham
Regional Director, Eurasia



Fauna & Flora International
4th Floor, Jupiter House
Station Road
Cambridge, CB1 2JD
United Kingdom

Patron: Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II
Website: www.fauna-flora.org
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President: HRH Princess Laurentien
Innovative conservation since 1903
Registered Charity Number 1011102
A Company Limited by Guarantee,
Registered in England Number 2677068



World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th St. NW
Washington, DC 20037-1193
Main Phone: 202-293-4800
Direct Phone: 202-778-9677
Fax: 202-659-1673
worldwildlife.org

July 15, 2015

Mr. Alexander Avnessov
Resident Representative of UNDP in Kyrgyz Republic
160 Chui Avenue
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 720040

Dear Mr. Avnessov,

In my position as the Managing Director for the WWF-US Asia High Mountains Project, I am pleased to confirm that WWF-US can provide USD 600,000 in co-financing for the GEF Medium-sized Project "Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation," for which UNDP Kyrgyzstan is the implementing agency.

In this regard, WWF will be providing co-financing in the form of funding for already planned activities under the WWF Asia High Mountains Project at GSLEP priority sites that will include habitat mapping, design of management plans, and snow leopard field monitoring as well as support for GSLEP Secretariat activities and operations and leveraging public-private partnerships for snow leopard conservation.

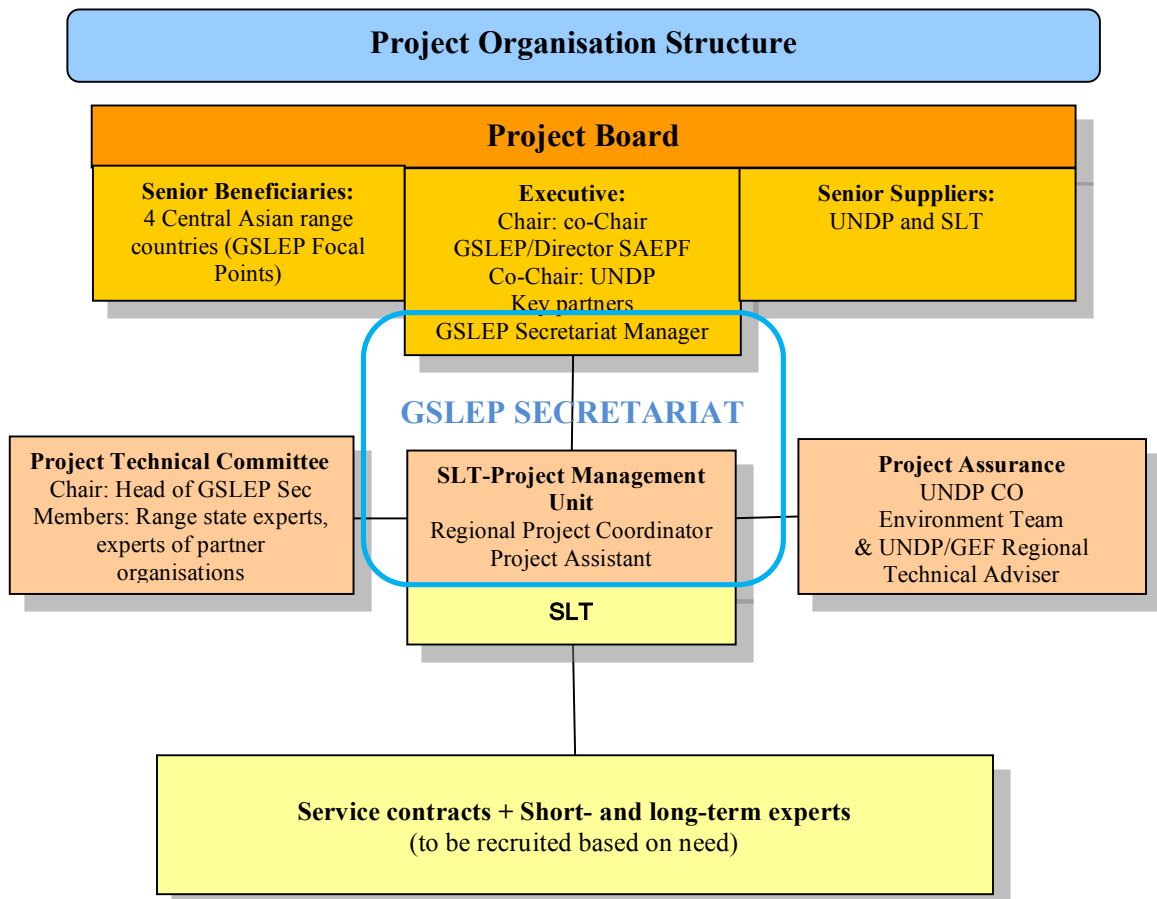
The co-financing period will be two years and two months in duration, from August 1, 2015 to September 30, 2017.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Jon Miceler
Senior Director
Asia Mainland Programs

PART II: Organogram for Project Management Organization



PART III: Terms of Reference for key project staff

Regional Project Coordinator

The GEF-financed Regional Project Coordinator will be contracted by SLT as the NGO implementing partner, based on clear terms of reference and job description that is agreed by partners. The Regional Project Coordinator will report on a day-to-day basis to SLT. S/He has the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the project. Specific responsibilities will include:

- Manage and coordinate the implementation of the project activities in accordance with the Project Document, Annual Work Plans and budgets;
- Prepare Annual Work Plans and budgets, and make revisions if and when necessary, in close coordination with other implementing partners;
- Monitor project progress and oversee the preparation of technical and financial progress reports in accordance with the requirements of the Project Document;
- Organize Project Board and Project Technical Committee meetings, including the preparation and notification of agenda and circulation of documents necessary for these meetings at least a week in advance;
- Prepare and circulate the minutes of Project Board and PTC meetings within a week after such meetings are held;
- Manage staff and consultants assigned to the project;
- Liaise with UNDP on day-to-day project management matters
- Ensure the closest possible coordination with the GSLEP Secretariat, including cost-effectiveness and capacity building.

The Regional Project Coordinator will be appointed based on the following qualifications:

- A Master's degree, preferably in the field of environment or natural resources management, with at least five years of work experience in a project management setting involving multi-lateral funding agency;
- Very good language skills in English (writing, speaking and reading)
- Very good management, representational and inter-personal skills
- Proficiency in the use of computer software applications such as MS Word, MS Excel, and MS Powerpoint

Project Assistant

The GEF-financed Project Assistant will be contracted by SLT and will report to the Regional Project Coordinator. S/he have the following specific responsibilities:

- Consolidate and prepare technical and financial progress reports in accordance with standard reporting policies and procedures set by UNDP and GEF;
- Coordinate with UNDP on timely release of funds required for planned project activities, and ensure timely expenditure reporting to trigger fund releases;
- Keep records of project funds and expenditures;
- Ensure project funds are used in compliance with the Project Document and Government financial rules and procedures;
- Validate and certify FACE forms before submission to UNDP;

- Provide necessary financial information as and when required for project management decisions;
- Provide necessary financial information in the event of Project Audit by the Audit Authority.

The Project Assistant will be appointed based on the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree, preferably in the field of business management, with at least three years of work experience preferably in a project management setting involving multi-lateral funding agency;
- Demonstrated experience in financial accounting and financial reporting
- Good language skills in English (writing, speaking and reading)
- A good team-player
- Proficiency in the use of computer software applications such as MS Word, MS Excel, and accounting software.

OVERVIEW OF INPUTS FROM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONSULTANTS

Table 11. Overview of Inputs from Technical Assistance Consultants

Consultant and Weekly Rate (USD)	Person-weeks	Tasks and Inputs
For Technical Assistance		
Outcome 1		
Local / National contracting		
Local consultant GSLEP Secretariat Manager US\$400 /week	6 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate follow-up support (including workshop) to ensure adoption/implementation of recommendations to relevant agencies for improvement of wildlife trade control based on assessment of poaching and illegal transboundary trade of Snow Leopard and other wildlife in Central Asian Region • Provide appropriate follow-up support to ensure adoption/implementation of recommendations for the legislation improvement based on analysis of legislation related to illegal transboundary wildlife trade control • Provide appropriate follow-up support to ensure adoption/implementation of recommendations for Inter-Governmental Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia for improvement of collaboration aimed at protection of transboundary Snow Leopard populations, prey and their habitat.
Local consultant GSLEP Communications specialist US\$400 /week	18 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support publication and distribution of Atlas and posters of wildlife species and derivatives involved in illegal transboundary trade in Central Asian Region. • Support publication and ensure communication of Training materials and wildlife derivatives collections (confiscated subjects) for Customs Departments to increase their capacity to control illegal transboundary wildlife trade. • Support publication and ensure communication of Guidelines/user-friendly handbook/toolkit of transboundary cooperation and management • Ensure dissemination of materials prepared in the framework of Output 1.1. among relevant agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders via project Web-site and other on-line resources such as NBSAP Forum and BES-Net. •

Consultant and Weekly Rate (USD)	Person-weeks	Tasks and Inputs
Local consultant Transboundary Landscape Facilitator US\$400 /week	38 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support testing of inter-agency agreements for organization of anti-poaching brigades for snow leopard protection involving wildlife agencies, PA inspectors, border guards and hunting outfitters in the Pilot Landscape. • Arrange trainings for relevant agencies and border guards in the Pilot Landscape on advanced techniques and inter-agency cooperation for anti-poaching activities using modern technology and intelligence networks. • Arrange coordination meeting of wildlife agencies of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in the Pilot Landscape to find mechanisms to exchange information and experience on poaching and illegal wildlife trade. • Facilitate cooperation of regional wildlife experts and officers of regional Customs and Border Posts on identification of wildlife derivatives.
National Consultant for Terminal evaluation (\$400 per week)	6 weeks	Under the overall guidance and supervision of UNDP the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks (TOR to be developed according to standard UNDP/GEF guidelines): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting terminal evaluation of results • Support to preparation of TE Report including recommendations
International contracting		
International consultant: “Technical Advisor on Best Practices” (\$2000 per week)	28 weeks over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop technical content for guidelines and mechanisms for transboundary cooperation in snow leopard landscapes for harmonized monitoring, research, management and coordination mechanisms to allow landscapes to share information, based on the experiences from the pilot landscape and international best practices, and follow-up for implementation. • Review lessons learned / best practices (successes & failures) of transboundary cooperation and management related to snow leopards and their landscape conservation (including MEAs, governmental/multi-partner agreements and platforms) in Eurasia • Prepare a user-friendly handbook/toolkit and guidelines based on the above review (with global examples where necessary), for wide dissemination. • Prepare the training plan for capacity building (as identified by GSLEP program), and monitor the capacity development in SL range countries using Capacity Scorecard.
International Consultant for Terminal evaluation (\$2750 per week)	6 weeks over 2 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of UNDP the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks (TOR to be developed according to standard UNDP/GEF guidelines): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting terminal evaluation of results • Preparation of TE Report including recommendations • TOR to be developed according to standard UNDP/GEF guidelines
For Technical Assistance		
Outcome 2		
National contracting		
Local consultant GSLEP Secretariat Manager US\$400 /week	4 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide managerial support to secure official approval of developed SL landscape common monitoring framework among SL range countries via GSLEP mechanism. • Provide managerial support to secure official approval of SL monitoring GIS database structure among range countries via GSLEP mechanisms (link to Activity 2.1.2)

Consultant and Weekly Rate (USD)	Person-weeks	Tasks and Inputs
Local consultant Transboundary Landscape Facilitator US\$400 /week	20 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate demonstration / use of the spatial database in the pilot landscape to develop sustainable land management measures and integrate them into local and regional development planning
Local consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist US\$400 /week	40 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support national experts from range states to engage in development of the Common monitoring framework based on set of universal indicators and standard tools for monitoring of SL landscapes including populations and socio economics at regional, national (NSLEP) and global (GSLEP) levels Ensure expert and official approval of developed SL landscape common monitoring framework among SL range countries via GSLEP mechanism. Provide technical support to embed SL landscape common monitoring framework to NSLEPs using CA countries as an example. Provide training for PA staff, wildlife agencies and other relevant organizations of Central Asian countries on monitoring methods of snow leopard and its prey species (held in the pilot transboundary landscape) Engage national experts in development of GIS database structure for common monitoring systems for SL landscapes. Ensure expert approval of SL monitoring GIS database structure among range countries via GSLEP mechanisms (link to Activity 2.1.2) Ensure incorporation of GIS database for monitoring of SL populations and ecosystems for Pilot Landscape into institutional frameworks. Provide GIS training on using the GIS database to organizations involved in SL monitoring and conservation of snow leopard. Provide technical support to dissemination of GIS database to stakeholders and public via powerful online servers (e.g. ESRI) Provide technical support to demonstration and use of the spatial database in the pilot landscape to develop sustainable land management measures and integrate them into local and regional development planning
For Technical Assistance		
Outcome 3		
National contracting		
Local consultant GSLEP Secretariat Manager US\$400 /week	15 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and manage implementation of operational 5 year plan and budget for GSLEP Secretariat coordination activities on conservation and monitoring of SL Priority Landscapes. Organize Summit of SL range countries in YR3 2017 to evaluate success of National and Global SLEP, disseminate lessons learned and plan future activities. Organise expert community of practice meeting (YR1 2016) to share best practices in transboundary cooperation and approve global monitoring framework Engage large corporations to support conservation of SL Priority Landscapes and GSLEP implementation in cooperation with GTI Manage establishment of Confederation of Industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asian countries, including regional meeting
Local consultant GSLEP Communications	7 weeks input over 36 months	Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 3:

Consultant and Weekly Rate (USD)	Person-weeks	Tasks and Inputs
specialist US\$400 /week		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver and maintain enhanced website and communication mechanisms for GSLEP range countries and partners, based on analysis of needs.
Local consultant Transboundary Landscape Facilitator US\$400 /week	20 weeks input over 36 months	<p>Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for pilot landscape.
Local consultant GSLEP Monitoring and information specialist US\$400 /week	25 weeks input over 36 months	<p>Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support from GSLEP Secretariat to range states on conservation and monitoring of SL Priority Landscapes. • Establish GSLEP SL information sharing centre at the Secretariat to collect data from range countries to evaluate and report on progress of GSLEP Program.
Local consultant GSLEP Fundraising specialist US\$400 /week	35 weeks input over 36 months	<p>Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Regional Project Coordinator, the consultant will be hired to carry out the following tasks for Outcome 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fundraising inputs to Operational 5 year plan and budget for GSLEP Secretariat coordination activities on conservation and monitoring of SL Priority Landscapes. • Support international specialist to develop GSLEP Funding Strategy for 5 year period, based on feasibility study. • Develop consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for pilot landscape. • Provide information and support for Rapid Economic Evaluation of the pilot landscape Ecosystem Services and feasibility study for promotion of PES in the project pilot landscape • Develop and implement targeted National portfolios of projects to engage the business sector in SL conservation in Central Asian Countries based on assessment of potentials. • Support engagement of large corporations to support conservation of SL Priority Landscapes and GSLEP implementation in cooperation with GTI
International contracting		
International consultant on Web design expert (\$2000 per week)	5 weeks over 24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a review of the web site needs for effective operation of the GSLEP Secretariat, including gathering and disseminating results of monitoring using the common monitoring framework and standardised spatial database. • Enhance website and electronic communication mechanisms for GSLEP range countries and partners to address previously identified needs
International consultant: “Technical Advisor on Best Practices” (\$2000 per week)	4 weeks over 15 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise and facilitate expert community of practice meeting (YR1 2016) to share best practices in transboundary cooperation and approve global monitoring framework
International consultant on Financing/PES (\$2000 per week)	17 weeks over 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a GSLEP Funding Strategy for 5 year period, based on feasibility study. • Conduct a rapid Economic Evaluation of the pilot landscape Ecosystem Services and develop a feasibility study for the promotion of PES in the project landscape • Build a consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism to support snow leopard conservation in the Sarychat / Northern Tien Shan pilot landscape. • Prepare targeted national portfolios of projects to engage the business sector in SL conservation in Central Asian Countries based on assessment of potentials.

Note: The above ToRs are provisional and will need to be reviewed and finalised in more detail during the project inception phase.

Table 12. Overview of Deliverables from Service Contracts

Service Contract	Deliverables
Illegal Wildlife Trade US\$ 70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on poaching and illegal trade in 4 countries with recommendations to relevant agencies for improvement of wildlife trade control based on assessment of poaching and illegal transboundary trade of Snow Leopard and other wildlife in Central Asian Region, and technical support for adoption/implementation including workshop for relevant government agencies and experts. • Prepare Atlas and posters of wildlife species and derivatives involved in illegal transboundary trade in Central Asian Region (publication costs not included). • Training materials and wildlife derivatives collections (confiscated subjects) for Customs Departments to increase their capacity to control illegal transboundary wildlife trade. • Trainings for Customs Departments on illegal wildlife transboundary trade control including use of detection dogs for identification of wildlife derivatives. • Meeting of Customs Departments on international cooperation and information exchange to improve illegal wildlife transboundary trade control in Central Asia. • Development of inter-agency agreements for organization of anti-poaching brigades for snow leopard protection involving wildlife agencies, PA inspectors, border guards and hunting outfitters in Pilot Landscape. • Trainings for relevant agencies and border guards in Pilot Landscape on advanced techniques and inter-agency cooperation for anti-poaching activities using modern technology and intelligence networks. • Coordination meeting of wildlife agencies of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in Pilot Landscape to find mechanisms to exchange information and experience on poaching and illegal wildlife trade. • Cooperation of regional wildlife experts and officers of regional Customs and Border Posts on identification of wildlife derivatives.
Legislation and transboundary Agreements US\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of legislation related to illegal transboundary wildlife trade control resulting in recommendations for the legislation improvement and appropriate follow-up to support adoption/implementation. • Documents and Recommendations for Inter-Governmental Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia for improvement of collaboration aimed at protection of transboundary Snow Leopard populations, prey and their habitat, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ snow leopard trans-boundary action plans ○ implementation of the adopted CMS Guidelines on Mitigating the Impact of Linear Infrastructure and Related Disturbances on Mammals in Central Asia at the regional and national levels ○ implementation of the CMS Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the argali, one of the key prey species for snow leopard ○ Agreements about wildlife migration corridors (free from border fences) (eg as required on the border of TJ and KG) ○ Agreements on establishment of Transboundary Protected Areas • Appropriate follow-up/meetings to support adoption / implementation • Guidelines and mechanisms for cooperation in transboundary snow leopard landscapes (international agreements templates and drafts) for harmonized monitoring, research and management and coordination mechanisms to allow landscapes to share information, based on the experiences from the pilot landscape and international best practices, and follow-up meetings for implementation.

<p>Common Monitoring Framework US\$ 55,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common monitoring framework based on set of universal indicators and standard tools for monitoring of SL landscapes including populations and socio economics at regional, national (NSLEP) and global (GSLEP) levels • Official and expert approval of developed SL landscape common monitoring framework among SL range countries via GSLEP mechanism. • Embed SL landscape common monitoring framework to NSLEPs using CA countries as an example. • Training for PA staff, wildlife agencies and other relevant organizations of Central Asian countries on monitoring methods of snow leopard and its prey species (held in the pilot transboundary landscape)
<p>Spatial database US\$ 55,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of GIS database structure for common monitoring systems for SL landscapes. • Technical advice to official and expert approval of SL monitoring GIS database structure among range countries via GSLEP mechanisms (link to Activity 2.1.2) • GIS database for monitoring of SL populations and ecosystems for Sarychat / Northern Tian-Shan Pilot Landscape. Incorporation of the database into institutional frameworks. • Providing GIS training on building and using the GIS database to organizations involved in SL monitoring and conservation of snow leopard in CA. • Dissemination of GIS database to stakeholders and public via powerful online servers (e.g. ESRI)

Note: The above ToRs are provisional and will need to be reviewed and finalised in more detail during the project inception phase.

PART IV: Stakeholder Involvement Plan

243. Stakeholder consultations were initiated during the PIF discussions, through various GSLEP events and with a wide range of stakeholders during the PPG phase from May to July 2015, including the mini PPG Log-frame Workshop held on 8 May, 2015 plus PPG visits to participating countries (see Appendix 6 List of stakeholders consulted during PPG phase). The key output was conclusion on the structure of the logframe, agreement on the outcomes and outputs, a description of the indicative activities to be undertaken, and selection of the transboundary pilot landscape. Bilateral exchanges were also made with several executing partners and key stakeholders at national and pilot landscape levels. The project log-frame was circulated to the key stakeholders for review in May 2015. The draft project document was then presented to the main project stakeholders in June 2015. Generally, project design was a participatory process, in line with UNDP and GEF requirements. The project builds heavily on earlier work led by GSLEP Secretariat involving the consultation process to develop the GSLEP, which involved a very wide range of stakeholders.
244. The key stakeholders include the government (wildlife) agencies concerned with GSLEP implementation, customs and border agencies, research and monitoring institutes, intergovernmental conventions and agencies, international and national NGOs active in the target countries, private sector (including mining and tourism) companies operating in snow leopard landscapes, and local level stakeholders in the project transboundary pilot landscape.
245. During project preparation, a preliminary stakeholder analysis was undertaken in order to identify key stakeholders, assess their interests in the project and define their roles and responsibilities in project implementation. Table 4 in the Stakeholder Analysis section lists the key stakeholders associated with conserving snow leopards and their critical ecosystems in Central Asia. The involvement of stakeholders in project implementation, broken down by Outcome and Output,

is given in Table 13 below. The full Stakeholder Involvement Plan will be completed upon project inception.

Table 13. Involvement of stakeholders in project implementation

Outcome/ Output	Stakeholder	Role in Project
Outcome 1: Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems		
Output 1.1: Tools, methods and guidelines for effective transboundary cooperation developed, tested and made available to stakeholders	CITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of training materials for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors in Central Asia
	CMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of development of international agreements and programs for conservation of transboundary populations of snow leopard and its prey species
	GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of international agreements and programs for conservation of transboundary populations of snow leopard and its prey species
	Inter-Governmental Commission for Sustainable Development in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration and approval of international agreements and programs for conservation snow leopard and its prey species, wildlife migration corridors, control of wildlife trade and transboundary nature reserves
	Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation
	Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation
	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation
	National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation
	State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of development of international agreements and programs for snow leopard conservation
	Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development training materials for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia
	Biological Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan	
	Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of Tajik Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan	
	Institute of Genetic Diversity of Plant and Animals of Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan	
		WWF (Central Asia Office)

Outcome/ Output	Stakeholder	Role in Project
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia • Participation in the development of international agreements and programs for conservation of transboundary snow leopard populations
	Snow Leopard Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia
	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia
	Panthera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia • Participation in the development of programs for conservation of transboundary snow leopard populations in Central Asia
	Snow Leopard Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of conservation transboundary cooperation experience in Eurasia
	INTERPOL Environmental Crime Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Analysis of legislation of Central Asia's countries for control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade
	TRAFFIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia
	Association for Biodiversity Conservation of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia • Organization of international collaboration of customs department in the Central Asia
	Snow Leopard Fund – Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the analysis of poaching and wildlife trade levels in Central Asia • Participation in the development of training materials and trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia

Outcome/ Output	Stakeholder	Role in Project
Output 1.2: Training materials and methods developed and disseminated, including through an on-line platform	GSLEP Secretariat	Dissemination of materials prepared in the framework of Output 1.1. among relevant agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders via project Web-site and other on-line resources such as NBSAP Forum and BES-Net.
Output 1.3: Effective enforcement mechanisms developed and introduced to enforcement agencies	CITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors in Central Asia
	Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff
	Republican State Institution “Okhotzooptom”, Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and international collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the snow leopard habitat • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Leading anti-poaching inter-agency collaboration in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff
	State Agency for Environmental and Technical Safety of the Government of Kyrgyz Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and international collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the snow leopard habitat • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff • Leading anti-poaching inter-agency collaboration in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary Landscape
	Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff
	National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff
	State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in capacity building and development of inter-agency collaboration of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff
	State Inspection for Protection of Wildlife and Plants (Gosbiokontrol), Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of inter-agency and international collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in the snow leopard habitat • Participation in capacity building of customs officers, border guards, wildlife agencies and PA staff
		Customs Agencies of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
Border Guard Services of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the development of international and inter-agency collaboration to control poaching and illegal wildlife trade in border zones of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

Outcome/ Output	Stakeholder	Role in Project
	Tajikistan and Uzbekistan	
	Association for Biodiversity Conservation of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of international and inter-agency cooperation for protection of snow leopard populations in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary landscape
	Association of hunters of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the trainings for customs officers, border guards and wildlife inspectors on control of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Central Asia
Outcome 2: Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range states		
Output 2.1: Common monitoring indicators and methods for snow leopard landscapes and populations developed, tested and disseminated	GSLEP Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of discussion, approval and implementation of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems among range countries
	Governments of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kingdom of Bhutan, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Mongolia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion, approval and implementation of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems
	Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Kazakhstan
	State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Kyrgyzstan
	Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Tajikistan
	National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Tajikistan
	State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring integration of standard monitoring system for snow leopard, its prey species, and ecosystems into national biodiversity monitoring system of Uzbekistan
	Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in discussion and adoption of the global snow leopard monitoring system at national level in Central Asia
Biological Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan		
Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of Tajik Academy of Sciences, Tajikistan		
Institute of Genetic Diversity of Plant and Animals of Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan		

Outcome/ Output	Stakeholder	Role in Project
	Snow Leopard Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of global snow leopard monitoring system at national level in Central Asia
	Snow Leopard Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of global snow leopard monitoring system Providing trainings for PA staff and wildlife agencies on snow leopard monitoring
	Snow Leopard Fund – Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in integration of global snow leopard monitoring system in the biodiversity monitoring system of Kyrgyzstan
	Association of hunters of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing basic data for national snow leopard monitoring system of Tajikistan
Output 2.2: Spatial database for monitoring and management of one transboundary landscape is developed	GSLEP Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of global monitoring center for snow leopard populations and ecosystems Approval of snow leopard monitoring GIS database structure among range countries via GSLEP mechanisms Dissemination of GIS database to stakeholders and public via powerful online servers (e.g. ESRI)
	GSLEP Secretariat, Snow Leopard Trust, Snow Leopard Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of GIS database structure for common monitoring systems for Snow Leopard landscapes
	WWF Central Asia Program, Snow Leopard Trust, Snow Leopard Conservancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing GIS training on building and using the GIS database to organizations involved in monitoring and conservation of snow leopard
	GIS Terra Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS database for monitoring of snow leopard populations and ecosystems for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary Landscape Incorporation of the database into institutional frameworks
Output 2.3: Sustainable landscape management measures are identified and presented to stakeholders for implementation	Association for Biodiversity Conservation of Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of data on snow leopard key population and habitat in the system of regional socio-economic planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary landscape
	Snow Leopard Fund – Kyrgyzstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of data on snow leopard key population and habitat in the system of regional socio-economic planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan Transboundary landscape
	Business companies (mining, development, tourism, others) in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
	Hunting concessions in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
	Local communities in the Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of sustainable land management measures and integration of them into local and regional development planning in Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
Outcome 3: Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems		
Output 3.1: Global coordination mechanism for technical support,	GSLEP Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of the Snow Leopard Forum in 2017 Initiation of collaboration with private sector to provide sufficient funding for GSLEP Establishment of global monitoring center for snow leopard populations and ecosystems

Outcome/ Output	Stakeholder	Role in Project
resource development and knowledge-sharing is strengthened	Governments of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kingdom of Bhutan, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Mongolia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Snow Leopard Forum in 2017
Output 3.2: Global and national tools for financing snow leopard ecosystem conservation developed, piloted, and shared	GSLEP Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of discussion, approval and implementation of GSLEP financial strategy
	Governments of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kingdom of Bhutan, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Mongolia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of GSLEP implementation at the national level Discussion, approval and implementation of GSLEP financial strategy
	WWF (Central Asia Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of GSLEP financial strategy and negotiations with donors, including private sector
	Snow Leopard Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of GSLEP financial strategy and negotiations with donors, including private sector
	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the development of GSLEP financial strategy and negotiations with donors, including private sector
Output 3.3: Private sector dialogue platforms established	GSLEP Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiation of collaboration with private sector to provide sufficient funding for GSLEP
	Global Tiger Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of collaboration with donors, including private sector, to provide sufficient funding for GSLEP implementation
	National Biodiversity and Biosafety Center of Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the negotiations with private sector in Central Asia to provide funding for snow leopard conservation
	Business companies (mining, development, tourism, others) in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape Participation in the development, approval and funding of targeted national portfolios of projects for snow leopard conservation in Central Asia Support of GSLEP implementation Participation in the Confederation of Industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asia's countries
	Hunting concessions in Central Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape Participation in the development, approval and funding of targeted national portfolios of projects for snow leopard conservation in Central Asia
	Local communities in the Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape
Project Management and Co-financing		
SLT-PMU and GSLEP Secretariat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project coordination and management Control of GSLEP implementation at the global level Initiation of collaboration with private sector to provide sufficient funding for GSLEP

Outcome/ Output	Stakeholder	Role in Project
UNDP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project supervision, monitoring and evaluation • Project funding from GEF resources • Negotiation with other donors on the project co-financing in Central Asian countries • Reporting to GEF on the project progress • Implementation of complimentary GEF projects in Central Asia
Global Tiger Initiative Council and Forum		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of collaboration with donors, including private sector, to provide sufficient funding for GSLEP implementation
Committee for Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Supervision of the project implementation in Kazakhstan • Project co-financing
State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to GSLEP Secretariat • Overall Supervision of the project implementation in Kyrgyzstan • Project co-financing
Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Supervision of the project implementation in Tajikistan • Project co-financing
State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Supervision of the project implementation in Uzbekistan • Project co-financing
WWF (Central Asia Office)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project co-financing
Snow Leopard Trust		
Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)		
Panthera		

246. Component 1 of the project will involve an extensive process of stakeholder engagement in the the development of tools, methods and guidelines for effective transboundary cooperation of snow leopards and their mountain ecosystems, with several being tested in the pilot landscape. In addition, following participatory development of the training plan, it will require extensive stakeholder involvement for capacity development in mechanisms and approaches for transboundary cooperation.

247. Component 2 will require engagement of the main national wildlife conservation agencies, pilot landscape protected area managers, biodiversity monitoring institutes and key NGO partners in the development and testing of both the common monitoring framework and the spatial database for monitoring snow leopard landscapes. It will then need to be reviewed by experts from all 12 range states and officially approved by the GSLEP members. Local stakeholders in the pilot transboundary landscape will then be engaged to use these tools to develop sustainable land management measures.

248. Component 3 will primarily focus on enhancing the global coordination mechanisms in support of the GSLEP members, includinf a community of practice event, and a meeting of the GSLEP Forum. Private sector organisations (mining and tourism businesses and hunting concessions) will be engaged to secure new funding and partnerships for snow leopard conservation.

249. The project uses several mechanisms to achieve broad-based stakeholder involvement in its implementation processes, including a Project Board and a Project Technical Committee (PTC). Membership of each is shown in the Project Organogram, above and will be finalized during the project inception phase.

Long-term stakeholder participation

250. The project will provide the following opportunities for long-term participation of all stakeholders.
251. Decision-making – through the establishment of the Project Board. The establishment of the structure will follow a participatory and transparent process involving the confirmation of all key project stakeholders; conducting one-to-one consultations with all stakeholders; development of Terms of Reference and ground-rules; inception meeting to agree on the constitution of the Project Board.
252. Capacity building – at systemic, institutional and individual levels – is one of the key strategic interventions of the project and will target all stakeholders that have the potential to be involved in implementation transboundary cooperation for snow leopards and their ecosystems in Central Asia, including in the pilot transboundary landscape. The training plan will be based on a detailed needs assessment. Women will be proactively considered for capacity building activities.
253. Communication - will be based on the following key principles: providing up to date information to all stakeholders; promoting dialogue between stakeholders; promoting access to information.
254. Monitoring of the project outputs and evaluation of the project outcomes - will be done with full involvement of relevant stakeholders in the form of interviews, focal groups, official meetings, and on-line questionnaires. Thus, data for the regular project monitoring and evaluation will be collected from all groups of stakeholders and used for the project adaptive management and lesson learning process. Wide stakeholder participation in the project monitoring and evaluation will contribute to the project transparency and effectiveness.
255. The project's design incorporates several features to ensure on-going and effective stakeholder participation in the project's implementation. The mechanisms to facilitate involvement and active participation of different stakeholders in project implementation will comprise a number of different components:
- i) Project inception workshop
The project will be launched by a multi-stakeholder inception workshop. This workshop will provide an opportunity to provide all stakeholders with the most updated information on the project, refine and confirm the multi-year work plan, and will establish a basis for further consultation as the project's implementation commences.
 - ii) Constitution of the Project Board
The Project Board will be constituted to ensure broad representation of all key interests throughout the project's implementation. The representation, and broad terms of reference, of the Project Board are described in the Management Arrangements in Part III of the Project Document.
 - iii) Establishment of the SLT-Project Management Unit
The SLT-Project Management Unit, working closely with the GSLEP Secretariat will take direct operational responsibility for facilitating stakeholder involvement and ensuring increased national ownership of the project and its results. They will also ensure coordination among key stakeholder organizations at the regional level during the project period.
 - v) Project communications

The project will develop, implement and annually update a communications strategy to ensure that all stakeholders are informed on an on-going basis about the project's objectives, activities, overall progress, and the opportunities for stakeholders' involvement in various aspects of the project's implementation.

vi) Implementation arrangements

Demonstration activities in the transboundary pilot landscape will ensure that local stakeholders benefit from the capacity building, awareness raising and final outcomes of these activities (eg training in combating wildlife crime, the common monitoring framework and spatial database, resource development). Women will be proactively considered for participation in these demonstration activities.

vii) Formalizing transboundary governance structures

The project will actively seek to formalize transboundary governance structures for development and implementation of the project's objectives and activities at pilot transboundary landscape level, to ensure on-going participation of stakeholders.

Gender Strategy of the Project

256. The Convention on Biological Diversity in its preamble, recognizes “the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity” and affirms “the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for biological diversity conservation”. Therefore, it is important that the project should take into account information and insights both from men and women.
257. The baseline for gender equality and women's empowerment is already relatively high in most Central Asian countries participating in this project. Thus, the project will build on this relatively strong baseline by employing mechanisms for inclusive approaches and processes on gender equality and women's empowerment in the implementation of all its planned activities. The proposed project activities have been derived from a broad-based consultative process, including women at all levels. The onward development and implementation process provides many opportunities to ensure that gender issues are adequately addressed. All consultation and capacity building programs will be designed to ensure that at least 30% of the target participants are women. Women living in the project pilot landscape will benefit from their participation in the consortium of partners for snow leopard conservation via advanced access to sources of funding for sustainable development of local communities in the snow leopard habitat and provided opportunities for ecotourism development (e.g., homestay small business that is generally ruled by women).
258. Gender equality was taken into account in the formulation of the project, and the project management will monitor and report on tracking key indicators, such as the balance of women participants in the capacity development activities and the extent to which gender issues inform workshop deliberations and recommendations. The project will therefore address the three GEF requirements for mainstreaming gender issues in projects:
- a. Gender mainstreaming and capacity building within GEF project staff to improve socio-economic understanding of gender issues
 - b. A designated focal point for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally
 - c. Working with experts in gender issues to utilize their expertise in developing and implementing GEF projects

259. These requirements will be monitored by the UNDP Gender Focal Points during project implementation. This will include facilitating gender equality in environmental management and women's empowerment and participation in the project activities.

PROJECT ANNEXES

Annex 1. Capacity Assessment Scorecard – Central Asia Baseline

Project/Programme Name: Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation. GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 5886; GEF AGENCY ID: PIMS 5413; Project/Programme Cycle Phase: PPG. Date: 30 June 2015

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
1. Capacity to conceptualize and formulate policies, legislations, strategies and programmes relating to transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	1. The transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems agenda is being effectively championed / driven forward	There is essentially no transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems agenda;	0	1	The GSLEP was launched in 2013 with high level political support from Kyrgyzstan and representatives of all SL range countries. The process is continuing with the target of 20X2020 SL Landscapes. Implementation of transboundary activities is on the planning stage and lacks appropriate tools.
		There are some persons or institutions actively pursuing transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems agenda but they have little effect or influence;	1		
		There are a number of transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems champions that drive the agenda, but more is needed;	2		
		There are an adequate number of able "champions" and "leaders" effectively driving forwards a transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems agenda	3		
	2. There is a strong and clear legal mandate for the establishment and management of transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	There is no legal framework for SL ecosystem transboundary cooperation;	0	1	Countries are member of relevant international conventions (CMS, CBD, CITES (except Tajikistan)) however there are no inter-governmental transboundary agreements for SL conservation. Some high level commissions exist and can provide a framework for transboundary collaboration (Interstate Sustainable Development Commission of Central Asian Countries and several bilateral arrangements)
		There is a partial legal framework for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems but it has many inadequacies;	1		
		There is a reasonable legal framework for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems but it has a few weaknesses and gaps;	2		
		There is a strong and clear legal mandate for the establishment and management of transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	3		
	3. There is an institution or institutions responsible for transboundary cooperation for snow	Designated institutions have no plans or strategies to include transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems;	0	2	GSLEP has established a High Level Steering Committee (Ministerial level) in 2015. GSLEP Strategy was adopted

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
	leopard ecosystems able to formulate strategies and planning.	Designated institutions do have strategies and plans to include transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems, but these are old and no longer up to date or were prepared in a totally top-down fashion;	1		in 2013 but there has been no subsequent update.
		Designated institutions have some sort of mechanism to update their strategies and plans to include transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems, but this is irregular or is done in a largely top-down fashion without proper consultation;	2		
		Designated institutions have relevant, participatory prepared, regularly updated strategies and plans to include transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	3		
2.Capacity to implement policies, legislation, strategies and programmes relating to transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	4.There are legally designated transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems institutions and mechanisms/instruments with the authority to carry out their mandate	There is no lead institution or agency with a clear mandate or responsibility for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems;	0	2	GSLEP Secretariat was formally established as a Permanent Secretariat in 2015, and has been operating as a Working Secretariat since 2013. It has a clear mandate, but capacity has so far hindered full implementation.
		There are one or more institutions or agencies dealing with transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems but roles and responsibilities are unclear and there are gaps and overlaps in the arrangements;	1		
		There are one or more institutions or agencies dealing with transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems, the responsibilities of each are fairly clearly defined, but there are still some gaps and overlaps;	2		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems institutions and mechanisms/instruments have clear legal and institutional mandates and the necessary authority to carry this out	3		
	5. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are able to adequately	Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions typically are severely underfunded and have no capacity to mobilize sufficient resources;	0	1	GSLEP Secretariat has a limited budget for 1 year so far; however, there is no clear long-term financing mechanism.

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
	mobilize sufficient quantity of funding, human and material resources to effectively implement their mandate	Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions have some funding and are able to mobilize some human and material resources but not enough to effectively implement their mandate;	1		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions have reasonable capacity to mobilize funding or other resources but not always in sufficient quantities for fully effective implementation of their mandate;	2		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are able to adequately mobilize sufficient quantity of funding, human and material resources to effectively implement their mandate	3		
	6. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are effectively managed, efficiently deploying their human, financial and other resources to the best effect	While the transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions exists it has no management;	0	2	GSLEP Secretariat and Program exists and are being managed in a reasonably effective way but there is a need for improvement
		Institutional and process management are largely ineffective and do not deploy efficiently the resources at its disposal;	1		
		The institution(s) and mechanisms for implementing transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems are reasonably managed, but not always in a fully effective manner and at times does not deploy its resources in the most efficient way;	2		
		The transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are effectively managed, efficiently deploying its human, financial and other resources to the best effect	3		
	7. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions have a total lack of leadership;	0	2	GSLEP initiative has strong leadership from Kyrgyz Republic President office; however, the Secretariat has been only

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
	mechanisms and implementing institutions are effectively led	Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions exist but leadership is weak and provides little guidance;	1		recently established and needs to strengthen its capacity and leadership
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions have reasonably strong leadership but there is still need for improvement;	2		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are effectively led	3		
	8. There is a fully transparent oversight authority (there are fully transparent oversight authorities) for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and responsible implementing institutions	There is no oversight at all of transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems institutions;	0	1	The GSLEP Steering Committee has just been established in 2015, with approved guidelines, but decision-making and collaboration processes are not clarified yet.
		There is some oversight, but only indirectly and in a non-transparent manner;	1		
		There is a reasonable oversight mechanism in place providing for regular review but lacks in transparency (e.g. is not independent, or is internalized) ;	2		
		There is a fully transparent oversight authority for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions	3		
	9. There are adequate skills for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems planning and management	There is a general lack of planning and management skills;	0	1	Some skills for transboundary cooperation exist in government and international partners but these need to be up-scaled, with capacity developed based on best practices
		Some skills exist but in largely insufficient quantities to guarantee effective planning and management of transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems;	1		
		Necessary skills for effective transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems management and planning do exist but are stretched and not easily available;	2		

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
		Adequate quantities of the full range of skills necessary for effective transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems planning and management are easily available	3		
	10. There are enough examples of implemented transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	No or very few transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems exist and they cover only a small portion of the habitats and ecosystems;	0	0	Virtually no transboundary cooperation exists on the ground.
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems are patchy both in number and geographical coverage and has many gaps in terms of representativeness;	1		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems areas are covering a reasonably representative sample of the major habitats and ecosystems, but still presents some gaps and not all elements are of viable size;	2		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems areas includes viable representative examples of all the major habitats and ecosystems of appropriate geographical scale	3		
	11. Transboundary snow leopard ecosystems have regularly updated, participatory prepared, comprehensive management plans	Transboundary snow leopard ecosystems have no management plans;	0	0	No transboundary management plans exist for snow leopard landscapes. However, General Guidelines for Snow Leopard Landscape Management Planning were developed.
		Some transboundary snow leopard ecosystems have up-to-date management plans but they are typically not comprehensive and were not participatory prepared;	1		
		Most transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems have management plans though some are old, not participatory prepared or are less than comprehensive;	2		
		Every transboundary snow leopard ecosystems has a regularly updated, participatory prepared, comprehensive management plan	3		
	12. Transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management plans are implemented in a timely manner	There is very little implementation of Transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management plans	0	0	There are no plans and no implementation. The project is not an implementation project and therefore

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
	effectively achieving their objectives	Transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management plans are poorly implemented and their objectives are rarely met;	1		will not be directly supporting implementation of management plans
		Transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management plans are usually implemented in a timely manner, though delays typically occur and some objectives are not met;	2		
		Transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management plans are implemented in a timely manner effectively achieving their objectives	3		
	14. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are highly transparent, fully audited, and publicly accountable	Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are totally non transparent, not being held accountable and not audited;	0	1	GSLEP Secretariat has just been established, mechanisms are not yet in place.
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are not transparent but are occasionally audited without being held publicly accountable;	1		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are regularly audited and there is a fair degree of public accountability but the system is not fully transparent;	2		
		The Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems mechanisms and implementing institutions are highly transparent, fully audited, and publicly accountable	3		
	15. Human resources for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems are well qualified and motivated (in Authorities and governing institutions including NGOs)	Human resources are poorly qualified and unmotivated;	0	1	There are some examples of well qualified and motivated people. However, there need to be many more and widely distributed.
		Human resources qualification is spotty, with some well qualified, but many only poorly and in general unmotivated;	1		
		HR in general reasonably qualified, but many lack in motivation, or those that are motivated are not sufficiently qualified;	2		
Human resources are well qualified and motivated.		3			
	16. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems	No enforcement of regulations is taking place;	0	0	Countries are members of CITES (except Tajikistan) but enforcement

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments		
	regulations are effectively implemented according to best practice principles and legal frameworks	Some enforcement of regulations but largely ineffective and external threats remain active;	1		mechanisms are poorly implemented and little cooperation between agencies exists.		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems regulations are regularly enforced but are not fully effective and external threats are reduced but not eliminated;	2				
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems regulations are highly effectively enforced and best practice principles are achieved	3				
	17. Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management	No career tracks are developed and no training opportunities are provided;	0			0	There is no specific capacity building plan and no implementation.
		Career tracks are weak and training possibilities are few and not managed transparently;	1				
		Clear career tracks developed and training available; HR management however has inadequate performance measurement system;	2				
Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally	3						
18. Individuals are appropriately skilled for their jobs in transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management	Skills of individuals do not match job requirements;	0	0	There is no specific capacity building plan and no implementation.			
	Individuals have some or poor skills for their jobs;	1					
	Individuals are reasonably skilled but could further improve for optimum match with job requirement;	2					
	Individuals are appropriately skilled for their jobs	3					
19. Individuals are highly motivated for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management	No motivation at all;	0	1	A few individuals are highly motivated, but this number needs to be expanded significantly			
	Motivation uneven, some are but most are not;	1					
	Many individuals are motivated but not all;	2					
	Individuals are highly motivated	3					
20. There are appropriate systems of training, mentoring, and learning in place to maintain a continuous flow of new staff for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem management	No mechanisms exist;	0	0	There is no specific capacity building plan and no implementation. There are not yet any operational mechanism for sharing best practices between landscapes and countries.			
	Some mechanisms exist but unable to develop enough and unable to provide the full range of skills needed;	1					
	Mechanisms generally exist to develop skilled professionals, but either not enough of them or unable to cover the full range of skills required;	2					

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
		There are mechanisms for developing adequate numbers of the full range of highly skilled transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems professionals	3		
3. Capacity to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	21. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems has the political commitment required	There is no political will at all, or worse, the prevailing political will runs counter to the interests of transboundary snow leopard ecosystem cooperation;	0	1	Some high level political will exists, but this needs to be mainstreamed in all countries and across all sectors
		Some political will exists, but is not strong enough to make a difference;	1		
		Reasonable political will exists, but is not always strong enough to fully support transboundary snow leopard ecosystem cooperation;	2		
		There are very high levels of political will to support transboundary snow leopard ecosystem cooperation;	3		
	22. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems has the public support required	The public has little interest in transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems and there is no significant lobby;	0	0	There is some national level interest but the public is not yet engaged regarding the transboundary cooperation
		There is limited support for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem cooperation;	1		
		There is general public support for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem cooperation, and there are various lobby groups such as environmental NGOs strongly pushing it;	2		
		There is tremendous public support in the region for transboundary snow leopard ecosystem cooperation;	3		
24. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems implementing and enforcing institutions can establish the partnerships needed to achieve their objectives	Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems implementing and enforcing institutions operate in isolation;	0	1	There are few existing partnerships because the GSLEP platform has only just been established.	
	Some partnerships in place but significant gaps and existing partnerships achieve little;	1			
	Many partnerships in place with a wide range of agencies, NGOs etc, but there are some gaps, partnerships are not always effective and do not always enable efficient achievement of objectives;	2			

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems implementing and enforcing institutions establish effective partnerships with other agencies and institutions, including provincial and local governments, NGO's and the private sector to enable achievement of objectives in an efficient and effective manner	3		
	25. Individuals carry appropriate values, integrity and attitudes about transboundary snow leopard ecosystem cooperation;	Individuals carry negative attitude;	0	1	There are a few individuals directly involved in snow leopard conservation with strong values, integrity and attitudes, but the number needs to be expanded significantly.
		Some individuals have notion of appropriate attitudes and display integrity, but most don't;	1		
		Many individuals carry appropriate values and integrity, but not all;	2		
		Individuals carry appropriate values, integrity and attitudes	3		
4. Capacity to mobilize information and knowledge about transboundary snow leopard ecosystems	26. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems implementing and enforcing institutions have the information they need to develop and monitor strategies and action plans for the management of transboundary snow leopard ecosystems	Information is virtually lacking;	0	1	Some information on snow leopard populations is available, mainly from PAs and NGOs. Information on SL ecosystem quality is generally lacking
		Some information exists, but is of poor quality, is of limited usefulness, or is very difficult to access;	1		
		Much information is easily available and mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps in quality, coverage and availability;	2		
		Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems implementing and enforcing institutions have the information they need to develop and monitor strategies and action plans for the management of transboundary snow leopard ecosystems	3		
	27. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems implementing and enforcing institutions have the information needed to implement strategies and actions plans	Information is virtually lacking;	0	1	Some information on snow leopard populations is available, mainly from PAs and NGOs. Information on SL ecosystem quality is generally lacking
		Some information exists, but is of poor quality and of limited usefulness and difficult to access;	1		
		Much information is readily available, mostly of good quality, but there remain some gaps both in quality and quantity;	2		
		Adequate quantities of high quality up to date information for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems planning, management and monitoring is widely and easily available	3		
		Individuals work in isolation and don't interact;	0		

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
	28. Individuals working with transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems work effectively together as a team	Individuals interact in limited way and sometimes in teams but this is rarely effective and functional;	1	0	Historically there were some examples of such collaboration but they have not been sustained.
		Individuals interact regularly and form teams, but this is not always fully effective or functional;	2		
		Individuals interact effectively and form functional teams	3		
5. Capacity to monitor, evaluate, report and learn about transboundary snow leopard ecosystems;	29. Policy is continually reviewed and updated	There is no policy or it is old and not reviewed regularly;	0	1	GSLEP policy has been developed but no reviews have yet taken place.
		Policy is only reviewed at irregular intervals;	1		
		Policy is reviewed regularly but not annually;	2		
		National offsets policy is reviewed annually	3		
	30. Society monitors the state of transboundary snow leopard ecosystems	There is no dialogue at all;	0	0	Society will only be involved in implementation process on the national and local levels
		There is some dialogue going on, but not in the wider public and restricted to specialized circles;	1		
		There is a reasonably open public dialogue going on but certain issues remain taboo;	2		
		There is an open and transparent public dialogue about the state of the Transboundary snow leopard ecosystems	3		
31. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems institutions are highly adaptive, responding effectively and immediately to change	Institutions resist change;	0	1	Institutions are responding slowly to changes in policy at national level.	
	Institutions do change but only very slowly;	1			
	Institutions tend to adapt in response to change but not always very effectively or with some delay;	2			
	Institutions are highly adaptive, responding effectively and immediately to change	3			
32. Transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning	There are no mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting or learning;	0	0	Transboundary mechanisms do not yet exist, so there is no M&E.	
	There are some mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning but they are limited and weak;	1			
	Reasonable mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning are in place but are not as strong or comprehensive as they could be;	2			
	Institutions have effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning	3			

Strategic Area of Support	Issue	Outcome Indicators	Score		Evaluative Comments
	32. Individuals responsible for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems are adaptive and continue to learn	There is no measurement of performance or adaptive feedback;	0	0	Capacity development mechanisms are not in place, no learning feedback mechanisms exist.
		Performance is irregularly and poorly measured and there is little use of feedback;	1		
		There is significant measurement of performance and some feedback but this is not as thorough or comprehensive as it might be;	2		
		Performance is effectively measured and adaptive feedback utilized	3		
TOTAL SCORE			Max. 96	23	

Annex 2. Social and Environmental Screening Report

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation
2. Project Number	5413
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Global (Participating countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)

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

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

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

A human rights based approach is about empowering people to know and claim their rights and increasing the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions who are responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights. This regional project has a primary focus on developing tools, mechanisms and frameworks for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems at regional level.

The project will pursue implementation of human rights based approach by ensuring of full participation of regional level stakeholders, including civil society and elected representatives at appropriate level. The project will not be implementing measures on the ground that will effect local communities but will ensure that human rights approaches are embedded and Aarhus Convention principles are enforced at the regional level.

During the project preparation phase, consultation sessions and meetings were undertaken with a diverse group of stakeholders in order to construct as holistic as possible an understanding of the challenges and barriers related to regional cooperation for snow leopard ecosystem conservation. The project design makes the assumption that the consultations during project preparation strengthens the transparency and legitimacy of the proposed project activities, notwithstanding that during project implementation, activities can and should be adapted to ensure that the human rights of stakeholders are preserved and/or reinforced. The stakeholder consultations, log-frame workshop and validation exercise, consultation missions to participating countries and the pilot landscape, and awareness-raising

dialogues are intended to engage as many key groups as possible in order to incorporate their diverse perspectives in as many project activities as possible, and reduce the risks of marginalizing any stakeholders.

The project has emerged from the highly consultative process of GSLEP development, including the establishment of inter-governmental steering committee, strong NGO involvement, and the establishment of the Secretariat to ensure maximal communication, cooperation, and country ownership in the snow leopard range. This provided a strong consultative basis and much information for the project preparation phase.

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

The baseline for gender equality and women's empowerment is already relatively high in most Central Asian countries participating in this project. Thus, the project will build on this relatively strong baseline by employing mechanisms for inclusive approaches and processes on gender equality and women's empowerment in the implementation of all its planned activities. The proposed project activities have been derived from a broad-based consultative process, including women at all levels. The onward development and implementation process provides many opportunities to ensure that gender issues are adequately addressed. All consultation and capacity building programs will be designed to ensure that at least 30% of the target participants are women.

Gender equality was taken into account in the formulation of the project, and the project management will take care to include tracking key indicators, such as the balance of women participants in the capacity development activities and the extent to which gender issues inform workshop deliberations and recommendations. The project document makes specific reference to three GEF requirements for mainstreaming gender issues in projects:

- a. Gender mainstreaming and capacity building within GEF project staff to improve socio-economic understanding of gender issues
- b. A designated focal point for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally
- c. Working with experts in gender issues to utilize their expertise in developing and implementing GEF projects

These requirements will be monitored by the UNDP Gender Focal Point during project implementation. This will include facilitating gender equality in environmental management and women's empowerment and participation in the project activities.

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

The overall objective of the project is "To strengthen conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes and ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats with special focus in Central Asia". Thus, the project will contribute directly to the achievement of obligations of participation countries under a number of international conventions, including those supported through the GEF mechanisms (CBD, CMS) and CITES. The overall environmental impact is expected to be overwhelmingly positive and an important contribution to sustainable development. Several tools and guidelines will be

developed ensuring enhanced environmental sustainability is embedded in national development programs of participating countries as well as regional and global frameworks, with special attention to transboundary cooperation for snow leopard ecosystems.

Sustainability of the project’s interventions will be promoted through a mix of strategies, principally building on the development of a strong appreciation among range countries and concerned government institutions of the importance of managing a mix of national and transboundary landscapes to secure the long-term survival of the snow leopard and the sustainability of the ecosystem in which it plays a key role (together with the associated economic and social benefits that snow leopard landscapes provide). The actual implementation of the project will coincide with a much stronger and renewed commitment of range countries in implementing their individual NSLEPs – this is expected to generate further support and possibly additional resource leverage opportunities. The project will be proactive in exploring sustainability in the design and implementation of all its outputs. For instance, the development of the guidelines and tools will be carried out in collaboration with national wildlife training institutes or regional institutes so that these materials and associated trainings can be made available to interested range countries after the project.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses).</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 6</i>			QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?
<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
Risk 1: Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Standard 2.4: Would the Project potentially limit 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 = 1 P = 1	Low	As a global project mainly supporting capacity building for transboundary cooperation for snow leopard conservation, with only limited field activities, this risk is considered to be extremely low. Through its gender strategy, the project will assess that all tools, guidelines and capacity development activities optimize the potential	All risks are considered to be low. See Question 4.

			participation of, and benefits to, women.	
<p>Risk 2: Principle 3: Environmental sustainability Standard 1.2: Negative environmental impacts on critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas.</p>	<p>I = 1 P = 1</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The project will support development and piloting of land management measures for snow leopard conservation in the Sarychat/Northern Tien Shan transboundary landscape which includes a number of national parks and protected areas. This will include restoration of over-grazed lands both inside and (mainly) outside the protected areas. Any risks of inappropriate measures will be avoided by engaging PA staff and biodiversity and grazing specialists in their design to ensure best practices</p>	
<p>Risk 3: Principle 3: Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Standard 2.2 Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?</p>	<p>I = 1 P = 1</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>This risk is considered to be low by end of project. However, in the long-term, the impacts of climate change may have significant impacts on the habitats and prey of snow leopards, and therefore on snow leopard populations. The project will therefore build adaptation measures into all relevant activities to address the long-term risk.</p>	
<p>Risk 4:</p>	<p>I = P =</p>			
<p>QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?</p>				

	Select one (see SESP for guidance)	Comments
	<p><i>Low Risk</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project will contribute positively towards maintenance of ecosystem quality in critical snow leopard ecosystems through enhancing transboundary cooperation. Implementation of the on-the-ground measures that will bring benefits to local communities through improved livelihood potentials and wellbeing will be achieved through projects and programs of participating countries, including other GEF projects.</p> <p>Identified risks are all considered to be “Low”, but could potentially have adverse impact on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. These have been addressed through the project design, and will be further addressed during implementation, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the project gender strategy in all capacity building and other activities to ensure that institutions and individuals optimize gender outcomes • Ensuring full participation of PA staff in all related activities in the pilot landscape • All capacity development, tools and measures incorporate climate change adaptation considerations <p>The independent Terminal Evaluation will be tasked to assess whether these mitigation measures have been met. This will be explicitly stated in the Terms of Reference of the consultancy.</p>
	<p><i>Moderate Risk</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p><i>High Risk</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?</p> <p>Check all that apply</p>	
		<p>Comments</p>
	<p><i>Principle 1: Human Rights</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p><i>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p><i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p><i>2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p><i>3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
	<p><i>4. Cultural Heritage</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

	5. <i>Displacement and Resettlement</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	6. <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	7. <i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the Project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
Principles 1: Human Rights		Answer (Yes/No)
1.	Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? ¹²⁶	No
3.	Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5.	Are there measures or mechanisms in place to respond to local community grievances?	No
6.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
7.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
8.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
9.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
1.	Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2.	Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4.	Would the Project potentially limit 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>	Yes
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause 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>	No
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including 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?	Yes

¹²⁶ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, 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 people and transsexuals.

1.3	Does the Project involve 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	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11	Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area? <i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i>	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant ¹²⁷ greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	Yes
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive 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
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No

¹²⁷ In regards to CO₂, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labour standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact 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
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in 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	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ¹²⁸	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the rights, lands and territories of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether Indigenous Peoples possess the legal titles to such areas)?	No
6.4	Has there been an 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
6.4	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.5	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.6	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.7	Would the Project potentially affect the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in 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
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No

¹²⁸ Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

7.3	<p>Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?</p> <p><i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i></p>	No
7.4	<p>Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?</p>	No
7.5	<p>Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?</p>	No

Annex 3. GEF Biodiversity Tracking Tool



Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5

Objective 2: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors		
<p>Objective: To measure progress in achieving the impacts and outcomes established at the portfolio level under the biodiversity focal area. Rationale: Project data from the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 project cohort will be aggregated for analysis of directional trends and patterns at a portfolio-wide level to inform the development of future GEF strategies and to report to GEF Council on portfolio-level performance in the biodiversity focal area. Structure of Tracking Tool: Each tracking tool requests background and coverage information on the project and specific information required to track portfolio level indicators in the GEF-3, GEF-4, and GEF-5 strategy. Guidance in Applying GEF Tracking Tools: GEF tracking tools are applied three times: at CEO endorsement, at project mid-term, and at project completion. Submission: The finalized tracking tool will be cleared by the GEF Agencies as being correctly completed.</p>		
Important: Please read the Guidelines posted on the GEF website before entering your data		
I. General Data	Please indicate your answer here	Notes
Project Title	Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation	
GEF Project ID	PIMS 5413	
Agency Project ID		
Implementing Agency	UNDP	
Project Type	MSP	FSP or MSP
Country	Global	
Region	ECA	
Date of submission of the tracking tool		Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
Name of reviewers completing tracking tool and completion date		Completion Date
Planned project duration	3	years
Actual project duration		years
Lead Project Executing Agency (ies)		
Date of Council/CEO Approval		Month DD, YYYY (e.g., May 12, 2010)
GEF Grant (US\$)	1,000,000	
Cofinancing expected (US\$)	#####	
Please identify production sectors and/or ecosystem services directly targeted by project:		
Agriculture	1	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Fisheries		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Forestry	2	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Tourism	2	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Mining	2	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Oil		1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Transportation	2	1: Primarily and directly targeted by the project 2: Secondary or incidentally affected by the project
Other (please specify)		

II. Project Landscape/Seascape Coverage		
1. What is the extent (in hectares) of the landscape or seascape where the project will directly or indirectly contribute to biodiversity conservation or sustainable use of its components? An example is provided in the table below.		
Foreseen at project start (to be completed at CEO approval or endorsement)		
Landscape/seascape ^[1] area <u>directly</u> ^[2] covered by the project (ha)	3,946,230	Area of Tian-Shan Transboundary Landscape at the border Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (GSLEP Sarychat / Tian Shan Transboundary Landscapes)
Landscape/seascape area indirectly ^[3] covered by the project (ha)	15,242,630	Area of all GSLEP Landscapes in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan
Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:		Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use tools developed and tested in Sarychat / Tian-Shan Transboundary Landscapes will be presented for use and capacity building in Pamir Transboundary Landscape (GSLEP Alay-Hissar and Pamir Landscapes) as well as all other GSLEP Landscapes in Asia
Actual at mid-term		
Landscape/seascape ^[1] area <u>directly</u> ^[2] covered by the project (ha)		
Landscape/seascape area indirectly ^[3] covered by the project (ha)		
Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:		Please indicate reasons
Actual at project closure		
Landscape/seascape ^[1] area <u>directly</u> ^[2] covered by the project (ha)		
Landscape/seascape area indirectly ^[3] covered by the project (ha)		
Explanation for indirect coverage numbers:		Please indicate reasons
[1] For projects working in seascapes (large marine ecosystems, fisheries etc.) please provide coverage figures and include explanatory text as needed		
[2] Direct coverage refers to the area that is targeted by the project's site intervention. For example, a project may be mainstreaming biodiversity into f		
[3] Using the example in footnote 2 above, the same project may, for example, "indirectly" cover or influence the remaining 9,000 hectares of the flood		
2. Are there Protected Areas within the landscape/seascape covered by the project? If so, names these PAs, their IUCN or national PA category, and their extent in hectares		
Name of Protected Areas (PAs in Sarychat /Tien Shan Landscapes)	IUCN and/or national category of PA	Extent in hectares of PA
1. Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve (Kyrgyzstan)	Ia	72080
2. Buffer zone of Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve (Kyrgyzstan)	IV	62062
3. Karakol National Park (Kyrgyzstan)	II	38256
4. Chon-Kemin National Park (Kyrgyzstan)	II	123654
5. Kyrchyn National Park (Kyrgyzstan)	II	35000
6. Almaty Nature Reserve (Kazakhstan)	Ia	71700
7. Ile-Alatau National Park (Kazakhstan)	II	170920
8. Kolsay Kolderi National Park (Kazakhstan)	II	161045

3. Within the landscape/seascape covered by the project, is the project implementing payment for environmental service schemes? If so, please complete the table below. Example is provided.		
<i>e.g. Foreseen at Project Start</i>	<i>e.g. Water provision</i>	<i>Please Indicate Environmental Service</i>
	<i>e.g. 40,000 hectares</i>	<i>Extent in hectares</i>
	<i>e.g. \$ 10 per hectare per year</i>	<i>Payments generated (US\$)/ha/yr if known at time of CEO endorsement</i>
Foreseen at project start (to be completed at CEO approval or endorsement)	N/A	Please Indicate Environmental Service
	N/A	Extent in hectares
	N/A	Payments generated (US\$)/ha/yr
Actual at mid-term		Please Indicate Environmental Service
		Extent in hectares
		Payments generated (US\$)/ha/yr
Actual at project closure		Please Indicate Environmental Service
		Extent in hectares
		Payments generated (US\$)/ha/yr

Part III. Management Practices Applied

4. Within the scope and objectives of the project, please identify in the table below the management practices employed by project		
<i>e.g. Foreseen at Project Start</i>	<i>E.g., Sustainable management of pine forests</i>	<i>Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD</i>
	<i>FSC</i>	<i>Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)</i>
	<i>120,000 hectares</i>	<i>Area of coverage</i>
Foreseen at project start (to be completed at CEO approval or endorsement)	N/A	The project is only developing management framework
	N/A	Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)
		Area of coverage
Actual at mid-term		Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD
		Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)
		Area of coverage
Actual at project closure		Please indicate specific management practices that integrate BD
		Name of certification system being used (insert NA if no certification system is being applied)
		Area of coverage

Part IV. Market Transformation

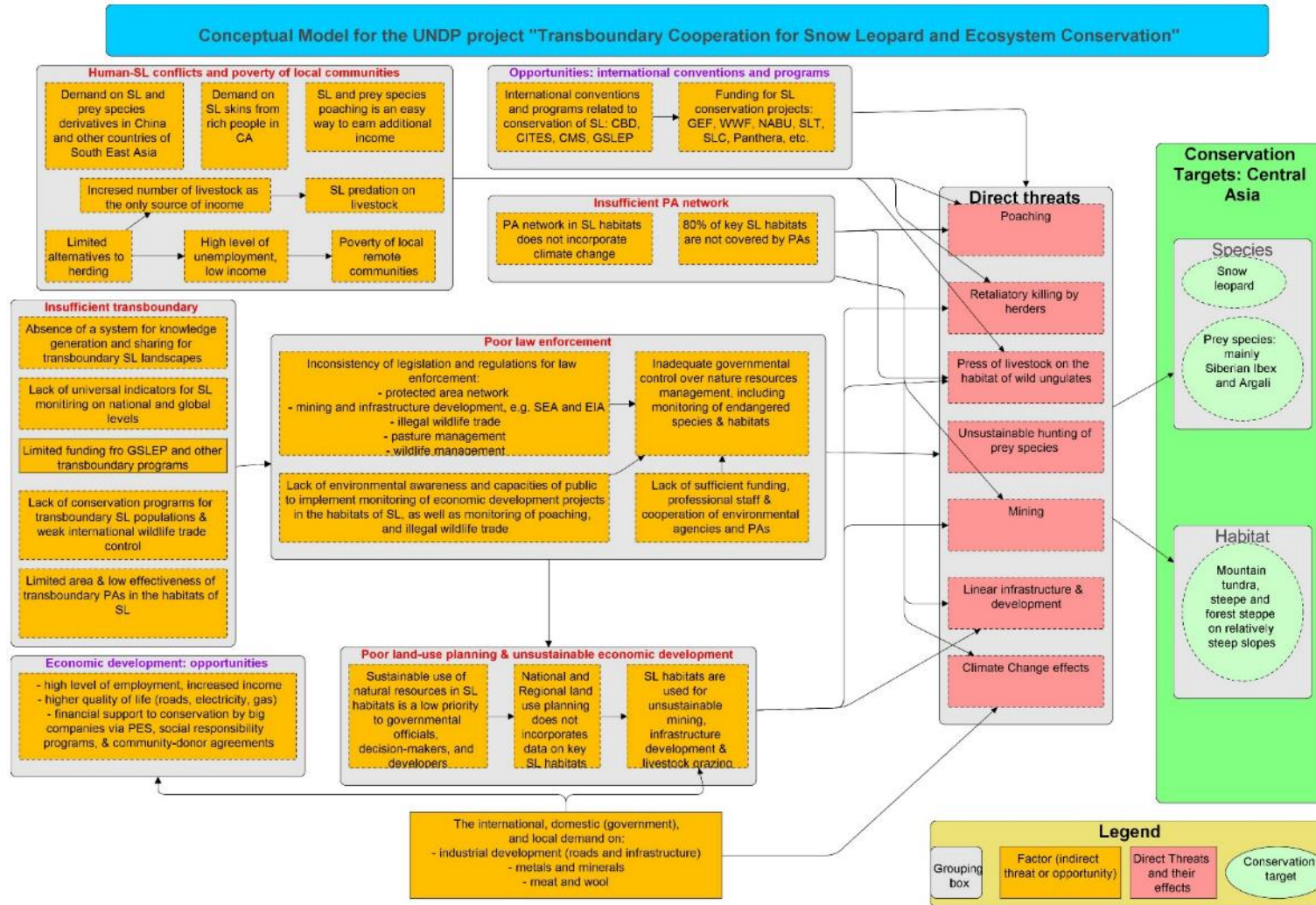
5. For those projects that have identified market transformation as a project objective, please describe the project's ability to integrate biodiversity considerations into the mainstream economy by measuring the market changes to which the project contributed. The sectors and subsectors and measures of impact in the table below are illustrative examples, only. Please complete per the objectives and specifics of the project.		
Foreseen at project start		
Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)	<i>E.g., Sustainable agriculture (Fruit production : apples)</i>	Unit of measure of market impact <i>E.g., US\$ of sales of certified apple products / year</i>
	<i>E.g., Sustainable forestry (timber processing)</i>	<i>E.g., cubic meters of sustainably produced wood processed per year</i>
Name of the market that the project seeks to affect (sector and sub-sector)	N/A	Unit of measure of market impact
	N/A	
Actual at mid-term		

Part V. Policy and Regulatory frameworks		
6. For those projects that have identified addressing policy, legislation, regulations, and their implementation as project objectives,		
<i>Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy</i>		
Agriculture	0	Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
<i>Biodiversity considerations are mentioned in sector policy through specific legislation</i>		
Agriculture		Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
<i>Regulations are in place to implement the legislation</i>		
Agriculture		Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
<i>The regulations are under implementation</i>		
Agriculture		Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
<i>The implementation of regulations is enforced</i>		
Agriculture		Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0
<i>Enforcement of regulations is monitored</i>		
Agriculture		Yes = 1, No = 0
Fisheries		Yes = 1, No = 0
Forestry		Yes = 1, No = 0
Tourism		Yes = 1, No = 0
Other (please specify)		Yes = 1, No = 0

Annex 4. Pilot Landscape report

See separate file

Annex 5. Project Conceptual Model



Annex 6. List of Stakeholders consulted

See separate file

Annex 7. Provisional list of project activities

INDICATIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS
Project Goal : Global snow leopard populations, and their critical mountain ecosystems, are in favourable conservation status	
Project Objective: To strengthen transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems and landscapes to ensure stability of global snow leopard population by addressing drivers of existing and emerging threats with special focus in Central Asia.	
Outcome 1. Key stakeholders have sufficient knowledge, capacity and tools for effective transboundary conservation of snow leopard ecosystems	
Output 1.1. Tools, methods and guidelines for effective transboundary cooperation developed, tested and made available to stakeholders	
Activity 1. Report on poaching and illegal trade in 4 countries with recommendations to relevant agencies for improvement of wildlife trade control based on assessment of poaching and illegal transboundary trade of Snow Leopard and other wildlife in Central Asian Region, and appropriate follow-up to support adoption/implementation including workshop for relevant government agencies and experts.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, SLT/SLFK, TRAFFIC, Panthera, NABU Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant: GSLEP Secretariat Manager 7pw +\$15000 for a regional workshop
Activity 2. Atlas and posters of wildlife species and derivatives involved in illegal transboundary trade in Central Asian Region.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, SLT/SLFK, TRAFFIC, Panthera Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant: GSLEP Communications specialist 6pw
Activity 3. Training materials and wildlife derivatives collections (confiscated subjects) for Customs Departments to increase their capacity to control illegal transboundary wildlife trade.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, SLT/SLFK, TRAFFIC, Panthera Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant GSLEP Communications specialist 6pw
Activity 4. Analysis of legislation related to illegal transboundary wildlife trade control resulting in recommendations for the legislation improvement and appropriate follow-up to support adoption/implementation.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, SLT/SLFK, TRAFFIC Service contract “Legislation/Transboundary agreements” Local consultant: GSLEP Secretariat Manager 6pw
Activity 5. Documents and Recommendations for Inter-Governmental Commission on Sustainable Development of Central Asia for improvement of collaboration aimed at protection of transboundary Snow Leopard populations, prey and their habitat, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • snow leopard trans-boundary action plans • implementation of the adopted CMS Guidelines on Mitigating the Impact of Linear Infrastructure and Related Disturbances on Mammals in Central Asia at the regional and national levels 	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, CMS, Partners in pilot landscape Service contract “Legislation/Transboundary agreements” Local consultant: GSLEP Secretariat Manager 7pw

INDICATIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of the CMS Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the argali, one of the key prey species for snow leopard • Agreements about wildlife migration corridors (free from border fences) (eg as required on the border of TJ and KG) <p>Appropriate follow-up/meetings to support adoption / implementation</p>	
<p>Activity 6. Guidelines and mechanisms for cooperation in transboundary snow leopard landscapes (international agreements templates and drafts) for harmonized monitoring, research, management and coordination mechanisms to allow landscapes to share information, based on the experiences from the pilot landscape and international best practices, and follow-up for implementation.</p>	<p>GSLEP Secretariat, CMS, WWF, NABU, Partners in pilot landscape Service contract “Legislation/Transboundary agreements” International consultant “Technical Advisor on Best Practices” 8pw Local consultant: GSLEP Secretariat Manager 8pw</p>
<p>Activity 7. Guidelines/user-friendly handbook based on analysis of lessons learned /best practices (successes & failures) of transboundary cooperation and management (including MEAs, governmental/multi-partner agreements and platforms) in Eurasia (and with global examples where necessary).</p>	<p>GSLEP Secretariat, CMS, WWF, NABU International consultant “Technical Advisor on Best Practices” 16pw Local consultant GSLEP Communications specialist 6pw</p>
<p>Output 1.2. Training materials and methods developed and disseminated, including through an on-line platform</p>	
<p>Activity 1. Dissemination of materials prepared in the framework of Output 1.1. among relevant agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders via project Web-site and other on-line resources such as NBSAP Forum and BES-Net.</p>	<p>GSLEP Secretariat Local consultant GSLEP Communications specialist 12pw</p>
<p>Activity 2. Prepare the training plan for capacity building (as identified by GSLEP program) and oversee its implementation, and monitor the capacity development in SL range countries using Capacity Scorecard.</p>	<p>GSLEP Secretariat International consultant “Technical Advisor on Best Practices” 8pw Local consultant: GSLEP Secretariat Manager 6pw</p>
<p>Output 1.3. Effective enforcement mechanisms developed and introduced to enforcement agencies</p>	
<p>Activity 1. Trainings for Customs Departments on illegal wildlife transboundary trade control including use of detection dogs for identification of wildlife derivatives.</p>	<p>GSLEP Secretariat, WWF and TRAFFIC, NABU, SLT, Panthera – support also from Interpol Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” \$15,000 for regional course</p>

INDICATIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS
Activity 2. Meeting of Customs Departments on international cooperation and information exchange to improve illegal wildlife transboundary trade control in Central Asia.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF and ASBK, SLT, SLFK, Panthera – support also from Interpol Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant: GSLEP Secretariat Manager 2pw \$10,000 for regional meeting
Pilot Landscape	
Activity 3. Development of inter-agency agreements for organization of anti-poaching brigades for snow leopard protection involving wildlife agencies, PA inspectors, border guards and hunting outfitters in Pilot Landscape.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, ASBK, NABU, Panthera – support also from Interpol Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant: Transboundary landscape facilitator 8pw
Activity 4. Trainings for relevant agencies and border guards in Pilot Landscape on advanced techniques and inter-agency cooperation for anti-poaching activities using modern technology and intelligence networks.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, SLFK, NABU, WWF, ASBK, Panthera – support also from Interpol Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant: Transboundary landscape facilitator 8pw
Activity 5. Coordination meeting of wildlife agencies of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in Pilot Landscape to find mechanisms to exchange information and experience on poaching and illegal wildlife trade.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, SLFK, NABU, WWF, ASBK, Panthera – support also from Interpol Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant: Transboundary landscape facilitator 8pw
Activity 6. Cooperation of regional wildlife experts and officers of regional Customs and Border Posts on identification of wildlife derivatives.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, SLFK, NABU, WWF, ASBK, Panthera – support also from Interpol Service contract “Illegal Wildlife trade” Local consultant: Transboundary landscape facilitator 4pw
Outcome 2. Global monitoring framework developed for snow leopard ecosystems, demonstrated and adopted by range states	
Output 2.1. Common monitoring indicators and methods for snow leopard landscapes and populations developed, tested and disseminated	
Activity 1. Common monitoring framework based on set of universal indicators and standard tools for monitoring of SL landscapes including populations and socio economics at regional, national (NSLEP) and global (GSLEP) levels	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, SLFK, SLC, NABU Service Contract “Common monitoring framework” Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 15pw

INDICATIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS
Activity 2. Official and expert approval of developed SL landscape common monitoring framework among SL range countries via GSLEP mechanism.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, SLFK, SLC, NABU Service Contract “Common monitoring framework” 12 Range state meeting 2016 \$20,000 (costs shared with Outcome 3) Local Consultant GSLEP Manager 4pw Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 5pw
Activity 3. Embed SL landscape common monitoring framework to NSLEPs using CA countries as an example.	GSLEP Secretariat, ASBK, SLT, NABU or WWF Service Contract “Common monitoring framework” Regional expert workshop 2017 \$15,000 Local Consultant GSLEP Manager 4pw Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 12pw
Activity 4. Training for PA staff, wildlife agencies and other relevant organizations of Central Asian countries on monitoring methods of snow leopard and its prey species (held in the pilot transboundary landscape)	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, SLC Service Contract “Common monitoring framework” Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 3pw \$10,000 for Workshop
Output 2.2. Spatial database for monitoring and management of one transboundary landscape is developed	
Activity 1. Development of GIS database structure for common monitoring systems for SL landscapes.	GSLEP Secretariat SLT, SLC Service contract “Spatial database” Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 8pw
Activity 2. Official and expert approval of SL monitoring GIS database structure among range countries via GSLEP mechanisms (link to Activity 2.1.2)	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT Service contract “Spatial database” Local Consultant GSLEP Manager 3pw Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 4pw
Activity 3. GIS database for monitoring of SL populations and ecosystems for Sarychat / Tian-Shan Pilot Landscape. Incorporation of the database into institutional frameworks.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, NABU, ASBK, WWF, TERRA Center Service contract “Spatial database”

INDICATIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS
	Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 10pw
Activity 4. Providing GIS training on building and using the GIS database to organizations involved in SL monitoring and conservation of snow leopard.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, NABU, ASBK, WWF, TERRA Center Service contract “Spatial database” Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 5pw Regional training course 2016 \$15,000
Activity 5. Dissemination of GIS database to stakeholders and public via powerful online servers (e.g. ESRI)	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT Service contract “Spatial database” Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 6pw
Output 2.3. Sustainable landscape management measures are identified and presented to stakeholders for implementation	
Activity 1. Demonstrate use of the spatial database in the pilot landscape to develop sustainable land management measures and integrate them into local and regional development planning	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, NABU, SLT, ASBK Service contract “Spatial database” Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 12pw Local consultant: Transboundary landscape facilitator 10pw Pilot landscape management planning meeting 2017 \$8,000
Outcome 3. Effective and sustainable transboundary conservation mechanism for snow leopard ecosystems	
Output 3.1. Global coordination mechanism for technical support, resource development and knowledge-sharing is strengthened	
Activity 1. Operational 5 year plan and budget for GSLEP Secretariat coordination activities on conservation and monitoring of SL Priority Landscapes.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, UNDP, SLT, NABU. ICIMOD Local Consultant GSLEP Manager 8pw Local Consultant GSLEP Fundraising Specialist 4pw
Activity 2. Technical support of GSLEP Secretariat to range states on conservation and monitoring of SL Priority Landscapes.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 15pw

INDICATIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS
Activity 3. Establish GSLEP SL information sharing centre at the Secretariat to collect data from range countries to evaluate and report on progress of GSLEP Program.	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT Local Consultant – GSLEP Manager - 3 pw Local Consultant GSLEP Monitoring and Information specialist 10pw
Activity 4. Organize Summit of SL range countries in YR3 2017 to evaluate success of National and Global SLEP, disseminate lessons learned and plan future activities (partial funding).	GSLEP Secretariat, SLT, WWF, UNDP, NABU 12 Range state summit \$40,000 Local Consultant GSLEP Manager 6pw
Activity 5. Enhanced website and communication mechanisms for GSLEP range countries and partners, based on analysis of needs.	GSLEP Secretariat International consultant – Web design expert 5pw Local Consultant GSLEP Comms specialist 12pw
Activity 6. Expert community of practice meeting (YR1 2016) to share best practices in transboundary cooperation and approve global monitoring framework	GSLEP Secretariat, UNDP, WWF, SLT, NABU Local Consultant GSLEP Manager 6pw 12 range state expert meeting \$20,000 (contribution also from Outcome 2)
Output 3.2. Global and national tools for financing snow leopard ecosystem conservation developed, piloted, and shared	
Activity 1. GSLEP Funding Strategy for 5 year period, based on feasibility study.	GSLEP Secretariat, UNDP, WWF, SLT, NABU International consultant – Financing/PES 2pw Local Consultant GSLEP Fundraising specialist 8pw
Activity 2. Consortium of partners to establish a sustainable funding mechanism for pilot landscape.	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, ASBK and NABU International consultant – Financing/PES 2pw Local Consultant GSLEP Fundraising Specialist 10pw Partners Financing Meeting in Year2 \$5,000
Activity 3. Rapid Economic Evaluation of the pilot landscape Ecosystem Services and feasibility study for promotion of PES in the project pilot landscape	GSLEP Secretariat, WWF, ASBK and NABU, WWF, FFI and NABU International consultant – Financing/PES 5pw Local Consultant GSLEP Fundraising Specialist 12pw Rapid ES valuation / PES workshop \$5000
Output 3.3. Private sector dialogue platforms established	
Activity 1. Targeted National portfolios of projects to engage the business sector in SL conservation in Central Asian Countries based on assessment of potentials.	GSLEP Secretariat, UNDP, WWF, SLT, NABU, NCF – India International consultant – Financing/PES 3pw

INDICATIVE PROJECT ACTIVITIES	POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS / SERVICE PROVIDERS
	Local Consultant GSLEP Fundraising Specialist 8pw Local consultant – GSLEP Manager - 3 pw
Activity 2. Engage large corporations to support conservation of SL Priority Landscapes and GSLEP implementation in cooperation with GTI	GSLEP Secretariat, UNDP, WWF, SLT, NABU, NCF – India Local Consultant GSLEP Fundraising Specialist 4pw Local consultant – GSLEP Manager - 6 pw
Activity 3. Confederation of Industries for snow leopard conservation in Central Asian countries	GSLEP Secretariat, UNDP, WWF, SLT, NABU Local Consultant GSLEP Manager 6pw Regional meeting for Confederation \$10,000