

2020 Project Implementation Review (PIR)



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PAK Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection

Basic Data	2
Overall Ratings	3
Development Progress	4
Implementation Progress	23
Critical Risk Management	25
Adjustments	27
Ratings and Overall Assessments	28
Gender	36
Social and Environmental Standards	
Communicating Impact	41
Partnerships	45
Annex - Ratings Definitions	

A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5716
GEF ID	9231
Title	Pakistan Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program
Country(ies)	Pakistan, Pakistan
UNDP-GEF Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Project Implementing Partner	Snow Leopard Foundation Pakistan
Joint Agencies	(not set or not applicable)
Project Type	Full Size

Project Description	
(not set or not applicable)	

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Other Partners	(not set or not applicable)

B. Overall Ratings

Overall DO Rating	Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Low

C. Development Progress

Description					
Objective					
Project Objective:					
To promote a landscape ap in critical habitats in North	-	snow leopard and	d its prey species by	reducuing threats and ap	plying sustainable land and forest managemen
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
Indicator 1: Area of snow leopard habitat under integrated landscapes management	Approximately 10,000 hectares currently managed effectively in protected areas	At least 100,000 hectares of additional snow leopard habitat brought under participatory conservation management approaches	At least 1,500,000 hectares of critical snow leopard landscapes effectively managed under integrated participatory management landscape approaches	(not set or not applicable)	 Progress made during the reporting period against this target is satisfactory and on track. The following activities were undertaken to achieve this target. (i) The project's area of operation falls in three landscapes vis-à-vis Hindu Kush, Karakoram-Pamir and Himalaya falling in KP and GB provinces and AJ&K state, respectively. These landscapes were identified by the Government of Pakistan as part of securing the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) goal of "Securing 20 landscapes by 2020". Two Landscape Coordination Committees (LCCs) were established in GB and KP during the reporting period. Each LCC has membership from all the relevant government and non-government institutions, academia and local communities. A meeting of LCC was convened in GB on May 16 2019 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary Forest, Wildlife and Environment Department. Similarly, a meeting of the LCC in KP was held on March 12, 2020 in Chitral District under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Chitral. A total of 54 members attended these meetings.

	Meanwhile, structure and ToRs of the LCC in AJ&K was developed and notification was pursued with the AJ&K Government. The Government has endorsed the case and the forum will be notified in the second half of 2020. (ii) The three Model Landscapes collectively spread across 59,183 Km ² area and constitute 74% of the snow leopard range in the country. Following the guidelines of Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), Landscape Management Plan of Karakorum-Pamir Landscape (38,245 Km ² [3.8 million hectares]]) was drafted during the reporting period while, contracts for the preparation of Landscape Management Plans for Himalaya and Hindu-Kush landscapes were awarded through a competitive process. (iii) Karakorum-Pamir Landscape was zoned into "Priority Wildlife Areas" and "Multiple Use Areas". As defined by GSLEP, the Priority Wildlife Arears constitute "Core zone" and cover ~38% of total area of the landscape. The Multiple Use Areas form 62% (2. 3 million hectares) of the landscape and are set aside for integrated conservation and development activities. Community Managed Conservation Areas (CMCAs) are established in the Multiple Use Areas. The project is managing four CMCAs in the landscape falling in the PSLEP sites.
	 (iv) The PSLEP signed ten (10) Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with government institutes, nongovernmental organizations and academia in the three model landscapes to promote collaborative actions and management of these landscapes, since the start of the project.

Indicator 2 (Mandatory Indicator 1.3.2): Number of additional people benefiting from strengthened livelihoods through solutions for improved management of natural resources and provision of ecosystem services	Fragmented and stand- alone community managed activities currently exists in the 3 landscapes	At least 500 households are directly benefiting from improved sustainable grazing management and diversified and alternative livelihoods and incomes	At least 4,000 households , (approximately 25,000 people, of which 40% will be women) directly benefit through sustainable resource management approaches	(not set or not applicable)	 This activity is on track. The following community support activities are being implemented in the project sites. (1) Livestock vaccination campaigns were launched in 14 project sites and 104,962 animals belonging to 5,169 households were vaccinated against various prevalent and contagious diseases. Besides, animals in the periphery of major protected areas were also vaccinated. (2) Thirty-three community livestock vaccinators were trained and engaged in livestock vaccination benefiting 33 households. (3) Nineteen (19) predator proof corrals were constructed at predation prone pastures and winter housing areas to protect a total of 7,600 animals of 380 households. (4) Thirteen (13) Livestock Insurance Schemes were established in 13 project valleys to compensate livestock killed by predators. (5) SFM and SLM activities including energy plantation, timber plantation, community forest nurseries, LPG provision and fodder cultivation, rehabilitation rangelands, fruit plantations, installation of solar pumps to uplift water and construction of protection walls to reduce flashflood devastation were implemented in 15 project sites in GB, AJ&K and KP. (6) About 1,000 hectares of forest patches were protected through social protection
					 measures by engaging eight Community Forest Guards. (7) Forty-two (42) community members were hired as Community Wildlife Guards in

					 consultation with the communities and provincial wildlife departments in the three landscapes for wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance in community battalions. (8) Roadmap and implementation plan for the initiation of Snow leopard Enterprises (SLE) which is a woman focused social enterprise program aimed to increase livelihood of the households' through promotion of local handicrafts and other products was developed and sites identified for the implementation of the activities.
indicator 2.5.1): Extent to which Institutional frameworks are in place for integration of conservation, sustainable	•	landscape frameworks agreed with key stakeholders and under review for official approval	Multiple use and sustainable landscape approaches institutionalized through national legislative, policy, and institutional arrangements in the three provinces	(not set or not applicable)	 This activity is on track and can be assessed through the following two major interventions. (i) Establishment, notification and meeting of the Landscape Coordination Committees (LCCs) as reported under indicator 1 (i). The LCC forums play central role in advising, overseeing, planning and monitoring project activities as well as in facilitating development activities with relevant sector agencies in the snow leopard landscapes. The forums have representation from all relevant government and non-government departments, academia and even local communities of the PSLEP valleys. (ii) Development of Landscape Management Plans (LMPs) of the three landscapes and their gazettal from the respective provincial governments. For the first time, landscape approach is adopted for the conservation of snow leopard, sympatric species, and their habitats in snow leopard range in northern Pakistan. The guidelines developed by GSLEP and adopted by the twelve

					range governments, including Pakistan by developing their national priorities provide foundation for the zonation of the landscapes based on ecological information. This notion follows ecological principals and replaces the conventional zonation approach for the PAs based on administrative boundaries. As narrated under indicator 1 (ii), out of the three proposed LMPs, one was developed. The LMP explicitly identifies multiple and core areas and recommends cross cutting management measures for each of the ecological zones. The plan will be submitted to the LCC for review and approval during the second half of 2020. Moreover, LMPs for the rest of the two landscapes will be drafted by the end of 2020.
The progress of the objective	can be described as:	On track			
Outcome 1 Improved management of sno	ow leopard landscapes t	hat integrates sus	tainable forest and	land management and cor	npatible conservation practice
	ow leopard landscapes t Baseline Level	hat integrates sus Midterm target level	tainable forest and End of project target level	land management and cor Level at 30 June 2019	npatible conservation practice Cumulative progress since project start

(i) National level-18	hostile environment of the wilderness. The
(ii) GB -18	following measures were taken to progress
	towards achieving the target.
(iii) AJK- 15	(i) A training workshop on "Design, Surve
(iv) KP - 18	and Analysis of Wildlife Populations" was
	designed and conducted in July 2019 to build
	capacity of researchers, wildlife managers, an conservationists in applied research in wildlife
	ecology. Both survey and analytical component
	of modern wildlife research were integrated in
	this training course which was felicitated by 4
	renowned ecologists and conservation biologi
	from USA and Europe. A total of 30 participan from all the provinces and representing
	government departments, conservation NGOs
	and academia attended this two week long
	training.
	(ii) Another nationwide training to assess
	wild ungulates using latest survey protocols w
	organized for more than 50 participants in
	October 2019. The training was organized on the direction of the Ministry of Climate Change
	materialize the innovative initiative "Update Re
	Data Book of Wild Ungulates of Pakistan".
	(iii) Apart from short trainings in wildlife
	monitoring techniques were arranged at the
	regional project management units in GB, KP
	and AJ&K which were attended by the field sta
	of the forest and wildlife departments, student
	and local communities. More than 200
	participants attended these theoretical and on field trainings.
	(iv) One hundred field kit containing
	camping and survey gear and equipment were distributed in the field staff of GB, KP and AJ8

				Wildlife Departments to enhance their capacity and improve wildlife surveillance.
				Holistic impact of these activities has likely resulted in increase of ~ 10% in the institutional capacity of the government agencies, and postgraduate students coming either from the snow leopard landscapes or outside the snow leopard range with commitment to become conservation biologists of the future. The CD scorecard will be updated at MTR and the capacity score of the institutions will be presented in the 2021 PIR.
Indicator 5: Status of snow leopard and associated endangered species populations in the landscapes	estimate at + 200 individuals in Northern Pakistan with associated	associated species baselines validated and monitoring showing stable or improving		Despite of several challenges faced such as delays in getting No Objection Certificate (NoC) for the research work and COVID-19 havoc during the reporting period, this activity is on track and the following milestones were achieved. (i) Camera trapping surveys were conducted in Himalaya (Astore District, GB) and Hindu Kush (Chitral Gol national Park, KP) Landscapes in 2019. The camera traps captured snow leopard, wolf, leopard cat, lynx, fox, ibex and markhor and other small mammals in the study sites. Planning for another camera trapping study was completed in collaboration with the University of Chitral. The study starts in July 2020 and ~95 trap stations will be set across 3,000 km ² area for a period of 40-50 days. Study areas were identified in the remaining landscapes and protocols were updated.
	n nindidya LO.			(ii) Genetic sampling was done in the three landscapes over an area of ~6,000 km ² . Genetic

Musk Deer, Brown bear			sampling planned for 2020 were subcontracted. The sampling once completed will be analyzed to identify individual snow leopards and estimate and validate snow leopard population in Pakistan by the end of the project. (iii) Surveys of wild ungulates in the three landscapes were conducted. Surveys of ibex and markhor were undertaken in the entire Hindu Kush Landscape falling in Lower and Upper Chitral Districts of KP. Ibex counts in the landscape was 2,058 translated into a population estimate 2,164. Similarly, a total of 5,367 markhors were counted during these surveys undertaken in collaboration with the KP Wildlife Department in Chitral translated into population estimate of 6,248. Likewise, a total of 2,424 ibex and 94 markhor were counted in the Karakoram-Pamir and Himalaya landscapes of GB. Planning for the ungulate surveys in remaining areas of GB were completed in consultation with the Parks and Wildlife Department, GB and will be initiated in July 2020 with the start of lambing season. Surveys of musk deer are planned in July 2020. Please, see the spatial distribution of the research and monitoring studies undertaken during the reporting period in the subsection "Project Location Data" of the PIR section "Communicating impacts".	
The progress of the objective can be described as:	On track			
Outcome 2 Outcome 2				
	sevetome in Protoc	ted Area network		
ncreased representation of priority snow leopard ecosystems in Protected Area network				

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	•	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
Indicator 6: Increase in extent of snow leopard habitat under PA network	3,100,000 ha of snow leopard areas under existing PA network (national parks, sanctuaries, game reserves and community managed conservation areas, but with exception of around 10,000 ha under National Parks and/or CMCAs, other areas lack appropriate management	ha of additional priority snow leopard habitat, including 2,000 ha of high conservation value forests legally defined and included in PA network	ha of high	(not set or not applicable)	 This deliverable is on track. Progress made to proceed with this target is summarized below. (i) The project developed and introduced an innovative and latest approach hereinafter referred as "Species-Habitat Integrated Approach" to assess snow leopard habitat and existing PAs for their extend and effectiveness to support snow leopard and associated species and revisit PA boundaries based on ecological information. (ii) Snow Leopard habitat and existing PAs in the Himalaya and Karakoram-Pamir Landscapes were assessed using the Species-Habitat integrated approach and applying spatial modeling tools during the reporting period. The exercise not only helped the provincial governments identify new areas to be notified as PAs but also facilitated in delineating existing PA boundaries, appropriately. (iii) Shounter valley (62,300 hectares) in AJ&K was identified as potential site to establish new PA. While, areas identified for the establishment of Himalaya National Park (2,708 km² [270,800 hectares]) and Black Bear National Park (4, 119 km² [411,900 hectares]) in GB, proposals developed and shared with GB Wildlife Department for review and process notifications. Assessment of PAs in the Hindu Kush Landscape will be initiated in the second half of 2020. Spatial distribution of the existing and proposed PAs in the project sites are provided in the "Project Location Data" under the "Communication Impact" section of the PIR.

Indicator 8: Number of management and financing plans for protected areas with adequate financial resources developed and approved by the provincial government.	4 PA management plans approved, but lack adequate budgetary provisions	improved management of CMCAs developed	additional management and financing plans for existing and new	(not set or not applicable)	 This target is on track. The following progress was made towards achieving the target. (i) In the 4th Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of the project, the management decided to promote conservation tourism in the selected project sites. Promotion of Eco-tourism as a livelihood means has been identified as one of the thematic interventions in the project document which, also constitutes high priority area of the present government. At the onset, four community-based conservation tourism sites were selected in GB as part of the implementation of the PSC decision. (ii) Conservation tourism plans of Hopper, Bagrote and Rupal valleys were developed. Activities were identified for the implementation of the conservation tourism plan in Hopper valley. (iii) Conservation tourism committee was established in Hopper valley, agreements signed and implementation of activities including Tourist Information and facilitation Center, Glamping Site, and View Point was started. (iv) First phase of the documentary on conservation tourism in Hopper valley was developed and screened and contract was awarded for the production of second phase to complete this documentary series. (v) A day long training on Ecotourism Promotion (ETP) in Snow Leopard Habitat" was organized in Gilgit in April 2019. The workshop was attended by 45 community members from four selected valleys of PSLEP including Hopper, Bagrot, Rupal and Haramosh.
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				 (vi) A total of 28 community activists from 4 valleys were trained as tour guides by arranging a training workshop in June, 2019. (vii) The contract was awarded for the development of National Strategic Plan for Ecologically and Socially Responsible Tourism promotion in the country.
				promotion in the country. (viii) The contract was awarded for the development of Conservation Tourism Plans for two more valleys, one each in KP and AJ&K.
				(ix) The contract for the development of integrated Management Plan for the Musk Deer National Park that falls in the Himalaya Landscape falling in AJ&K and constitutes one of the seven National Parks to be supported under the project to enhance its Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score was awarded.
				(x) Improve watch and ward of wildlife through involvement of communities in the monitoring of Broghil National Park, Chitral District was initiated. The implementation mechanism was agreed with the KP Wildlife Department during the reporting period.
Indicator 9: Number of forest and wildlife staff and community members actively engaged in wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance to reduce incidence of wildlife crime.	uncoordinated training programs currently implemented and incidents of wildlife crime in landscapes	(i) At least 200 forest and wildlife trained and actively enforcing environmentally friendly management practices and wildlife crime prevention	(not set or not applicable)	 This activity remains on track during the reporting period. (i) Two hundred and four (204) staff members of Forest and Wildlife Departments in the three snow leopard range provinces along with officials of other relevant stakeholder organizations and 106 community members were trained and actively engaged in wildlife surveys, monitoring crime detection and

measures in snow leopard habitats;	measures in snow leopard habitats		urveillance to reduce incidences of wildlife rime.
(ii) At least 20 community members actively engaged in wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance in community battalions	engaged in wildlife	g (i " p ir e v g g	 ii) Six staff members of AJ&K Wildlife Department were trained in using GPS and genetic sampling in September 2018. iii) A two weeks international training in Design, survey and analysis of wildlife populations" was organized from July 1-12, 2019 In Islamabad. Four international wildlife ecologists facilitated this training. The training was attended by 27 male and 03 female participants from relevant government and non-government organizations and academia coming rom all the provinces.
		й 6	iv) One hundred & six (106) field staff of the CP and GB Wildlife Departments (40 from KP; i0 from GB; 06 AJ&K) were trained in Double Observer Survey method and genetic sampling.
		S C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	v) A training on Field Equipment Handling, Survey techniques and Trophy Hunting Guidelines was arranged for 18 staff members of GB Parks and Wildlife Circle staff in collaboration with Wildlife component of Ten Billion Trees Tsunami project GB on June 11-12, 2020, thus ensuring cross fertilization with ongoing projects.
		v C W V	vi) Forty-two (42) community members vere hired as Community Wildlife Guards in consultation with the communities and provincial vildlife departments in the three landscapes for vildlife crime monitoring and surveillance in community battalions.
			vii) About 400 hectares of forest patches vere protected through social protection

					measures by engaging eight Community Forest Guards.
The progress of the objective can be described as:		On track	•		-
Outcome 3					
Outcome 3					
Participatory conservation in	the targeted landscape of	enhanced to reduc	e human-snow leo	pard conflicts and improve	e livelihoods of community.
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2019	Cumulative progress since project start
Indicator 10: Number of Valley conservation plans developed and under implementation	landscape planning		At least 17 valley conservation plans developed, endorsed and under implementation	(not set or not applicable)	This activity is on track. Fourteen Valley Conservation and Development Plans (VCDPs) of Ujnu, Washich (Zewar Gol), Shagrom (Atahk and Udrian Gol), Zondrangam (Rosh Gol), and Lon Koh (Lon Gol) Valleys in KP, Gurez and Shounter Valleys in AJ&K and Hopper, Hisper, Haramosh, Astak, Tormic, Braldo and Basha Valleys in GB alleys were drafted that are under implementation. Consultant was hired for the development of rest of the VCDPs in GB.
Indicator 11: Average increase in income of communities from sustainable livelihood and resource management activities	established in Year 1 through the valley conservation planning process	At least 5% increase in average incomes from sustainable livelihoods, natural resource management and business activities (At least 30% of beneficiaries are women)	Implementation of sustainable livelihood, natural resource management and wildlife deterrents systems ensures at least 15% average increase in incomes of participating communities from the baseline	(not set or not applicable)	The communities sharing the alpine ecosystem with snow leopard are mostly (31-49%) poor and live below poverty line (< 2 US\$/Day). They rely on agropastoral activities as major livelihood means. Revenue generated from livestock rearing accounts for 459 US\$ per household per year. Disease and predator caused mortality of livestock are major threats to mountain economy and constitutes about 352 US\$ and 191 US\$ per household per year. The project-initiated variety of community support activities aimed to reduce human-wildlife conflict such as development of livestock insurance schemes, predator proof

			established in Y1, of which at least 30 % of households include women beneficiaries		corrals, capacity building and administration of biannual livestock vaccination in the project sites, besides SFM and SLM activities which aimed to improve productivity of rangelands and pastures in tandem with the sustainable livelihood activities. The activity is on track and we envisage a crude increase in income of the communities in the project sites ~3-5%. A detailed assessment is planned in January 2021.
Indicator 12: Decreased incidences of human-wildlife conflict as indicated by: (i) Decrease in livestock lost to snow-leopard and other predators; (ii) Reduce incidence of retaliatory killing of snow leopard and other predators	0.6 head/HH/Year (ii) Number of incidents of retaliatory killings of snow leopard and other predators to be	 (i) At least 10% decrease in livestock lost/year to wildlife (ii) At least 10% decrease in retaliatory killings of snow leopard and other predators 	 (i) At least 25% decrease in livestock lost/year to wildlife (ii) At least 50% decrease in retaliatory killings of snow leopard and other predators 	(not set or not applicable)	 (i) This activity is on track. The predation mitigation i.e. predator proof corrals, compensation i.e. livestock insurance schemes, diseases control i.e. livestock vaccination and surveillance improvement i.e. community guards' measures implemented in the project sites have resulted halting mass killing of livestock by predators and disease caused mortality of livestock. Conversely, we didn't notice retaliatory killing of snow leopard or other carnivores in the project sites. However, two livestock depredation incidences due to snow leopard and lynx were reported in Chitral and GB in valleys other than the project sites with minimal or no protection measures in place. (ii) To further strengthen the initiative, the development of community-based surveillance, monitoring and wildlife crime detection plan is being undertaken in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan. Equipment for the implementation of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) have been secured and training plan developed. The field implementation of SMART will be initiated in the second half of 2020 after training of the staff of wildlife departments in the

					operation and management of this spatial monitoring and reporting tool.
The progress of the objective	can be described as:	On track		I	
Outcome 4					
Outcome 4					
Implementation, upscaling an Description of Indicator	nd replication of project a	approaches suppo Midterm target	End of project	nowledge management and Level at 30 June 2019	d gender mainstreaming Cumulative progress since project start
		level	target level		
Indicator 13: Number of knowledge products reflecting best practices and lessons learned documented and disseminated and up-scaled.	No concerted effort exists in promoting best practices	Best practice and lessons identified and at least 3 under documentation	At least 10 best practices of sustainable grazing and forest use, ecotourism, human-wildlife conflict management, financial instruments for livestock predation resolution, gender mainstreaming being up-scaled in 5 additional valleys with non-project funding		 This activity on track. The following measures were taken to achieve the target during the reporting period. (i) A documentary "scaling up snow leopard conservation in Pakistan" depicting the concept of PSLEP project as an innovative approach and best practice was developed. The documentary is available on the SLF YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYaztpAYkz (ii) Another documentary on the "Conservation Tourism in Hopper Valley" was developed as prototype of best practice. The story was also featured in the second issue of magazine of SLF "Conservation Chronicles". (iii) The project is working to develop Snow leopard Enterprises (SLE), a woman centered income generating activity.

established in Year 1	participating households (at least 40% of households include women beneficiaries) have good awareness of conservation, sustainable natural resource use and	participating households (at least 40% of households include women beneficiaries) in landscapes aware of conservation, sustainable resource use and wildlife crime	(not set or not applicable)	 This activity on track and can be gauged through the following major deliverables implemented during the reporting period. (i) A total 21 Snow Leopard Clubs (SLCs) were established in three landscapes having membership from boys (n=526) and girls (n=76). (ii) Three nature study camps were conducted, one each in Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral and AJ&K. A total of 118 students participated in these camps comprising of 78 boys and 40 girls. (iii) In October, 2018 Snow Leopard Day was celebrated at national and regional levels, whereas in 2019 the day was celebrated at regional level only. Over 150 guests including diplomatic community attended the national event while, the 350 participants attended the regional events. (iv) The World Wildlife Day was celebrated in 2018, 2019 and 2020 at national and regional levels. About 400 guests attended the national events and over 350 guests participated in the regional events. (v) Other events organized included World Wetland Day and GIS day with total attendance of over 300. (vi) The media orientation and awareness workshop were organized in Chitral, KPK in 2019 for 20 media persons from print and electronic media

					Herbivores in Snow Leopard Habitat (1000 copies), flyer on importance and awareness about ecotourism (1000 copies), Newsletter Magazine – Carnivore Column, two issues (500 and 750 copies) and Bi-lingual PSLEP profile (1000 copies) were developed, printed and disseminated.
					(viii) Four popular articles were published in local print media and one in international print media (Gulf News) during the reporting period.
					(ix) The National Project Manager (NPM) participated in a live show on TV Channel and highlighted snow leopard conservation initiatives in the country.
					(x) Four scientific articles were published in international peer reviewed and Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) indexed journals.
					(xi) Two documentaries on the PSLEP project concept and mandate and conservation tourism were developed and screened.
Indicator 15: Number of	No concerted efforts at	At least 2 effective		(not set or not applicable)	The meetings were held with Ministry of Climate
effective inter-provincial/trans- boundary collaboration	trans-boundary and inter-provincial	collaborative inter- provincial	provincial collaborative		Change (MOCC), Government of Pakistan and WWF-Pakistan to develop a forum for effective
mechanisms negotiated and	collaboration exists	agreements	agreements		inter-provincial collaboration mechanisms for
implemented		negotiated and	negotiated, joint		monitoring and surveillance of wildlife and
		protocols agreed	patrolling and		reduce poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
			informed regarding		Similarly, the matter was raised with the three
			poaching and IWT		provinces during meetings. However, this target
			shared to improve species		is linked with the development of the strategy to curb IWT in the snow leopard range. The
			conservation and		strategy is being finalized by the project and will
			trans-boundary to		be ready for review of the provincial wildlife
			reduce poaching,		departments and MOCC during the second half
			and agreements		of 2020.
			reached with at		

	least two neighboring countries for sharing of information on IWT and genetic composition of snow leopard populations
The progress of the objective can be described as:	On track

Implementation Progress D.



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Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	30.03%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	45.26%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	1,394,755

Key Financing Amounts	
PPG Amount	150,000
GEF Grant Amount	4,644,521
Co-financing	15,130,000

Key Project Dates	
PIF Approval Date	Jun 9, 2016
CEO Endorsement Date	May 10, 2018
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Jul 17, 2018
Date of Inception Workshop	Aug 30, 2018
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Jan 17, 2021

Actual Date of Mid-term Review	(not set or not applicable)
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Apr 17, 2023
Original Planned Closing Date	Jul 17, 2023
Revised Planned Closing Date	(not set or not applicable)

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

2020-02-06

E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Social and Environmental	Nine risks had been identified during the project development stage. Three new risks of Social and Environmental and Operational nature were identified during the project implementation stage. These included COVID-19 (an environmental risk) spread in the project landscapes; securing NoCs/permits (operational risk) for the research activities of the project and emergence of anti-conservation elements/poachers as opposers of project agenda (social risk) in 5 sites of Hindu Kush Landscape.
	1. COVID-19 outbreak:
	The WHO declared corona virus outbreak a Global Public Health Emergency. Corona cases in Pakistan in general and project landscapes in particular increased in March and onwards. Our project sites in GB become the epicenter of the virus. The provincial and district governments imposed strict and complete lock-down and movement/communication of project teams with the communities and other stakeholders restricted. Resultantly, some important activities such as the establishment of conservation tourism sites in GB and other livelihood activities in three landscapes delayed.
	Project response:
	The project management followed an adaptive human resources management strategy to tackle this threat.Office based staff in management grade level were allowed to Work from Home, and field staffs were deployed in the project sites i.e. valleys, to continue project activities respecting Covid risk management SoPs and vigilantly acting as per on- ground situation. They interacted with the community representative by arranging corner meetings following the COVID-19 SoPs. Field team also used alternative communication sources to remain actively in touch with the community activists utilizing phones, social media and WhatsApp and direct phone calls. Regular virtual meetings were held at regional and PMU level to assess situation, discuss the progress and day to day situation and provide strategic direction. All these measures helped dilute the impact of the pandemic on the delivery of the project in the three landscapes.
Operational	2. NoCs for the research activities:
	Securing NoCs and permits for the implementation of research studies remained a challenge during the reporting period. A lengthy and exhausting procedures to be followed at provincial and district levels to secure necessary permits. Project Response:
	Universities, provincial wildlife departments and other research institutions were engaged in the research activities of the project. Relevant government agencies were approached and briefed on technical aspects of the research work of the project that to some extent helped expedite the process.
Social and Environmental	3. Emergence of anti-conservation elements/poachers in some project sites
	In June 2020, the local wildlife poachers and elements involved in anti-conservation activities emerged as potential threat to the conservation agenda of the project in the five project sites of Chitral District that falls in the Hindu Kush Landscape.
	Project response:
	The valleys fall in the periphery of Terich Mir, the height peak of Hindu Kush Mountain Range and have been stronghold of snow leopard and its primary prey base, the

Himalayan ibex and potential site for promotion of adventure tourism. The anti- conservation elements although constitute a small (
The project team accepting the challenge launched an intensive social mobilization drive in the valleys by involving elites, political and religious society and district administration. All these efforts resulted in establishment and strengthening of the valley organizations in two valleys and acceptance of the conservation agenda by the anti-conservation elements. This was a big achievement of the project during the reporting period as the project team was able to infiltrate into the "NO GO" areas for the conservationists.
However, the issues are not settled in the other three sites namely Longol, Rosh Gol and Atahk/Udrian Gol of the project. The field team of the project was recently being threatened in one site. The project team has asked for support from the District Administration and Provincial Wildlife Department to extend support in settling the issue.

F. Adjustments

Risk Management

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

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

Social and Environmental

Operational

Social and Environmental

Comments on delays in key project milestones

Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

Not Applicable

Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

Not Applicable

UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

There is no delay in any of the project milestones during the reporting period. The project inception was conducted on time in Aug 2018. The MTR is due for January 2021 and the process will start by Sep/Oct. 2020.

G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	s 2020 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Highly Satisfactory	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	 This is the first PIR of the project since, its inception on August 30, 2018. The project's mandate is innovative, as it takes into account, for the first time, the landscape approach for the conservation and management of fragile mountain ecosystems under the umbrella of snow leopard conservation in Pakistan. The project concept stems from and contributes to the goal of "securing 20 landscapes by 2023" of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) endorsed and adopted by the 12 snow leopard range countries. However, at the same time, the snow leopard habitat that falls in the remote mountainous region of northern Pakistan makes implementation of the project challenging for the project team. Despite many unforeseen risks such as the COVID-19 havoc as outlined earlier, the project and spreads across over 3 million hectares area was drafted and development of the management plan for the Hindu Kush and Himalaya Landscapes was initiated. A rigorous research and monitoring program focusing snow leopard, other sympatric carnivores, their wild prey species and habitat using cross cutting and state-of-the-art tools was initiated in the three landscapes. Capacity of over 200 wildlife researchers coming from government wildlife departments, conservation NGOs and academia was built in planning, implementation, data management and reporting of wildlife populations was built through training workshops and on field trainings. Four renowned wildlife biologists from USA and Europe were invited to Pakistan to facilitate trainings. An innovative approach, Species-Habitat Model was developed to assess existing PAs for their extend and effectiveness to support snow leopard conservation and extended support to the provincial government to define boundaries of the existing PAs based on ecological information. Using the output of this exercise, two proposals were developed and submitted to GB government for the notification Himalaya National Park and Black Bear National Park and area identified	
	Community-based conservation Eco-tou and conservation support initiative was of Similarly, development of National Cons	leveloped and started implementation.
	Valley Conservation and Development C and strengthened and Conservation Plan community support activities including liv schemes, predator proof corrals, SFM an valleys benefiting over 5,000 households	ns of 145 valleys were drafted. The vestock vaccination and insurance and SLM activities were implemented in 14
	A powerful conservation education and a national, regional, and local level and ov and schoolchildren were reached throug inculcate sense of stewardship and love ecosystem.	er 2000 people including women, youth h different activities and events to

	Two world class documentaries on the project theme and message and conservation tourism were developed. Two issues of magazine "Conservation Chronicle" depicting progress and success stories were developed and disseminated. Thematic educational resource material including posters, booklets, brochures on conservation issues and promote nature stewardship were developed and disseminated. All these efforts of the project were well taken by the federal, provincial, and district governments, diplomatic community and communities of the snow leopard landscapes.	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress 2020 Implementation Progress Rating Rating	
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	The project is being implemented under NGO execution and has so far been quite successful. The project has effectively carried out social mobilization with the communities in all three geographical locations. The communities have been mobilized with a landscape model approach. The project is on track to meet the goal of the global snow leopard and ecosystem protection programme. The project has imparted extensive training to the relevant stakeholders mostly at the government level and introducing technological measures to analyze and assess the movements and population of the snow leopard in the concentrated areas. The project has also selected three sites to promote eco-tourism in the area. This is a good initiative that will also generate revenue for the local communities and create local jobs. The impact will be visible soon and shall be reported in the next reporting period for this project. These initiatives have ensured community interest and ownership in the conservation of snow leopard. The project has a strong communication approach and regularly publish the project updates and disseminate through various channels. The project has developed a gender mainstreaming plan which is being followed at the field level. The project has also developed a stakeholder engagement plan which is also being catered for during the implementation. The project has developed amaps of the area which gives good depiction of the conservation and protected areas in the geographic locations. Overall, the project has been performing well and the financial delivery is also satisfactory. The project team is proactive and willing to learn and deliver. The current COVID situation in the country has hamper the progress but still things are being coordinated at the field level. Since this is the first PIR of the project so the overall rating could be confidently termed as 'Satisfactory'.	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress Rating	2020 Implementation Progress Rating
GEF Operational Focal point	(not set or not applicable)	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	(not set or not applicable)	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress 2020 Implementation Progress Rating Rating	

Project Implementing Partner	Highly Satisfactory	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	(not set or not applicable)	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progress 2020 Implementation Progress Rating Rating	
Other Partners	(not set or not applicable)	- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -
Overall Assessment	(not set or not applicable)	
Role	2020 Development Objective Progre Rating	ess 2020 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser	Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Assessment	Assessment This is the first PIR of the Snow Leopard and ecosystem protection project in Pakistan. The project has completed two years of implementation. The project was CEO endorsed in May 2018, project document was signed in July and the implementation commenced from August 2018. This is an NGO implemented project with Snow Leopard Foundation (SLF) as the Implementing Partner of the project, and oversight provided by the Ministry of Climate Change. The project's objective is to promote a landscape approach for the survival of snow leopard and its prey species by reducing threats and applying sustainable land and forest management in critical habitats in Northern Pakistan. The project's target area is located in northern Pakistan and spans across the snow leopard habitat in Gligit-Baltistan (GB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The project also engages number of NGO partners to deliver some of the project outputs in the targets sites through a letter of agreement with the project IP, thes are namely World Wildlife Fund-WWF, Himalayan Wildlife Foundation-HWF, Baltistan Wildlife Conservation and Development Organization-BWCDO, IUCN. The project has achieved good progress across the four outcomes and 15 indicators, and is well on track to achieve the EOP target. In 2020, the project has been impacted by COVID-19 pandemic to a large extent as field activities in the remote locations have been stalled for quite sometime. This will likely impact the progress of 2020 AWP activities. While the project hasn't realigned any activities that will indirectly assist community to cope with the economic impacts of the pandemic once the activity resumes after the restrictions are lifted by the government.	
	The project underwent a NIM audit in 2019 covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019. Few observations have been made by the auditor mainly on- expenditure not supported by vouchers and supporting documents; and expenditures not following laid down procurement procedures. This poses some risks to the project in terms of its financial management. CO and the Regional	

Hub have discussed on the issue and prepared an action plan to address the audit recommendations with the IP.

In view of the progress achieved thus far, the project has been rated 'Satisfactory' for progress towards development objective (DO) and a 'Moderately Satisfactory' rating for implementation progress (IP). The details are highlighted below.

PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO):

There are three indicators for the DO and are on track. The progress achieved todate include: (1) of the MTR target of 100,000 ha snow leopard habitat to be brought under participatory conservation management – two landscape coordination committees (LCCs) have been established in GB and KP; Landscape Management Plan (LMP) of Karakorum-Pamir Landscape covering 3.8 million ha has been drafted, and the contract for the preparation of plans for the other two landscapes have been awarded; The project is managing four Community Managed Conservation Areas (CMCAs) in the landscape which are set aside as Multiple Use Areas. (2) As for the target of households directly benefiting from improved sustainable grazing management and diversified alternative livelihoods/incomes - livestock vaccination campaign against contagious diseases has covered 104.962 livestock belonging to 5.169 households in 14 project sites; 19 predator proof corrals were constructed at predation prone pastures benefitting 380 households; 13 Livestock Insurance Schemes were established in 13 project valleys; 42 community members were hired as Community Wildlife Guards; and implementation plan to promote women focused snow leopard enterprise has been developed. (3) To institutionalize multiple use and sustainable landscape through national legislative, policy, and institutional arrangements in the three provinces – the establishment of LCC with representatives from various government agencies, NGOs, academia and communities would play a central role in advising, planning and monitoring activities in the landscapes; the LMP developed above and endorsement by the three provincial government would ensure zonation of the landscapes based on ecological information and management of the ecological zones.

In light of the progress that have been achieved to date, the DO progress for 2020 has been rated 'Satisfactory'.

Progress under the respective outcomes are presented below:

A. Outcome 1 focuses on improved management of snow leopard landscapes that integrates sustainable forest and land management and compatible conservation practice - Outcome 1 has two indicators and the progress is on track. Progress under this outcome include: (1) in terms of enhancing institutional capacity of provincial government agencies in planning, implementing and monitoring landscape plans- 30 participants have received two weeks of training on Design, Survey and Analysis of Wildlife Populations; another 50 participants have been trained to on survey protocols to update Red Data Book of wild ungulates of Pakistan; 200 participants from three provinces including wildlife and forest officials, students and communities were provided hands-on training on wildlife monitoring techniques; and field kits and equipment were provided to field staff of GB, KP and AJK wildlife department for wildlife surveillance. (2) to monitor the status of SL and key specie population in the landscapes – camera trapping surveys was conducted in the two sites of the project landscape and another round of study is underway in the same sites covering 3,000 km2, which is also been undertaken in partnership with University of Chitral; genetic sampling was

undertaken the three project landscapes covering 6,000km2 and more studies are underway in 2020. This would enable project to identify individual SL, estimate and validate SL population by the end of the project; surveys of ungulates have been initiated and completed for ibex and markhor in the entire Hindu Kush landscape within Chitral of district of KP, and Karakoram-Pamir and Himalaya landscapes of GB.

B. Outcome 2 - Increased representation of priority snow leopard ecosystems in Protected Area network

Outcome 2 has four indicators and achieved good progress in the last two years of implementation. Brief summary of the progress under this outcome include:

(i) the project initiated an innovative approach referred to as 'Species-Habitat Integrated Approach" to assess snow leopard habitat and existing PAs. Applying the approach combined with spatial monitoring tools, habitats and PAs were assessed in the Himalaya and Karakoram-Pamir Landscapes. Accordingly, the project assisted provincial governments to identify new areas to be notified as PAs and facilitated delineating existing PA boundaries. The proposal for declaration of new PAs include: Shounter valley in AJ&K (covering 62,300 hectares), Himalaya National Park (270,800 ha) and Black Bear National Park (411,900 ha) in GB.

(ii) for effective management of PAs within the landscape – project initiated community support activities in the buffer zone of Chitral Gol National Park along with capacity building, wildlife monitoring and surveillance measures; community wildlife guards and forest guards were engaged in the wildlife monitoring surveys and community support activities in Musk Deer national Park in AJ&K; wildlife guards were recruited and enhanced capacity of field staff to improve watch and ward system in the Broghil National Park; field trainings of staff and wildlife surveys were conducted in Khunjerab National Park, Qurumbar National Park and Chitral Gol National Park and Ghamot National Parks.

(iii) with regard to developing management and financing plans for the PAs – the Project Board (PB) identified conservation tourism as a priority to be pursued through the project. Accordingly, the project identified four community-based conservation tourism sites in GB - Hopper, Bagrote, Rupal and Haramosh valleys. Conservation tourism plans have been developed and activities have been identified for implementation in Hopper valley. 45 community members from the four valleys have been trained on eco-tourism promotion, and another 28 trained as tourist guides. The project is also coordinating development of a national Strategic Plan for Ecologically and Socially Responsible Tourism promotion in the country.

(iv) As for the wildlife staff and community members engaged in wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance – 204 staff members of Forest and Wildlife Departments in the three snow leopard range provinces and 106 community members were trained to conduct wildlife surveys, monitoring crime detection and surveillance to reduce wildlife crime; 18 staff members of GB Parks and Wildlife Circle were trained on field equipment handling, survey techniques and trophy hunting guidelines; 42 community members were hired as Community Wildlife Guards in the three landscapes for wildlife crime monitoring and surveillance.

C. Outcome 3 focuses on participatory conservation in the targeted landscape to reduce human-snow leopard conflicts and improve livelihoods of community. The outcome has three indicators, and have made good progress across all the EOP targets in the last two years of implementation. The progress under this outcome include: (1) In total, 14 conservation valley and developments have been drafted and under implementation in KP and AJ&K. This has already surpassed MTR target. (2) with regard to the increase in income of communities from sustainable livelihood and resource management activities – as majority of communities are dependent on livestock rearing, the project facilitated activities that are aimed at reducing HWC namely – setting up livestock insurance schemes; constructing predator proof corrals; and capacity building of community members on ecotourism, livestock management, etc. The assessment to confirm any increase in household income of the participating community in the landscape will be undertaken at mid-point or later. (3) as for the incidences of livestock predation by SL and incidences of retaliatory killing of SL and other predators - the project has put in place mitigation measures such as - setting up compensation through livestock insurance schemes, disease control through livestock vaccination, enhanced surveillance through recruitment of community guards have reduced predation by SL and mortality from zoonotic diseases and, also there hasn't been any report of retaliatory killing of SL by the community. To further strengthen community surveillance, the project in partnership with WWF-Pakistan will be facilitating the implementation of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) from mid-2020.

D. Outcome 4 focuses on effective knowledge management and gender mainstreaming - This outcome has three indicators and have made good progress towards EOP targets. Summary of the key achievements so far include: (1) the project has prepared two documentaries showcasing the innovative approach and best practice of the SL project. (2) to increase the level of awareness of communities on conservation of SL and threats to biodiversity – the project assisted in establishing 21 SL clubs (SLC) in the three landscapes with a total membership of 602 students (comprising of 526 boys and 76 girls); education resource materials such as cartoon story books, posters, information disk on carnivores and herbivores in SL habitat, flyer on ecotourism, Newsletter magazine, bi-lingual project profile, etc. were developed and disseminated; four scientific articles were published in international peer reviewed and Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) indexed journals.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The project has coordinated the implementation of 2019 AWP activities very well while there has been a delay in the 2020 AWP after COVID-19 pandemic hit Pakistan since March. Majority of the project activities are in the field, and has to be stalled for considerable period. In terms of financial delivery, the cumulative delivery as of June 2020 stands at 30%. The delivery in 2019 was at 88% whereas, the financial delivery as of June 2020 stands at 8.82% (of the total AWP amount of US\$ 1.199 million) which is very low. The IP therefore, is rated 'Moderately Satisfactory' for the 2020 reporting.

While the project is still weak in reporting gender results, efforts are being made to provide sex-disaggregated data against the training and awareness programmes. The project intervention in the target landscapes present a good entry point to promote gender equality, and must pay attention to address gender related issues and more so with the COVID-19 impacts that would have serious implications on the health and livelihood of vulnerable women and women headed households. The road map and implementation plan for a woman focused social enterprise program developed by the project is commendable.

With regard to the project's governance mechanism, the project receives strategic guidance from the project board which is chaired by MoCC and also represented by the three provinces. During the reporting period, PB has met twice in February and June 2020.

In terms of project risk, three critical risks have been identified during the reporting period – (1) COVID-19 outbreak where the project site in GB has become the epicenter of the virus. The provincial and district governments imposed strict and complete lockdown and movement/communication of project team with the communities and other stakeholders. As a result, some important activities such as the establishment of conservation tourism sites in GB and other livelihood activities in three landscapes have been delayed. (2) securing clearance and permits for research studies posed a challenge for the project team which a lengthy and exhausting procedures to be followed at provincial and district levels to secure necessary permits. (3) Emergence of anti-conservation elements/poachers - the local wildlife poachers and elements involved in anticonservation activities emerged as potential threat to the conservation work of the project in the five project sites of Chitral District that falls in the Hindu Kush Landscape. The project team launched an intensive social mobilization drive in the valleys by involving elites, political and religious society and district administration. All these efforts resulted in establishment and strengthening of the valley organizations in two valleys and acceptance of the conservation agenda by the anti-conservation elements. While the issue has been resolved in two areas, it still exist in the other three areas.

With respect to the social and environmental risks, two new risks have been identified and added after reviewing the SESP prepared during the project design. These are: (i) Project activities may affect the resource use pattern of indigenous peoples/communities - with the creation of new protected areas and zoning of the landscapes for multiple uses, community resource use patterns may be compromised in specific areas. This has been rated as a low risk as 'Indigenous people' in the context of the project's area of operation is difficult to judge and ascertain. (ii) Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions affected from the project activities. This has been rated as a moderate risk. The project team has proposed management measures to address the risks. In terms of financial management, the HACT audit of 2019 and the auditor's observation, does present a serious risk to the project. The CO and the regional hub have prepared an action plan to address the audit issues. This will have to be pursued diligently with the PMU and IP.

The project has very well dedicated efforts on knowledge management through publication of article in reputed scientific journals, dissemination of project activities via social media platform (Facebook, twitter), documentary on snow leopard conservation etc. The project has dedicated website integrated with SLF website. Some of the publications that the project has developed are:

(1) Two issues of biannual periodical "Conservation Chronicles" of SLF forecasting PSLEP activities and stories http://slf.org.pk/conservation-chronicles-2020/;

(2) documentary on "scaling up snow leopard conservation in Pakistan" highlighting SL project as an innovative approach and best practice: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYaztpAYkzk

(3) documentary on the "Conservation Tourism in Hopper Valley" was developed as prototype of best practice.

(4) Four scientific articles were published in international peer reviewed and Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) indexed journals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Follow-up on the 2019 HACT audit recommendation and associated qualified opinion.

2. Preparation for the MTR of the project should start by September to complete the MTR on time and finalize the report and Management response by January 2021.

3. The project team and CO must focus on achieving good financial delivery in the remaining period of 2020 as the project is almost half-way through its implementation. The project team must put in plans for 2021 to achieve good delivery and cope with the new normal.

4. Ensure proper oversight of the overall project risks including social and environmental risks. Based on the safeguards oversight review undertaken by NCE Vertical Fund Directorate, preparing an overall ESMF for the project has been recommended. The CO and PMU therefore, must prepare to develop an ESMF quite soon. Any complaints/grievances from the affected stakeholders must be directed to Project Board, IP or UNDP CO and responded to in accordance with UNDP's SES.

5. The project team should ensure that all necessary COVID-19 precautions are followed to protect the team and the stakeholders including communities from the potential local transmission during all field missions and consultations. For consultation with the national and provincial level government staff, NGOs and academia, consider using online platform.

H. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning. The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

Gender Analysis and Action Plan: Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan.pdf

Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.

Atlas Gender Marker Rating

GEN2: gender equality as significant objective

Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):

Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No

Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: No

Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes

Not applicable: No

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

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

Despite the fact that the project communities are conservative and participation of women in activities outside their traditional domain has been limited historically, the project made significant progress to ensure participation of women in project implementation during the reporting period.

Membership of women in the executive committee of Valley Conservation and Development Organizations (VCDOs) was ensured in GB. The VCDO is the main body at the valley level developed for the implementation and monitoring of the community led initiatives under the project. In AJ&K, separate CBOs of women were established in each village of Gurez and Shounter Valleys.

Roadmap for the Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE) which is a woman focused social enterprise program aimed to increase livelihood of the households' through promotion of local handicrafts and

other products was developed and sites identified for the implementation of the SLE activities. This will further boost women empowerment and family livelihood in the project sites.

Some other activities of the project such as conservation education and awareness raising activities, capacity building measures, livelihood improvement activities i.e. establishment of fruit orchards and fruit tree plantations and provision of LPG connection reflected the increased gender equality.

The project has also worked on women empowerment through creating jobs and opportunities in the project. Principles of gender inclusion have been applied in the hiring process as a total of 07 females have been engaged in the project activities during this reporting period.

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

Increased participation of men and women in the project activities focusing on sustainable management of natural resources and livelihood improvement reflects the gender balanced approach of the project. The results achieved so far, such as periodic vaccination of livestock which constitute major source of family income in the project valleys and managed by both men and women and measures to mitigate and compensate for livestock depredation by snow leopard through predator proof corrals and livestock insurance schemes have thus contributed towards diluting the gender inequalities and discrimination. The capacity building and awareness raising activities in the project sites focusing men and women and youth have helped inculcate sense of resource stewardship in the masses of the importance of wildlife and ecosystem conservation. Moreover, the Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE) program planned in the project sites during the upcoming quarter will further enhance public tolerance of wildlife in the communities, especially womenfolk.

I. Social and Environmental Standards

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

The Project Manager and/or the project's Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

SESP: Stakeholder Engagement Plan.pdf

For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.

1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?

Yes

If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.

The following two new risks were realized during the reporting period.

Risk #7: Project activities may affect the resource use pattern of indigenous peoples/communities.

With the creation of new protected areas and zoning of the landscapes for multiple uses, community resource use patterns may be compromised in specific areas. Establishment of new community managed PAs may affect the resource use pattern and access unless these are clarified, affirmed and documented during the integrated landscape and valley conservation planning processes.

Risk#8: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions affected from the project activities;

(a) assess potential health and safety risks posed by enforcement actions of security personnel to local communities and establish protocols (e.g. vetting, training on human rights standards, monitoring and reporting of unlawful/abusive acts) that aim to address human rights and community health and safety risks posed by enforcement units; and

(b) implement measures aimed to safeguard health and safety of personnel involved in enforcement

Response to Risk #7:

"Indigenous people" in the context of the project's area of operation is difficult to judge and ascertain. IFAD (2012) report on indigenous people of Pakistan declares GB and Chitral as land of indigenous people. In the project's area of operation, except the agricultural lands, all other land-forms are owned by government. The communities have user rights of grazing, fodder and fuel wood collection.

Moreover, to our knowledge, no statuary laws exist in the country to protect the rights of indigenous people. Since, project activities relate to improving natural resources and promotes participatory

conservation paradigm, the mitigation measures proposed under Risk 4 and 5, are also supporting potential risk # 7. We believe no further measures are required.

Response to Risk #8:

The project is engaging wildlife guards to protect forest closures, improve wildlife surveillance, and wildlife consensus in partnership with the concerned communities and forest and wildlife departments.

In order to mitigate impacts for the communities, following measures were taken:

1) Wildlife guards were selected from the same community, so that they understand local norms, culture and practices

2) The selection of guards was done in consultation with the CBO, so that guards carry greater trust of the community.

3) Training were provided to the guards to ensure they understand community engagement and partnership principles.

Risks related to the safety of community guards was ensured by following measures:

1) No firearm is provided to the community guard neither they are mandated to directly confront with poachers. Rather they inform and involve Government departments who have legal powers and mandate to control such issues.

2) They would be supported with field gear to survive in harsh environment.

2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.

No

If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.

Not Applicable

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

Yes

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

Copy of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan uploaded.

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

No

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

Not Applicable

J. Communicating Impact

Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives.

(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)

One of the most important components of PSLEP project is community conservation initiatives. These initiatives are designed to support the local communities living in project valleys. The core objective and focus of these initiatives is to minimize the human-wildlife conflict through various interventions including conflict mitigation, compensation and livelihood improvement measures.

The local communities of PSLEP project valleys have very limited resources and opportunities of livelihood and income generation. They heavily rely on their livestock and very limited agriculture due to the natural features of the landscapes and also the extreme weather conditions for half the year. Livestock losses due to snow leopard can add to their challenging living conditions hence developing human snow leopard conflicts which effects both the snow leopards as well as the conservation efforts. Despite all the difficulties and challenges, the resilient communities of snow leopard habitats have shown tremendous cooperation and support in the implementation of PSLEP project in three landscapes.

In order to support and provide opportunities to the local communities for livelihood improvement and enhance their economic stability, PSLEP has introduced various community support initiatives and interventions. The outcome so far is very positive and encouraging for the project team and resulted in win-win situation. These initiatives include protection of livestock from predation and diseases. Ecosystem Health Program (EHP) is Snow leopard friendly livestock vaccination program. Bi-annual vaccination helps in protecting the livestock from catching diseases and reproduction. PSLEP team is using this program for conservation education as well. The communities are informed about the impacts of climate change and snow leopard conservation efforts.

Livestock losses due to snow leopards can be devastating when the carnivore gains entry to a poorly developed and predator prone corral. The cats have been known to kill tens of animals in one attack (far more than they need to consume), and may return multiple nights in a row. These events affect families economically, financially and emotionally and generate negative attitudes towards predators and predator conservation. To minimize the livestock losses due to snow leopard predation, Predator Proof Corrals under PSLEP project are planned and being constructed in three landscapes.

Agropastoralism is the primary source of livelihood and subsistence for the mountain communities and all threats to livestock are dealt harshly. Lack of safety nets and workable strategies to protect livelihood and compensate for damages to livelihoods of the poor communities are the root causes of human-carnivore conflicts in the area. Livestock Insurance Scheme (LIS) or Livestock Support Fund (LSF) is another PSLEP initiative for compensation of livestock losses. The insurance scheme provides the compensation of livestock losses due to carnivore depredation through funds built up from seed grant and regular insurance premiums paid by participating households. This intervention has been appreciated by the local communities and helped in developing the awareness and understanding of snow leopard conservation in their respective village/ valleys

All three project landscapes of PSLEP have tremendous potential of tourism. Which can be one of the major sources of income and livelihood for the local communities. Realizing the potential and willingness of the local communities, PSLEP has initiated Development of Conservation Tourism

Sites in Gilgit Baltistan, Chitral and Neelum AJ&K. First of its kind initiative having multiple benefits in term of financial and economical enhancement, it helps to minimize the effects of global warming and climate change, minimize human snow leopard conflict, it minimizes physical, social, behavioral, and psychological impact such as damage to property, landscape or wildlife habitat, development of environmental and cultural harmony through awareness and respect of the local community, provides positive experiences for both tourists and hosts, contributes to the local economy by purchase of locally made products, allows recognition and appreciation of local culture and heritage.

Gender mainstreaming and empowerment is one of the key components of PSLEP. Although local women in project valleys play their role in household management but their contribution may not be recognized in more deserving manner. Snow Leopard Enterprises (SLE) Initiative is community support program designed for the local women. Majority valleys and villages in PSLEP project have rich cultural and ancient heritage including colorful handicrafts. To enhance the embroidery skills and to revive their ancient stitching techniques and motifs, a dedicated team of female staff from SLF and PSLEP are working in Chitral to develop skills and production of high-quality handicrafts. A financial mechanism provides income generation opportunity for the local women to earn for their families. This has resulted in earning extra income as respect from their male family members for contributing in the household expenses. In 2020 this program will be launched in selected project valleys in Gilgit-Baltistan.

PSLEP project considers local communities as very important stakeholder in snow leopard conservation efforts. The communities are very supportive and cooperative but lacks capacity to play the desired role. Capacity Building Through Trainings is an important intervention from PSLEP. So far training workshops on livestock health, conservation tourism in snow leopard habitats, tour guides trainings, wildlife guides trainings have been conducted at national and regional level.

Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media

Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.

Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.

(i) Two issues of biannual periodical "Conservation Chronicles" of SLF forecasting PSLEP activities and stories were published during the reporting period. http://slf.org.pk/conservation-chronicles-2020/;

(ii) Educational posters on 'Threats to snow leopards' and Awareness on snow leopard conservation were developed and distributed for conservation education and creating awareness about the challenges and threats faced by snow leopards due to human snow leopard conflicts and impacts of climate change.

(iii) PSLEP project awareness brochure with information on project background, objectives and components was designed and printed in both English and Urdu language.

(iv) Year calendar 2019 was developed on PSLEP project component theme. The year calendar 2020 was developed on first conservation tourism site being developed under PSLEP project in

Hopper valley Gilgit-Baltistan. The calendar pages show valley landscape, wildlife, flora and fauna, local people.

(v) PSLEP project progress is shared with stakeholders through online monthly newsletter. Public service messages on international days are also posted and sent online.

(vi) Projection of PSLEP project activities and interventions are regularly posted on social media. The Facebook page has over 7000 followers. https://www.facebook.com/slfpak/

(vii) The twitter account has been relaunched and so far it has nearly 300 followers and the number is increasing. https://twitter.com/slf_pak?lang=en

(viii) The YouTube channel offers documentaries produced on Snow leopard conservation, PSLEP project. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTi1hw2ZZX-De8Xcy4Ts8YA/videos

(ix) The website has been revamped and re-designed. It is more informative and contains information for the viewers about project introduction, components, interventions and activities. www.slf.org.pk

(x) SLF has produced documentaries and explainer videos on different project components and activities. These videos are saved on social media (Facebook) for viewers. https://www.facebook.com/pg/slfpak/videos/?ref=page_internal

Media has been actively covering SLF/ PSLEP stories and events. Article on social enterprise initiative was published by a journalist in international newspaper Gulf News.

(xi) Local media also publish stories from time to time.

Project Location Data

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

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

If the project has multiple sites, please attach an Excel file with the coordinates for each site in either decimal degrees or in degrees, minutes, seconds format.

Existing_PAs.zipM24620PpVL_PslepProjectSitesLandscapes.jpgM25620PpEp_PslepExistingProtect Areas.jpgM30620PpPpa_PslepProposedProtectAreasv3.jpgM7022020PpRa_PslepResearchActivitie s.jpgProposed_PAs.zipPSLEP_Landscapes.zipPSLEP_Project Sites.zipResearch_Activities.zip

Provide geo-location in longitude, latitude, format.

If you have this information stored in a GIS file, please upload it below (e.g. shapefile, kmz/kml, or csv).

(not set or not applicable)

Longitude

(not set or not applicable)

Alternatively, provide geo-location in degrees, minutes, seconds format. Please also provide information on what the coordinates point to in the space provided.

(not set or not applicable)

Seconds

(not set or not applicable)

K. Partnerships

Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important! All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?

Yes

Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?

Yes

Does the project work with the Private Sector?

No

Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?

No

Does the project work with UN Volunteers?

No

Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?

Yes

CEO Endorsement Request: PIMS 5716_GEF CEO_ER 9 Apr 2018.docx

Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.

All major stakeholders were engaged in project implementation in one way or the other. The provincial wildlife departments, ministry of science and technology, Ministry of Economic Affairs, IUCN and WWF-P are taken onboard in the Project Steering Committee Chaired by the Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan.

Other stakeholders such as academia, communities, local NGOs and provincial government institutions such as environment, forest, livestock, and agriculture departments are onboard in the Landscape Coordination Committees established at Landscape level.

All these stakeholders are providing learned inputs during the meetings of the aforesaid forums which are crucial for the successful implementation of the project.

L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-ofproject targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.