

# **Part I: Project Information**

GEF ID 10692

**Project Type** FSP

**Type of Trust Fund** GET

# CBIT/NGI CBIT No NGI No

# **Project Title**

Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Mountain Ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for Multiple Benefits

**Countries** Kyrgyz Republic

Agency(ies) UNDP

# **Other Executing Partner(s)**

Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, Snow Leopard Trust, CAMP Alatoo, UNDP Country Office

**Executing Partner Type** Government

**GEF Focal Area** Multi Focal Area

Sector Mixed & Others

#### Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Biomes, Grasslands, Rivers, Temperate Forests, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Species, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Mainstreaming, Forestry -Including HCVF and REDD+, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Sustainable Land Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Pasture Management, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Forest, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Forest, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approache, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Communications, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Education, Awareness Raising, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Innovation, Learning, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Knowledge Exchange

**Rio Markers Climate Change Mitigation** Significant Objective 1

**Climate Change Adaptation** Significant Objective 1

**Biodiversity** Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation Significant Objective 1

Submission Date 7/15/2022

**Expected Implementation Start** 1/1/2023

**Expected Completion Date** 12/31/2027

Duration

60 ln Months

**Agency Fee(\$)** 250,774.00

# A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	Mainstreaming biodiversity across priority sectors	GET	259,817.00	3,744,778.00
BD-2-7	Addressing direct drivers at protected areas	GET	1,500,000.00	10,297,034.00
LD-1-4	Reducing pressures from competing land uses	GET	618,844.00	3,375,172.00
LD-1-3	Ecosystem services with focus on restoration	GET	261,065.00	2,855,934.00

Total Project Cost(\$) 2,639,726.00 20,272,918.00

# **B.** Project description summary

# **Project Objective**

To safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems, restore degraded lands, and ensure maintenance of critical ecosystem services for sustainable livelihoods

Project	Financin	Expected	Expected	Trus	GEF	Confirmed
Compone	g Type	Outcomes	Outputs	t	Project	Co-
nt			·	Fun d	Financing( \$)	Financing(\$ )

Project Compone nt	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trus t Fun d	GEF Project Financing( \$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$ )
Component 1: Integrated Landscape Planning and LDN- focused Managemen t	Investmen t	Outcome 1: Ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods in Pamir-Alai wider landscape (outside PAs) secured through improved land use planning and management, as indicated by:	Output 1.1 Landscape- level integrated and gender- sensitive land use management approaches for Pamir Alay landscape designed and under implementatio n	GET	991,950.00	7,534,370.00
		- 1,558,919 ha under improved management practices through sustainable management of 621,905 ha of pastures; 563,949 ha of high conservation value forest land; 338,065 ha of community conservation	Output 1.2 Priority high altitude pastures sustainably managed and restored with engagement of 41 Pasture Committees, including gender considerations			
		areas; and 35,000 ha of wildlife corridors - 19,500 ha of priority pasture ecosystems <u>restored</u> - 500 ha of	Output 1.3 Priority high altitude high conservation value (HCV) forest sustainably managed and restored with engagement			
		priority HCVF <u>restored</u> - National LDN targets supported with increased investment - 94,883 direct	of 5 priority forest management units, considering gender dimensions			
		beneficiaries	Output 1.4			

Project Compone nt	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trus t Fun d	GEF Project Financing( \$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$ )
Component 2: Strengthenin g Key Biodiversity Areas	Investmen t	Outcome 2: Sustainability of critical Pamir- Alai mountain ecosystems secured, as indicated by: - Expansion of the PA network by 281,083.79 ha	Output 2.1 Protected area estate expanded 281,234 ha through gazettement of new PAs, supplying them with operational and financial management plans	GET	1,144,315.0 0	9,502,218.00
		<ul> <li>Management effectiveness of 153,250 ha of existing PAs increased by ~40%, as indicated by increased METT scores</li> <li>Improved enforcement efficiency and effectiveness of PA rangers</li> </ul>	Output 2.2 Increased management effectiveness of existing 5 PAs with focus on biodiversity monitoring and enforcement in protection zones			
		<ul> <li>- 338,064.5 of community conservation areas under effective management for conservation of biodiversity</li> <li>- Stable or increasing populations of priority species, including snow leopard, Central Asian ibex, Marco Polo argali, and other Red List species</li> </ul>	Output 2.3 Financing of protected areas improved through community- based ecotourism and private sector partnerships Output 2.4 Community- based and gender- sensitive conservation mechanisms			

established

Project Compone nt	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trus t Fun d	GEF Project Financing( \$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$ )
Component 3: Knowledge Managemen t and International Engagement	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3. Enhanced cooperation and knowledge sharing supporting LDN, and strengthened conservation community of practice nationally and regionally, as indicated by: - At least 10 case studies / best practice knowledge products developed and disseminated, or events held, through national, regional, and global platforms, with at least one regional event and one published document related to future development of transboundary PAs in Pamir- Alai - At least 200 participants trained in biodiversity conservation and integrated land management for LDN	Output 3.1 Modules on biodiversity conservation and integrated land management for LDN, including gender aspects, integrated in publicity, vocational training, and higher education systems Output 3.2 International coordination and information sharing, including support for future development of transboundary biodiversity conservation in Pamir-Alai	GET	250,000.00	1,540,596.00

Project Compone nt	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trus t Fun d	GEF Project Financing( \$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$ )
Component 4: Project Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4. Project implemented in an accountable and transparent manner, with results documented and available to public, as indicated by:	Output 4.1. Project monitoring activities Output 4.2. Project evaluation activities	GET	128,000.00	730,357.00
		- Project results are well documented, and information about project results is disseminated through multiple online channels, and through stakeholder meetings				
		- Project implementation and results are objectively evaluated in a useful and transparent manner				
		- Evaluation findings are clearly communicated, with relevant recommendatio ns formulated to be concise, specific, relevant, and time-bound, with responsibilities clearly articulated				

Project Compone nt	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trus t Fun d	GEF Project Financing( \$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$ )
			Sub	Total (\$)	2,514,265.0 0	19,307,541.0 0
Project Mana	agement Cost	t (PMC)				
	GET		125,461.00		965,3	77.00
S	ub Total(\$)		125,461.00		965,37	77.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			2,639,726.00		20,272,97	18.00
Please provide j	ustification					

Sources of Co- financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co- financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP (TRAC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	250,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Oversight	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	17,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Oversight	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	650,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CAMP Alatoo	Grant	Investment mobilized	798,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Snow Leopard Trust	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Union for the Conservation of Nature of Germany (NABU)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	174,918.00
Civil Society Organization	Fond Ilbirs	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
Beneficiaries	Plenipotentiary of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic in the Batken Region	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
Beneficiaries	Batken Region State Administration of Batken District	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
Beneficiaries	Batken Region State Administration of Kadamjay District	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Beneficiaries	Batken Region State Administration of Leylek District	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00

Sources of Co-	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
financing		financing		

#### Total Co-Financing(\$) 20,272,918.00

#### Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

In case of GEF approval, UNDP will be prepared to invest grant financing to support the project. - In case of GEF approval, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision is prepared to take on the main role of National Implementation partner, with public investment to ensure successful execution of the project and achievement of the objective. This includes specific support for the expansion and further development of the protected area system under Component 2. - In case of GEF approval, CAMP Alatoo will be prepared to invest grant financing to support the achievement of the project objective, in their role as Responsible Party.

Agen cy	Tru st Fun d	Count ry	Focal Area	Programmi ng of Funds	Amount(\$ )	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republi c	Biodiversi ty	BD STAR Allocation	1,759,817	167,183	1,927,000. 00
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republi c	Land Degradati on	LD STAR Allocation	879,909	83,591	963,500.0 0
			Total G	rant Resources(\$)	2,639,726. 00	250,774. 00	2,890,500. 00

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

# E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No** Includes reflow to GEF? **No**  F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG) PPG Required **true** 

**PPG Amount (\$)** 100,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)** 9,500

Agenc y	Trus t Fun d	Countr y	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$ )	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republic	Biodiversit y	BD STAR Allocation	66,667	6,333	73,000.00
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republic	Land Degradatio n	LD STAR Allocation	33,333	3,167	36,500.00
			Total I	Project Costs(\$)	100,000.0 0	9,500.0 0	109,500.0 0

## **Core Indicators**

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
504,023.00	434,333.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
331,000.00	281,083.79	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protecte d Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Categor Y	Total Ha (Expecte d at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement )	Total Ha (Achieve d at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieve d at TE)
"Alai Valley National Park"	Not assigne d	National Park	113,000.00	66,830.79		
"Arka Zoological Reserve (zakaznik) "	Not assigne d	Strict Nature Reserve	54,000.00	50,000.00		
"Arpa Valley Zoological Reserve (zakaznik)"	Not assigne d	Strict Nature Reserve	164,000.00	164,000.00		
Aigul-Tash Botanical Reserve (zakaznik)	Not assigne d	Strict Nature Reserve		253.00		

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Ex PIF)	pected a	at CEO	(Expected ) lorsemen			al Ha hieved at R)		Total Ha (Achieved a	at TE)	
173,023	3.00	153,	250.00		0.00			0.00		
Nam e of the Prot ecte d Area	WD PA ID	IUCN Catego ry	Ha (Exp ecte d at PIF)	Ha (Expe ed at CEO Endo emen	rs	Total Ha (Achi eved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achi eved at TE)	METT score (Baseli ne at CEO Endors ement)	MET T scor e (Achi eved at MTR)	MET T scor e (Achi eved at TE)
Akbur a Zoolo gical Zakaz nik	167 067	Habitat/S pecies Manage ment Area	13,60 0.00							
Kara- Shoro Natio nal Park	167 092	National Park	8,450. 00	8,450.	00			40.00		
Kulun -Ata State Natur e Reser ve	Not assi gne d	Strict Nature Reserve	27,43 4.00	27,434 0	1.0			40.00		
Kyrgy z-Ata Natio nal Park	167 108	National Park	11,17 2.00	11,172 0	2.0			44.00		

Nam e of the Prot ecte d Area	WD PA ID	IUCN Catego ry	Ha (Exp ecte d at PIF)	Ha (Expect ed at CEO Endors ement)	Total Ha (Achi eved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achi eved at TE)	METT score (Baseli ne at CEO Endors ement)	MET T scor e (Achi eved at MTR)	MET T scor e (Achi eved at TE)
Sarke nt State Natio nal Natur e Park	Not assi gne d	National Park	40,00 0.00	40,000.0 0			40.00		
Surm a- Tash State Natur e Reser ve	Not assi gne d	Strict Nature Reserve	66,19 4.00	66,194.0 0			39.00		
Yasy Zoolo gical Zakaz nik	167 130	Habitat/S pecies Manage ment Area	6,173. 00						

# Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expec CEO Endorsem	Ha (Ach		Ha (Achieved at TE)
20000.00	20000.00	0.00	0	.00
Indicator 3.1 Area of de	egraded agricultura	al lands under restoratio	n	
Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at pected at CEO Ha (Achieved at Endorsement) MTR)		ieved at	Ha (Achieved at TE)	
500.00	500.00				
Indicator 3.3 Area of na	tural grass and v	voodland und	ler restoration	1	
Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Exp CEO Endorse	ected at ement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	19,500.00	19,500.00	)		
Indicator 3.4 Area of we	etlands (including	g estuaries, m	angroves) un	der restoration	
Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expe CEO Endorse		Ha (Ach MTR)	ieved at	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
235000.00	1558919.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
35,000.00	373,065.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at		
CEO	Ha (Achieved at	Ha (Achieved at
Endorsement)	MTR)	TE)
	CEÒ	CEO Ha (Achieved at

**Type/Name of Third Party Certification** 

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100,000.00	621,905.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggrega Type		pected PIF)	CEÒ	xpected at rsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Indicator 4.5 Te		000.00 Ms support	563,94 ed	19.00		
Name of the OECMs	WDPA- ID	Total Ha (Expected) at PIF)	a	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

# Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Submitted

#### Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	1588009	6148637	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	1,588,009	6,148,637		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2022	2022		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				

Total Target B	enefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsemen	(Achieved t) at MTR)	l (Achieved at TE)
Anticipated sta accounting	art year of				
Duration of acc	counting				
Indicator 6.3 Energ	y Saved (Use thi	is sub-indica	tor in addition to tl	he sub-indicator 6.2	if applicable)
Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy CEO Endors	(	Energy (MJ) Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)					
Indicator 6.4 Increa				• Technology (Use th	is sub-indicator

in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

	Capacity		Capacity	Capacity
	(MW)	Capacity (MW)	(MW)	(MW)
Technolog	(Expected at	(Expected at CEO	(Achieved at	(Achieved
У	PIF)	Endorsement)	MTR)	at TE)

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	9,000	47,380		
Male	9,000	47,503		
Total	18000	94883	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Indicator 1: Per details in Core Indicators worksheet. This figure corresponds to Results Framework indicators 10 and 11, related to PA establishment (indicator 10) and PA management (indicator 11). The project will support five existing PAs (covering 153,250 hectares), and will aim to establish four new PAs (281,083.79 hectares). Indicator 3: This figure corresponds to the project Results Framework indicators 6 and 8, related to pasture restoration (indicator 6) and forest restoration (indicator 8). The project will implement sustainable management of 621,905 hectares of high value mountain pasture zones, of which it is estimated more than 150,000 hectares is degraded (25.3% degraded average in the region); of this, the project will support restoration through sustainable land management practices. In addition, the project will implement sustainable forest management in 563,949 hectares of HCVF areas, including direct restoration of 500 hectares of currently degraded forest (out of a current reported total of 1,935 hectares degraded). Indicator 4: This figure corresponds to Results Framework indicator 1. The project aims to improve biodiversity management practices across the entire Pamir-Alai landscape, which is roughly estimated at 3.8 million hectares, of which approximately 434,333,79 hectares are PAs, or potential PAs (and therefore excluded from the core indicator 4 total). Under Output 1.1 the project will be working to develop a landscape-level integrated management plan, and will take initial steps for implementation of this plan; however, it is not expected that the project will influence land management practices throughout the entire landscape prior to project completion. In terms of the most direct project impact, it is estimated that the project will improve management practices for biodiversity in 621,905 hectares of critical habitat pasture zones, 563,949 hectares of critical habitat HCVF zones, 338,065 hectares of community conservation areas, and 35,000 hectares of wildlife corridors. Indicator 6: This figure corresponds to Results Framework indicator 21. The estimate is based on FAO EX-ACT calculator. Indicator 11: This figure corresponds to Results Framework indicator 2. The project will have direct beneficiaries through multiple project activities. However, the most conservative and ?most direct? assessment of beneficiaries is the number of rural inhabitants who will benefit from the project?s support (Output 1.2) to approximately 18 Pasture Committees in and around existing and proposed PAs, in order to improve pasture management and reduce wildlife conflicts (especially with livestock). The 18 Pasture Committees include a beneficiary population of more than 94,640 people, estimated to be evenly split between men and women (i.e. 47,320 women and 47,320 men). Under Output 1.3 the project will provide direct benefits to forest management staff; for the 5 priority leskhozes there are 162 staff, of which it is estimated ~25% are women (40 women, 122 men). In addition, under Output 2.2 the project will provide direct benefits to protected areas staff, which total 81 people (of which it is estimated 25% are women - 20 women and 61 men). Therefore the total number of beneficiaries is estimated at 94,883. It is expected that during implementation the number of beneficiaries will actually be greater, as there will be beneficiaries through other project outputs (e.g. Output 1.3, Output 2.3, Output 2.4, and Output 3.1). The number of actual beneficiaries will be tracked during project implementation.

# Part II. Project Justification

#### 1a. Project Description

1a. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

There have been no substantial changes in terms of the global environmental problems identified since the PIF was designed and approved, although they have been provided for in more detail on the Prodoc. Please see Prodoc Section II, para 22-35, (pp. 12-14) for the analysis of Threats, Root Causes, and Key Barriers; the Theory of Change (Section III, paras. 36-38, pp. 14-15); and the Prodoc Annexes 16-17 on the Development Context related to pasture management, forest management, and biodiversity.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;

There have been no strategic changes to the baseline scenario or associated baseline projects since the PIF was designed and approved, except that the baseline has been elaborated on further. Please refer to Prodoc Section 4.2 on Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination, paras. 64-92, and the co-financing tables on the Prodoc front page, and please also see Table C above.

One additional baseline project has been identified, and is summarized in the table below. The proposed GEF project also involves CAMP Alatoo ? Kyrgyzstan (as a Responsible Party) and the Ilbirs Foundation, and includes plans for activities related to migratory animals and transboundary management. Through CAMP Alatoo the project will coordinate closely with the IKI project to generate synergies, particularly in relation to research, data, and knowledge sharing related to migratory mammals in the Pamir-Alai.

Title	Purpose	Donor	Budget	National	Execution	Timeframe
				Partner	Partners	

the conservation of flagship migratory mammal species of Central Asia through climate- informed management and decision making	species in Central Asia are highly vulnerable to climate change. As a result of changing migration patterns, protected areas are rendered ineffective. Changes in the use of pastures (extension of grazing periods and shifting grazing areas to higher elevations) are expected to lead to increased human-wildlife conflicts. In order to increase the resilience of people and wildlife in Central Asia to climate change ecosystem- based adaptation (EbA) measures and climate change- informed wildlife management will be tested in pilot sites. Given the focus on migratory species, a transboundary approach across the three target countries will be used. The implementation of pilot measures with economic potential and their integration into political framework incements with economic		USD (6 m euros)	Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz	for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan (ANCOT) CAMP Alatoo - Kyrgyzstan CAMP Tabiat - Tajikistan GRID- Arendal Ilbirs Foundation Regional Mountain Centre of Central Asia (RMCCA) - Kyrgyzstan Secretariat of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) - Deutschland World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Russia World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - USA	2021 ? January 2025
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*3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;* 

The project design is closely aligned to the original PIF, and the structure of the project components closely resembles the PIF approved by the GEF. A description of the project components is provided in Section 4.1 ?Project Description and Expected Results? of the GEF-UNDP Prodoc (pp. 17-24). Some changes were made to the project?s outputs, which do not represent a departure from the project?s strategy as defined in the PIF, nor will they have an impact on the funds originally budgeted. These changes are described as follows:

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 1.1. Landscape-level integrated land use management approaches for Pamir Alay landscape designed and under implementation	Output 1.1 Landscape- level integrated land use management approaches for Pamir Alay landscape designed and under implementation	No changes.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 1.2. Priority high-altitude pastures and HCV forest sustainably managed and restored with engagement of 3 Pasture User Associations, and 3 Forest management units	Output 1.2 Priority high altitude pastures sustainably managed and restored with engagement of 41 Pasture Committees	Original PIF Output 1.2 split into separate outputs focused on pasture management, and forestry. This was done to improve the functional focus of project activities related to sustainable pasture management vs. sustainable forest management. In addition, the number of Pasture Committees (translated terminology corrected from Pasture User Association) to be engaged was increased from 3 to 41. This was partially due to the fact that the total STAR allocation was increased from \$3 million to \$4 million, and also due to the fact that after an analysis of the costs associated with this work during the PPG, it was determined that the project will be able to realize economies of scale in relation to the pasture management work under Output 1.2. Analysis was also conducted during the PPG phase using spatial data to identify the specific number of Pasture Committees that have territories in or around KBAs in the Pamir-Alai landscape, with the resulting identification of 41 Pasture Committees.
	Output 1.3 Priority high altitude high conservation value (HCV) forest sustainably managed and restored with engagement of 5 priority forest management units	Split from PIF Output 1.2. Number of priority forest management units increased from 3 to 5, reflecting an increase in the STAR allocation from \$3 million to \$4 million. In addition, during the PPG an analysis of forest management units in the Pamir-Alai landscape was carried out, identifying and further describing a total of 11 forest management units in the landscape. One of these units is foreseen to be transformed into one of the new PAs, and therefore the project will be comprehensively engaging 50% of the forest management units in the landscape, with a lower level of activity for engaging the remaining 50%.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 1.3. SFM and LDN-focused enabling environment through amendment of local rules and regulations on forestry and land use.	Output 1.4 Supportive biodiversity and LDN- focused enabling environment through amendment of laws and regulations on protected areas and biodiversity monitoring	Previous Output 1.3 was renumbered as 1.4, due to the split of previous Output 1.2, as described above. In addition, based on stakeholder consultations conducted during the PPG, the terminology for the output was updated to better reflect the government priorities for biodiversity-focused national legislation and policy to be supported under the project, which will have a significant positive contribution to the project objective for the Pamir-Alai landscape.
Output 2.1. Protected area estate expanded through gazettement of new PAs, supplying them with operational and financial management plans	Output 2.1 Protected area estate expanded 281,234 ha through gazettement of new PAs, supplying them with operational and financial management plans	The specific number of new PA hectares was added to the output wording, based on the work done during the PPG to further confirm the specific area of proposed PAs.
Output 2.2. Increased management effectiveness of existing 7 PAs with focus on biodiversity monitoring and enforcement in protection zones.	Output 2.2 Increased management effectiveness of existing 5 PAs with focus on biodiversity monitoring and enforcement in protection zones	The number of existing PAs to be comprehensively engaged under the project was changed from 7 to 5, based on analysis carried out during the PPG. It was determined that 2 of the original 7 PAs were lower level PAs, and the project should focus on the 5 higher level PAs.
Output 2.3. Financing of protected areas improved through community-based ecotourism and private sector partnerships.	Output 2.3 Financing of protected areas improved through community- based ecotourism and private sector partnerships	No changes.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 2.4. Community-based conservation mechanisms established and implemented, including wildlife monitoring, enforcement and awareness raising.	Output 2.4 Community- based conservation mechanisms established and implemented, including wildlife monitoring, enforcement and awareness raising	No changes.
Output 3.1. Modules on biodiversity conservation and integrated land management for LDN integrated in publicity, vocational training, and higher education systems.	Output 3.1 Modules on biodiversity conservation and integrated land management for LDN integrated in publicity, vocational training, and higher education systems	No changes.
Output 3.2. International coordination and information sharing, including support for future development of transboundary PAs in Pamir-Alai	Output 3.2 International coordination and information sharing, including support for future development of transboundary biodiversity conservation in Pamir-Alai	No substantive changes. Wording slightly revised from ??transboundary PAs?? to ??transboundary biodiversity conservation?? This was done to better reflect a comprehensive approach to transboundary conservation of species, rather than on just the single specific mechanism of PAs. In the Pamir-Alai there are certain species that migrate or have home ranges over large areas, beyond the boundaries of individual PAs, and therefore a broader approach to transboundary conservation is required, including sharing of monitoring data, and transboundary landscape management.
Output 3.3. Project monitoring and evaluation ensured	None ? split into stand- alone component (below).	Project monitoring and evaluation activities shifted to stand-alone component. Required by UNDP project development procedures.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
No component 4	Output 4.1. Project monitoring activities	Split from PIF output 3.3, as required to separate M&E activities into stand-alone component.
No component 4	Output 4.2. Project evaluation activities	

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

There have been no changes since the PIF was designed and approved in terms of strategic alignment with the GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Focal Area strategies. Please see Section III. ?Strategy? of the Prodoc (pp. 14-16), including the description of the project Theory of Change.

*5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;* 

There have been no changes since the PIF was designed and approved in terms of the incremental cost reasoning. In terms of expected contributions from the baseline, the total STAR allocation was increased from \$3 million foreseen at the PIF stage to \$4 million overall planned financial input. The project design and structure was not changed as a result of the increased funding allocation, but the scale of expected results was increased, as can be seen in the Core Indicators worksheet (Annex 20 of the Prodoc, and Annex 7 of this CEO Endorsement Request). For example, the total area under improved practices (Core indicator 4) has increased from 235,00 hectares to 1,558,919 hectares, due to an increase in the area of pastures and area of forests to be addressed under the project. In addition, the number of beneficiaries has increased from a total of 18,000 to 94,883. One exception is that the total number of hectares to 434,333.79 hectares, which is due to technical reasons identified during the PPG related to the foreseen establishment of new PAs, rather than financial considerations; the number of expected new PAs has increased from 3 to 4.

Planned overall co-financing has risen, from \$14.5 million USD to \$20.3 million USD, including UNDP?s grant co-financing from \$100,000 to \$250,000. Some of the co-financing organizations have

changed, and the amounts of grant and in-kind co-financing have changed. Please refer to the co-financing tables on the Prodoc front page and please also see the previous Table C in this CEO Endorsement Request.

#### 6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and

There have been some slight changes in the expected global environmental benefits since the PIF was designed and approved, partially due to more comprehensive and detailed analysis completed during the PPG phase, and partially due to the increased STAR allocation for the project from \$3 million to \$4 million (as discussed in point 5), above). The key global environmental benefits are summarized in Section I.F. above, and in the Core Indicators worksheet (Annex 20 of the Prodoc, and Annex 7 of this CEO Endorsement Request).

- Core indicator 1: The total number of hectares of protected areas to be addressed by the project changed from 504,023 hectares to 434,333.79 hectares, a decrease of 69,689.21 hectares. The decrease is partially due to dropping two existing lower-level PAs (decrease of 19,773 ha) from the PAs to be addressed under Output 2.2 of the project, and partially due to a decrease in the expected area of the proposed new PAs (decrease of 49,916.21 hectares), due to further analysis and stakeholder input during the PPG phase.

- Core indicator 4: The total number of hectares of landscape under improved practices increased significantly from 235,000 hectares to 1,558,919 hectares. This is due to multiple factors. First, the hectares of community conservancy land has been included (spatially analyzed and specified during the PPG phase), covering 338,065 hectares. The area of pasture land to be addressed under the project increased from 100,000 hectares to 621,905 hectares, and the area of forest land to be addressed increased from 100,000 hectares to 563,949 hectares. Both of these increases were due to the fact that the PIF figures were rough estimates, while during the PPG stage the specific areas of project intervention were further spatially analyzed and identified, and extensive stakeholder consultations were held to identify specifically which Pasture Committees and which forest management units would be specifically addressed by the project. In addition, as previously indicated, the project budget was increased by \$1 million additional STAR allocation.

- Core indicator 6: Based on the updated hectare figures under Core indicator 4, the analysis of expected carbon sequestration or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector was updated, resulting in an increase from 1,588,009 tCO2e to 6,148,637 tCO2e.

- Core indicator 11: Based on the expanded scope of the project?s work on sustainable pasture management under Output 1.2, and based on actual population data for the Pasture Committee areas to be engaged, the number of project beneficiaries increased from 18,000 to 94,883.

The project will also contribute to multiple adaptation co-benefits. Adaptation benefits from the project will include outcomes such as increased resilience to landslides and erosion resulting from extreme climate events, increased resilience of mountain species populations to climate impacts through improved ecosystem connectivity across the landscape, reduced severity and frequency of wildfire, increased resilience of local agricultural livelihoods, and increased water regulation of vegetated slopes. Specifically: Under Output 1.1, the project?s work on developing a landscape scale land use plan will help ensure that critical ecosystems remain intact to better respond to extreme climate events. In addition, the project?s work to use the SPARC methodology to assess the effectiveness of the protected area system under climate impact scenarios will be highly valuable for using science-based approaches to consider climate impacts in the biodiversity Hotspot Mountains of Central Asia, and in particular the Pamir-Alai. Output 1.2 will include adaptation benefits for rural, subsistence livestockbased livelihoods, through increased access to pasture resources, including water points. In addition, Output 1.2 will lead to reduced degradation of pasturelands, which will increase their resilience to climate-related changes. Under Output 1.2, the improved management of forest resources will consider potential future climate impacts, and will strengthen the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate extremes, shifts, and events, such as wildfires. Under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 the project will support the strengthening and expansion of Kyrgyzstan?s protected area system, which contributes to maintaining the intactness of ecosystems. This provides adaptation co-benefits, since well-functioning ecosystems are inherently more resilience to climate impacts than degraded ecosystems. In addition, the project will improve ecological monitoring in these areas, including monitoring of climate-related indicators, to improve understanding and scientific data about how climate change may be affecting Kyrgyzstan?s mountain ecosystems. Under Component 3 the project will increase understanding of climate impacts in relation to integrated landscape management, as well as linkages to LDN, consider the strong interplay between climate change and land degradation, related to issues such as drought, erosion, floods, soil temperature and precipitation fluctuations.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

There have been no changes to these aspects of the project since the PIF was designed and approved, though each of these aspects has been given further consideration, and more comprehensive detail and analysis has been provided. An updated description of the project?s innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling-up is included in Section 4.5. of the Prodoc on ?Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up? (paras. 141-144, pp. 37-39).

#### 1b. Project Map and Coordinates

# Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Please see Annex E of this CEO Endorsement Request for maps that indicate the Key Biodiversity Areas and PAs addressed under the project, and the priority areas of influence to be addressed by the project across the Pamir-Alai landscape. Additional maps indicating KBAs and PAs are available in Prodoc Annex 3.

#### **1c. Child Project?**

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

#### N/A

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

**Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan** 

Stakeholder	Role	Project	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
	Interest	Componen ts	Methods	Responsibili ty		
State Committee on the Environment and Climate; Department on Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas; Its territorial divisions in Batken, Osh and Naryn regions	Main implementation partner the Department on Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas; key partner and the key stakeholder for the elaboration of	2	Will be involved directly in the field trips; awareness razing activities among local communities, rural gatherings, public	PMU	2022-2027	No cost

	the national PA planning framework, ensuring organization of new PAs, and managerial and financial sustainability of the national PA system.		discussions on decision making for establishing new PAs; working with regional and oblast administratio ns on approval establishing new PAs; developing and submission of final documents on establishing new PAs; developing and submission of final documents on establishing new PAs for approval to Government of the Kyrgyz Republic; signing agreements with relevant bodies on sustainable nature resources management in and around PAs.			
Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development (Ministry of Agriculture)	Key partner in pasture and forest management, land allocation for establishing new PA.	2	Will participate in decision- making on land allocation for protected areas	PMU	2022-2023 until the decision making on new PAs establishin g (approval by Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic)	No cost

Agency on Forestry Development of the Ministry of Agriculture	Key partner in forest management, facilitating establishing new PA	1, 2	Will participate directly in the transferring the leskhoz lands to new establishing PAs, in the development and implementati on of management plans for the Alai, Alaikuu, Nookat, Leilek, Osh leskhozes located in/aroundkey biodiversity areas of the Pamir-Alay landscape, in making decisions on establishing ecological corridors in the State Forestry	PMU	2022-2024 36 months	No cost
State Institution "Kyrgyz Forestry Management" (Lesoohotustroistv o) of the Ministry of Agriculture	A key partner in forest inventory and development planning for leskhoz and protected areas	1, 2	Fund. Conducting a forest inventory in the Batken, Leilek leskhozes	PMU	2023-2024 12 months	\$60,000

State Agency on Region Development of the Ministry of agriculture	Key partner on working out of the regional development plans and coordination of their further implementation	1, 2	Will be involved directly in integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management issues into regional development plans, awareness razing activities among local communities for establishing new PAs	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
The Department of Pastures and Livestock Breeding of the Ministry of agriculture	Key partner in the developing pasture management plans development and implementation	Output 1.2	Consultations and information sharing for developing pasture management plans	PMU	During developing pasture manageme nt plans	No cost
Kyrgyz Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and Pasture of the Ministry of Agriculture	Key partner in the assessing of the pasture conditions, developing recommendatio ns on pasture use to be integrated into pasture management plans.	Output 1.2	Will be involved directly in the field trips on assessing the pasture conditions and developing pasture management plans	PMU	Seasonal work	No cost

State Agency on Land Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture	SALR coordinates and controls the registration of land property rights in the vicinity of the project sites. Within its mandate, it is responsible for the following: 1) inventory of agricultural lands, lands of urban and rural settlements, State Agricultural Lands Fund with specification of their boundaries, areas and forms of property; regulating of land relations (state registration deed, land cadastre) in new PAs, corridors; and 2) topography survey and mapping of proposed PAs to prepare state registration deed for land	2	Consultations on identification of the main land owners; Registration and issuance of a state certificate of ownership of new protected area.	PMU	During establishin g new PAs	No cost for consultation s; For State act budget included in finance plan
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Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic	Coordinates and agrees on issues related to road construction and the construction of communication s facilities. There are plans for future on road construction in Batken region nearby the Arka PA	2	Consultations during establishing new PAs for	PMU	During establishin g new PAs	No cost for consultation s
Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic	Collaboration in harmonization Law on subsoil and Law on PAs	2	Consultations in legislation harmonizatio n	PMU	During legislation and policy developme nt	No cost
Ministry of Education and Science	Collaboration in implementation professional retraining programmes on wildlife monitoring, PAs management etc	3	Consultations on implementati on professional retraining programs	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
State Committee for National Security the Kyrgyz Republic Border Guard Service (BGS) of the State Committee on National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic	Collaboration in identification of the borders for new establishing PAs in state transboundary areas.	Output 2.1	Consultations during establishing new PAs on state border issues	PMU	During establishin g new PAs	No cost for consultation s

Lagal Calf		1.2	W/:11 1	DMIT	Onesing	N
Local Self	Decision and	1, 2	Will be	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
Governance	policy making		involved			
Bodies	bodies at local levels on		directly in			
			decision			
	LSGs? land		making on			
	management.		establishing			
	Support to the		new PAs,			
	establishment		working with			
	of new PAs and		local			
	integration of		communities			
	biodiversity		on awareness			
	conservation		razing			
	into local Self					
	Government					
	Bodies					
	development					
	plans.					
	These bodies					
	are responsible					
	for the					
	elaboration and					
	implementation					
	of local					
	communities?					
	development					
	strategies					
	including local					
	environment					
	issues. They					
	will be among					
	the main					
	project					
	implementing					
	partners at the					
	local level in					
	new PAs					
	establishing,					
	integrated land					
	use planning,					
	buffer zones					
	and corridors					
	land					
	management.					

Province (Oblast) and District administrations	Support to the establishment of new PAs and integration of biodiversity conservation into corresponding administrative level development strategies and plans.	1, 2	Will be involved directly in decision making on establishing new PAs at district and oblast levels, working with LSG, public discussions on legislations and policy development	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
Local Communities	Land use (pasture, forest)	1, 2	Rural gatherings, interviews for establishing new PAs, feasibility studies, implementati on investment program	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
Pasture committees in each Local Self Governance Bodies (LSGB)	They will be among the main project implementing partners at the local level in pasture plan development and its implementation	1, 2	Will be involved directly in the field trips for pasture land assessment, developing pasture management plans, agreements with leskhoz and PAs on collaboration for sustainable resources management	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
Local level Councils of each Local Self Governance Bodies	Decision making body for land allocation takes part in establishing new PAs, approval of the pasture management plans.	1, 2	Will be involved directly in the decision making for new PAs establishing and approval of the pasture management plans	PMU	Ongoing	No cost

Communities of the PA transition zones (surrounding areas)	Active users of ecosystem services		They will be involved in joint planning of nature resource use, awareness razing activities among local communities	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
Non-government C	Organizations					
Aarhus center in Osh	This centerpromotes theAarhusConvention(The UnitedNationsEconomicCommissionfor Europe(UNECE) Convention onAccess toInformation,PublicParticipation inDecision-Making andAccess toJustice inEnvironmentalMatters)implementationin the KyrgyzRepublic	1, 2	The NGO might be involved in awareness raising activities among local communities on biodiversity conservation and protected areas management, in conducting public discussions (decision making processes) for nature conservation policy and discussions	PMU	Ongoing	No cost

Kyrgyzstan Association of Forest and Land Users, CAMP Alatoo, and ECO audit, RDF, FFI	Sustainable natural resources management, work with local communities	1, 2	They will be involved in multiple project activities that will be implemented at the community level. This may include support for the implementati on of sustainable pasture management in partnership with PUAs, community- based mechanisms for input to forest and PA management and community- based wildlife management, they also be involved in the landscape level integrated resource management planning for the Pamir- Alai landscape, education and awareness activities.	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
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Union of Local Governments of the Kyrgyz Republic	Promoting local communities involvement in decision making processes	1, 2	They will be involved in social mobilization for public discussions on establishing new protect areas, in integration of the biodiversity conservation into local development plans of the local self- government bodies, pasture management plans.	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
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National Association of Pasture Users "Kyrgyz Jaiyty", Association of water users	They are the users of ecosystem services regulating access of local communities to natural resources and sustainable use of biodiversity and they will provide inputs to the development of the landscape level management plan for the Pamir-Alai that defines transition zones and conservation- friendly uses in sensitive areas, as well as play a role in the development and implementation of alternative sustainable livelihoods	1, 2	They will be involved in pasture management plan development	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
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Geological Society       Geopark       during         concept for       establishing         integrated       new PAs,         ecosystems       collaboration         conservation,       in awareness         culture and       razing         ecotourism       activities	International NGOs, e.g. WWF, NABU, Foundation Ilbirs, GSLEP, Snow Leopard Trust, GIZ, etc.	Project partners are likely to include international non- governmental organizations supporting snow leopard conservation activities in Kyrgyzstan and neighboring countries aimed at habitat range monitoring, promoting anti- poaching and livelihoods for local communities. Relevant activities are likely integrated landscape management planning, and community- based wildlife management and PA financing strategies	2	Will be involved directly in the field trips, awareness razing activities among local communities, biodiversity monitoring	PMU	2022-2025	No cost
development in the Kyrgyz Tian Shan     development in the Kyrgyz       Research and Expertise     development in the Kyrgyz		concept for integrated ecosystems conservation, culture and ecotourism development in the Kyrgyz Tian Shan	2	establishing new PAs, collaboration in awareness razing	PMU	Ongoing	No cost

Institute of Biology (including Forest Research and Production ?entre of the Institute of Biology) of the National Science Academy of the Kyrgyz Republic	The NAS the only scientific research body which can develop scientific base for establishing new PAs (one of main document part for approval from Government the establishing new PAs).Based on their experience and expertise, these institutes will play a role in elaboration of the scientific grounds for biodiversity monitoring, improving participation in biodiversity sustainable use norms, identification of the areas under strong pressure, PA management effectiveness assessment. Additionally they will be also involved capacity development and knowledge management activities.	1, 2	Will be involved directly in the field trips on biodiversity monitoring, feasibility studies, developing forest management plans, PAs management plans etc. Participation in the development of a biodiversity monitoring plan / programme for new PAs, identification of wildlife migration routes, identification of indicator / key species for monitoring.	PMU	2022-2024	Identifies in the budget table
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Kyrgyz community based tourism association (KCBTA)	Capacity building of local communities for nature friendly tourism development	3	Will be involved in training of local communities to develop ecological tourism facilities and infrastructure for PAs financial sustainability as well as marketing of such community- based tours.	PMU	After establishin g new PAs	Identifies in the budget table
Tourism and sustainable use companies (hunting concessions, tour operators, mining companies)	They are key partners in developing sustainable PA financing activities and community- based wildlife management mechanisms.	2	Will be involved directly in developing: - management planning and sustainable financing planning of the new PAs; - planning biodiversity and its ecosystem conservation activities in transition areas around PAs.			

Livestock sector small holders and value chain actors	Small holders in the livestock sector will be partners in the development and implementation of sustainable pasture management plans and the identification of PA transition zones and corridors. Small holders will also be important partners supporting the financial sustainability of PAs, and community- based ecosystem management mechanisms.	1, 2	Consultations	PMU	Ongoing	No cost
International nature conservation and agriculture development agencies		3	Information sharing, knowledge management	PMU	Ongoing	No cost

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The project stakeholder analysis and engagement strategy has been updated and more fully elaborated during the PPG phase. The project stakeholder analysis is summarized in Section 4.2 of the Prodoc, on ?Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination? (pp. 24-29), including Table 2 summarizing project stakeholders and their roles. A more detailed ?Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan? is included as Annex 11 of the Prodoc; this includes information on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, resource requirements throughout the project cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement, and coordination with other relevant initiatives including GEF projects. Section VII of the Prodoc on ?Governance and Management Arrangements? also provides detailed information on how stakeholders will be involved and consulted in project execution. The summary of stakeholders consulted during project development is also included in Annex 11 of the Prodoc. During the project development phase the full range of stakeholders were consulted, and their inputs, priorities, and

suggestions were incorporated in the project design. Stakeholder organizations were met on a one-onone basis throughout the project development process, as outlined in Annex 11 of the Prodoc. In situations where it was not possible to meet in person, remote meetings and phone calls were used to consult with stakeholders about the project. Finally, the project stakeholder validation workshop was attended by more than 45 individuals representing stakeholder organizations from civil society, government, development partners, resource managers, and others. The workshop produced numerous qualitative comments that were further reflected in the project design.

#### Select what role civil society will play in the project:

#### Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

#### Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

**Other (Please explain)** 

#### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

#### Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

During the PPG analysis of the gender aspects of the project were significantly enhanced and further elaborated, to support implementation of both the GEF and UNDP gender mainstreaming policies and strategies. A gender expert was part of the PPG team, and produced a comprehensive gender analysis, including human rights aspects, and a project gender action plan was produced. These are included as Annex 12 of the Prodoc (as a separate document to the Prodoc). Gender aspects of the project are summarized in Section 4.3 of the Prodoc, on ?Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment? (paras. 114-133, pp. 32-34). In addition, gender is addressed in the project?s Social and Environmental Screening Protocol (Annex 6 of the Prodoc), with gender-related risks assessed. In addition to the Gender Action Plan included in Annex 12, gender considerations were mainstreamed in the project?s work plan; for example, gender aspects were made explicit in activities under Output 1.1 in relation to gender aspects of biodiversity mainstreaming in development planning; Output 1.2 in relation to gender aspects of effective PA management. Gender aspects are also highlighted under Output 2.3 in relation to sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity financing, and Output 3.1 in relation to capacity

development for integrated landscape management. The project Strategic Results Framework includes gender-disaggregated indicators.

### Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

#### Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

#### Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

There have been no changes to the project?s engagement with the private sector since the PIF was designed and approved. The description of the project?s engagement with the private sector is included in Section 4.3 of the Prodoc, on ?Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement and Coordination? (pp. 24-30), with a specific sub-section on ?Private Sector Engagement?, paras. 104-105; pp. 30-31. The project?s engagement with the private sector is also included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Annex 11 of the Prodoc.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

## Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The risks to the project and the risks posed by the project (social and environmental risks) were updated and further elaborated during the PPG, following the updating of the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening template (SESP). Project risks are summarized in Prodoc Section 4.4 ?Risks to project success and social / environmental safeguards?, paras. 134-139, pp. 34-37, including a table summarizing risks and mitigation measures. Social and environmental risks are analyzed and assessed in the SESP, included as Annex 6 to the Prodoc. These risks, and associated mitigation measures, are detailed in the table in Annex 9: UNDP Risk Register. Furthermore, general project governance risk management procedures are detailed in Section XI. ?Risk Management? (p. 65).

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project?s institutional arrangements are described in detail in Prodoc Section VII. ?Governance and Management Arrangements? (pp. 54-60). Coordination aspects are also described section 4.2 ?Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination, and Socio-economic and Local Benefits? (paras. 106-109, pp. 31), and will include representation by other development partners on the Project Steering Committee. Coordination aspects are also described in the Stakeholder Engagement plan, as discussed in Section 2. above.

A summary of the institutional arrangements is provided below, from the Prodoc.

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNRETS). The project will be nationally implemented (NIM), with UNDP execution assistance, in line with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Kyrgyzstan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), signed by parties September 14, 1992. The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance, specified in the signed Project Document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in the Project Document.

<u>Responsible Parties:</u> Based on consultations between UNDP and the Government of Kyrgyzstan, the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) and CAMP Alatoo were identified as the Responsible Parties for the implementation of the technical components of the project, as per the below breakdown. The selection of the RPs was discussed and agreed between the MNRETS and UNDP. SLT is an independent non-governmental, non-profit international organization with regional mandate to assist the Kyrgyz Republic?s government, regional and international stakeholders in addressing environmental and sustainability challenges, especially those related to mountain ecosystems. CAMP Alatoo is an independent non-governmental, non-profit national organization with a national mandate to assist the Kyrgyz Republic?s government and national stakeholders in addressing environmental and sustainability challenges. An execution options analysis was carried out, discussed and agreed with GEF Secretariat, explained in the UNDP audit checklist verified by IRH team and signed by the UNDP-NCE Executive coordinator. The PCATs and HACT for SLT are available (per Annex 23 of the Prodoc). In line with UNDP POPP, RP agreements will be signed only after funds are approved and the Prodoc is signed by UNDP and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic will sign a contract with the RPs, as specified in the UNDP POPP; there is no intention to deviate from POPP requirements.

<u>Project stakeholders and target groups:</u> The participation and contribution of stakeholders and key target groups is critical for the success of the project, for stakeholders at both the national and local levels. The project applies multiple strategies and mechanisms to ensure stakeholder engagement. First and foremost is the Project Board (as discussed further below), involving the MNRETS as the primary beneficiary, and UNDP as the Development Partner. UNDP and the MNRETS have a long history of collaboration (through the former institutional version of the MNRETS, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry) and successful project completion in Kyrgyzstan, including multiple previous GEF-funded projects. The project will ensure gender balance and gender sensitivity are mainstreamed throughout all aspects of the project's stakeholder engagement approach. The project will highlight at various points the mechanisms and channels of communication that stakeholders may employ if they have any grievances

related to the social and environmental impacts of the project. For example, this point will be indicated during the project inception workshop, and through the project education and awareness activities.

<u>UNDP</u>: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

<u>Project Board</u>: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project. The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Provide Oversight? section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

2) Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Manage Change? section of the POPP).

<u>Project Management ? Execution of the Project:</u> The Project Manager (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and subcontractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers. The PMU will be located in the offices of the IP. A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings will be determined once the PMU staff are contracted during the project inception phase.

<u>UNDP project support</u>: The Implementing Partner as represented by the GEF OFP has requested UNDP to provide support services for the full duration of the project, and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services.

Since the PIF was developed, Kyrgyzstan experienced an irregular change of government, and the national IP indicated in the PIF, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry, was dissolved, and has been functionally replaced and subsumed by the new Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision. During the PPG consultations have been conducted between UNDP and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision to determine suitable execution arrangements for the efficient and effective delivery of the project. Based on the recent instability in government institutions, previous country macro-HACT assessment, and recent UNDP Country Office experience with other similar projects, it was not feasible for the project to be implemented under full National Implementation (full NIM) arrangements. As outlined in the Kyrgyzstan Macro-HACT assessment covering the national public financial management system, national capacities for financial management have some weaknesses and risks (similar to other countries in the region that have recently developed GEF-7 projects, e.g. Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, where UNDP to assist with execution of limited functions. A formal request has been filed by the GEF OFP and attached to the submitted documentation.

In line with agreements reached during the PPG, the GEF budget will not be charged for compensation to UNDP Country Office. Any costs associated with rendition of execution support by UNDP Country Office will be borne by UNDP Country office itself (as in-kind contribution to the project). To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

#### 7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- Others

The project remains fully consistent with national priorities as originally outlined in the PIF. The project supports national priorities relating to the UNCBD, UNCCD (including the national LDN target), and UNFCCC. The project?s contribution to these multilateral agreements is outlined in Section II of the Prodoc, paras. 18-21 (p. 11).

#### 8. Knowledge Management

## Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The project has been designed to address Knowledge Management through multiple activities and aspects of the project. Components 3 and 4 of the project encompass a variety of activities that support Knowledge Management (as described in paras. 61-62), but Knowledge Management activities are also distributed throughout Component 1 and 2 of the project. For example, Output 1.1 includes a collaborative knowledge sharing process whereby key stakeholders and resource managers across the Pamir-Alai will participate in a planning process through which key data and information relevant for integrated landscape planning across the landscape will be disseminated and aggregated into a common vision. Under Outputs 1.2 and 1.3 the project will support the training of local resource users and local resource managers in sustainable pasture and sustainable forest management good practices that incorporate biodiversity considerations. Output 2.2 includes a variety of knowledge management activities, but in particular, the project will support PAs to improve their ecological monitoring, ensuring that biodiversity and ecosystem data are properly managed and integrated with national data management systems. The project results framework also includes Knowledge Management indicators, including indicator 14 (relating to the level awareness and understanding of biodiversity values among communities in the Alai valley), indicator 17 (relating to the number of case studies and best practice knowledge products developed and disseminated), and indicator 18 (relating to training in biodiversity conservation and integrated land management).

#### 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

#### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The budgeted M&E plan is included in Prodoc Section VI. ?Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan? (pp. 51-53), which also refers to the Prodoc Section V Project Results Framework (pp. 40-50). Component 4 of the project is specifically dedicated to project M&E. The budgeted M&E plan and Component 4 of the project are also consistent with the Total Budget & Work Plan in Prodoc Section IX (pp. 64-66).

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and B	udget:		
GEF M&E requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshops	Implementing	\$13,000	Within 60 days
	Partner		of CEO
	Project Team		endorsement of
		<b>*-</b> 000	this project.
Inception Report	Project Team with technical	\$5,000	Within 90 days of CEO
	support		endorsement of
	support		this project.
M&E of GEF core indicators and	Project Team	\$20,000	Annually prior
project results framework	will oversee	(\$4,000/yr)	to GEF PIR.
L U	national		This will
	institutions /		include GEF
	agencies		core indicators,
	charged with		including
	collecting		METTs.
CEE Ducioat Implementation Derrort	results data	None	A may a 11
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) and Annual FOLUR Program	Regional Technical	None	Annually (between June-
Progress Reporting	Advisor		August)
rogress reporting	UNDP		Tugust)
	Country		
	Office		
	Project Team		
Monitoring all risks (UNDP risk	UNDP	None	Ongoing
register)	Country		
	Office Project Team		
Monitoring of safeguards, stakeholder	UNDP	None	Ongoing
engagement plan, and gender action	Country	None	Oligoling
plan	Office		
L	Project Team		
Lessons learned and knowledge	Project Team	\$5,000	Annually
generation / project completion report		(\$1,000/yr) (covered under	
		Output 4.1)	
Project completion workshop	Project Team	\$5,000	In final 6
			months of
Supervision missions	UNDP	None	project.
Supervision missions	Country	INUIE	Annually
	Office		
Oversight / troubleshooting missions	RTA and	None	Troubleshooting
	BPPS / GEF		as needed
Mid-term GEF Core indicators and	Implementing	None	Before MTR
METT or other required Tracking	Partner		mission takes
Tools	Project Team		place
	as part of PIR		
	at MTR	\$ <b>27</b> (00	L 1 1 2025
Independent Mid-term Review	Independent	\$37,600	July 1, 2025
(MTR)	evaluators		

Terminal GEF Core indicators and METT or other required Tracking Tools	Implementing Partner and Project Team as part of preparation of documents for TE	None (covered under previous line items above)	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Independent evaluators	\$37,600	October 1, 2027
Translation of MTR and TE reports into English / Russian	UNDP Country Office	\$4,800 (\$2,400 ea)	Within 3 months after completion of MTR and TE reports
Total Indicative Cost		\$128,000 (4.8% of GEF grant)	

10. Benefits

# Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The socioeconomic and local benefits generated through the project are described in Section 4.3 of the Prodoc ?Partnerships, Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination, and Socio-economic and Local Benefits?, paras. 94-103 (pp. 29-30). Beneficiaries are also included in the discussion on project stakeholders in the same section of the Prodoc, and in Annex 11 of the Prodoc, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The project is expected to have a minimum of 94,883 direct beneficiaries, which will primarily be private sector smallholders engaged in livestock husbandry for their main source of livelihood. This will be tracked through indicator 2 of the project Strategic Results Framework, including gender disaggregated reporting. The type and number of beneficiaries will be specifically analyzed at the project for this specific type of analysis as part of the project?s aggregation of results data for regular reporting under the annual PIR.

#### 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification\*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approva I	MTR	TE	
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

#### **Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 7_PIMS 6444_KG_PamirAlai_ESMF_FSP_for submission	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Annex 6_ PIMS 6444_Annex 6_SESP_FSP_for submission	CEO Endorsement ESS	
6444 Kyrgyzstan SESP	Project PIF ESS	

### ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
Project Objective: To safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems, restore degraded lands, and ensure maintenance of critical ecosystem services for sustainable livelihoods	1. Total area of landscapes under improved practices (GEF- 7 Core Indicator 4)	0	0	1,558,919 ha (Improved management practices for biodiversity in 621,905 ha of critical habitat pasture zones; 563,949 hectares of critical habitat HCVF zones, 338,065 ha of community hunting concessions and 35,000 hectares of wildlife corridors.)	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Project does not encounter critical risks that derail implementati on</li> <li>Land use data and correspondin g mapping can be achieved cost- effectively at district scales</li> </ul>

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
<ul> <li>2. # direct project beneficiaries:</li> <li># of pasture user association members with improved sustainability of livelihoods (gender disaggregated)</li> <li># of PA staff with enhanced individual capacity (gender disaggregated)</li> <li># of forest management staff with enhanced individual capacity (gender disaggregated)</li> </ul>	N/A (zero beneficiaries)	Total: 2,050: Local resource users: Total: 2,000 (1,000 men; 1,000 women) PA staff: >20 PA staff with enhanced capacity (5 women, 15 men) Forestry staff: >40 forestry staff with enhanced capacity (10 women, 30 men)	Total: 94,883 (50% women): Local resource users: Total: 94,640 (47,320 men; 47,320 women) PA staff: >81 PA staff with enhanced capacity (20 women, 61 men) Forestry staff: >162 forestry staff with enhanced capacity (40 women, 122 men)	Number of community members benefiting from improved sustainability of pasture management under the project Number of staff employed at PAs targeted by the project	<ul> <li>No large- scale staff turnover in participating enterprises, government institutions, and targeted PAs</li> <li>Rural residents with resource- dependent livelihoods will benefit from project outcomes</li> </ul>
(GEF-7 Core Indicator 11)			(Total population of 94,640 in the 18 AAs in/around the 3 new large PAs ? see Pasture Expert 2nd Interim Report, Table 1. These are the AAs that will likely have the greatest direct benefit from the project). The 5 existing PAs currently have 81 permanent staff (see METTs). The 5 priority leskhozes have 162		

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term	End of	Means of	Assumption
		Target	Project Target	Verification	S
<ul> <li>3. Species/ecosyst em Indicators:</li> <li>Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystem, flora:</li> <li>Wild hawthorne sp. (Crataegus knorringiana)</li> <li>- Area of juniper forest</li> <li>- Degraded area of mountain pastures</li> <li>(Monitoring plots to be confirmed during 1st year of project)</li> <li>Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystem, fauna:</li> <li>- Snow leopard (Panthera uncia)</li> <li>- Central Asian ibex (Capra sibirica alaiana)</li> </ul>	Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems, flora:- Wild hawthorne sp. (Crataegus knorringiana)- Area of juniper forest- Degraded area of mountain pastures- Degraded darea of mountain pastures(Monitoring plots to be confirmed during 1st year of project)Pamir-Alai ecosystems, fauna:- Snow leopard (Panthera uncia)- Central Asian ibex (Capra sibirica alaiana)- Marco Polo	No change (project outcomes and impacts not achieved at this stage)	TargetFlora: Non- deterioration of baseline status(Monitoring plots to be confirmed during 1st year of project)Fauna: Average population increase relative to baseline over a rolling 3 year period(Baseline 	Annual flora and fauna monitoring from national partners (e.g. PAs) in key project sites	<ul> <li>Project lifetime is sufficient to allow impacts to be generated and monitored</li> <li>New threats do not emerge</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Marco Polo argali (<i>Ovis</i> <i>ammon polii</i>)</li> <li>Severtsov's mountain sheep</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Marco Polo argali (<i>Ovis</i> <i>ammon polii</i>)</li> <li>Severtsov's mountain sheep (<i>Ovis</i></li> </ul>				
(Ovis ammon severtzowi)	ammon severtzowi)				
- Desert monitor (Varanus griseus)	- Desert monitor (Varanus griseus)				

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
Outcome 1: Ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods in Pamir-Alai wider landscape (outside PAs) secured through improved land use planning and management	4. Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity: wildlife corridors under improved biodiversity management (GEF-7 Core sub-indicator 4.1)	0	0 ha (implementati on still in progress)	35,000 of wildlife corridors under improved management	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Project does not encounter critical risks that derail implementati on</li> <li>Land use managers and planners at all levels are open to project initiatives</li> </ul>
	5. Area of sustainable pasture management implementation (degradation <u>reduced</u> ) (GEF Core sub- indicator 4.3)	No sustainable pasture management in target areas	Sustainable pasture management <u>planning</u> <u>initiated with</u> <u>stakeholders</u> for 621,905 ha of pastureland in and around KBAs including new PAs	Sustainable pasture management <u>under</u> <u>implementati</u> <u>on</u> for 621,905 ha of pastureland in and around KBAs including new PAs	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Project does not encounter critical risks that derail implementati on</li> <li>Land use managers and planners at all levels are open to project initiatives</li> </ul>

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
6. Area of degraded pastureland <u>restored</u> (GEF Core sub- indicator 3.3)	0 ha	0 ha (implementati on still in progress)	19,500 ha of degraded pastureland restored	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Degraded pastureland that is put under sustainable management will naturally regenerate over time</li> <li>25% of pastureland is degraded</li> <li>Local resource users will be willing to implement sustainable pasture management plans</li> </ul>
7. Area of high conservation value forest under improved management (degradation <u>reduced</u> ) (GEF Core sub- indicator 4.4)	0 ha	0 ha	140,309.5 ha (Area of actual forest covered land within 5 priority leskhozes: Leilek, Uch- Korgon, Kara-Kulja, Alai, Nookat)	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	- Implementin g sustainable forest management measures will reduce degradation risks of undegraded forest - Forest management units will have the capacity to implement sustainable forest management measures

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
8. Area of forest and forest land <u>restored</u> (GEF Core sub- indicator 3.2)	0 ha	100 ha reforested in partnership with leskhozes in Pamir-Alai	500 ha reforested in partnership with leskhozes in Pamir-Alai	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Implementin g sustainable forest management measures will support restoration through natural regeneration</li> <li>Forest management staff will collaborate on reforestation activities to plant trees</li> </ul>
9.i. Quality of pasture conditions in at least 3 village districts (National LDN indicator i.)	N/A (net zero village districts with improved pasture conditions)	0 (implementati on in progress)	Improved pasture conditions in 3 village districts (through partnership with Pasture Committees in 3 AA)	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Project timeframe is sufficient for pasture to show improved conditions</li> <li>Local Pasture Committee users implement improved pasture management plans</li> </ul>

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
9.ii. Quality of access to mountain pastures (National LDN indicator ii.)	N/A (net zero hectares of pasture with improved access)	0 (implementati on in progress)	Improved access to 10,000 ha of pastures	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Pasture management plans identify appropriate opportunities for the project to cost- effectively invest in improved pasture access</li> <li>Local pasture users agree on appropriate investments to increase pasture access.</li> </ul>
9.iii. Hectares with SLM adopted (National LDN indicator iii.)	N/A (net zero hectares of forest and pasture with SLM adopted)	0 (implementati on in progress)	10,000 ha of forest and pasture with SLM adopted	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>SLM measures developed and designed through project activities are formally adopted by resource managers</li> <li>SLM measures contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality</li> </ul>

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
9.iv. Hectares of land with improved conditions (National LDN indicator iv.)	N/A (net zero hectares of forest and pasture with SLM adopted)	Sustainable pasture management <u>planning</u> <u>initiated with</u> <u>stakeholders</u> to restore 150,000 ha (25+% of 621,905) of degraded pastureland in and around KBAs including new PAs (Total of 217,747 ha degraded out of 861,155 ha (25.3%) of pasture in AAs with territory included in new PAs ? see 1st pasture expert report, Table 6)	Sustainable pasture management <u>under</u> <u>implementati</u> <u>on</u> for 150,000 (25+% of 621,905) ha of pastureland in and around KBAs including new PAs	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	- SLM measures adopted are implemented and lead to improved pasture and forest conditions

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
Outcome 2: Sustainabilit y of critical Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems secured	10. Area of newly created terrestrial protected areas in Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems (GEF-7 Core Sub-indicator 1.1)	N/A (net zero hectares of newly established protected areas)	0 (implementati on in progress)	<ul> <li>4 newly established protected areas covering 281,083.79 ha of Pamir- Alai mountain ecosystems</li> <li>1. Chon- Alai Valley National Park (IUCN II); 66,830.79 ha</li> <li>2. Arka Zoological Reserve (zakaznik) (IUCN IV); 50,000 ha</li> <li>3. Arpa Valley Zoological Reserve (zakaznik) (IUCN IV); 164,000 ha</li> <li>4. Aigul- Tash Botanical Reserve (zakaznik) complex (IUCN IV), 253 ha</li> </ul>	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Stakeholder at national and local levels are committed to the establishmen t of new PAs</li> <li>Protected areas can be established in the timeframe of the project</li> </ul>

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
11. Terrestrial protected areas covering important Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems under improved management effectiveness (degradation <b>avoided</b> ) (GEF-7 Core Sub-indicator 1.2)	5 national level PAs covering 153,250 ha. Baseline METT score: 1. Surma-Tash State Nature Reserve: 39 2. Sarkent State National Nature Park: 40 3. Kulun- Ata State Nature Reserve: 40 4. Kyrgyz-Ata National Park: 44 5. Kara- Shoro National Park: 40	5 national level PAs covering 153,250 ha. Mid-term METT score: 1. Surma-Tash State Nature Reserve: 44 2. Sarkent State Nature Park: 45 3. Kulun- Ata State Nature Park: 45 3. Kulun- Ata State Nature Reserve: 45 4. Kyrgyz-Ata National Park: 49 5. Kara- Shoro National Park: 49 5. Kara- Shoro National Park: 45 <i>(Based on the project will have made relatively little progresss in improving PA capacity by the mid-term)</i>	5 national level PAs covering 153,250 ha. End-of- project METT score: 1. Surma-Tash State Nature Reserve: 56 2. Sarkent State Nature Park: 57 3. Kulun- Ata State Nature Reserve: 57 4. Kyrgyz-Ata National Park: 61 5. Kara- Shoro National Park: 57	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components; completed METT scorecards, as verified by the MTR and TE. GEF-7 METT for each PA <i>(See Annex 5 for explanation of mid-term and terminal evaluation targets. The project activities aim to increase METT scores by 1 point for 17 METT questions: 7, 7a, 7b, 7c, 11, 18, 19, 21a, 21b, 21c, 24, 24a, 24b, 26, 27, 28, and 29.)</i>	- Without project interventions , degradation will continue in dryland forest and associated Lower Amu Darya ecosystems within PAs - Strengthenin g capacities of PAs at institutional and individual levels will contribute to reduced degradation - Project activities are sufficiently targeted to increase PA METT score - Project results, in terms of increase METT score, can be documented within the timeframe of the project

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
12. Incremental number of beneficiaries collecting household income from nature-based tourism activities	0 (no increment)	0 (no increment yet, under implementati on)	20 (~4 households) (disaggregate d by gender)	Baseline survey to be completed during 1st year of project implementati on; survey to be completed at mid-term and project completion	<ul> <li>Local community members are willing and able to report if they have income from nature-based tourism activities.</li> <li>The nature- based tourism industry is not further significantly impacted by global health pandemics or other external force majeure elements.</li> </ul>
13. Incremental revenue to Pamir-Alai PAs from nature- based tourism	0 (no increment)	0 (no increment yet, under implementati on)	> baseline		<ul> <li>PAs have legal means of collecting revenue from nature-based tourism activities</li> <li>The nature- based tourism industry is not further significantly impacted by global health pandemics or other external force majeure elements.</li> </ul>

Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
14. Level of awareness and understanding about biodiversity values among communities in Alai valley	N/A (baseline awareness survey to be completed during 1st year of project)	10% increase in awareness (based on baseline survey methodology)	25% increase in awareness (based on survey)	Baseline survey to be completed during 1st year of project implementati on; survey to be completed at mid-term and project completion	<ul> <li>Project education and awareness activities will positively influence community members? awareness of biodiversity values</li> <li>A sufficient number of households can be surveyed to identify statistically meaningful results</li> </ul>
15. Number of community conservancies earning revenue from nature- based tourism Pamir-Alai landscape to support wildlife conservation and tourism development	0 (existing Bek tosot and Janaidar conservancies do not currently earn revenue from nature-based tourism)	l community conservancy earning revenue from nature-based tourism	2 community conservancie s (Bek tosot, Janaidar)	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Community conservancie s are able to initiate nature-based tourism operations by project completion.</li> <li>The nature- based tourism industry is not further significantly impacted by global health pandemics or other external force majeure elements.</li> </ul>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
	16. Area under improved community- based biodiversity conservation management	0 (no increment)	338,064.5 ha (Hunting concession ? 7, Chong- Alai district 180,807.9 ha, this area borders proposed new Chong-Alai Park; hunting concession ? 9, Alai district 157,256.6 ha, this area is located about 50-60 km from the proposed new Chong-Alai Park)	338,064.5 ha (Hunting concession ? 7, Chong- Alai district 180,807.9 ha, this area borders proposed new Chong-Alai Park; hunting concession ? 9, Alai district 157,256.6 ha, this area is located about 50-60 km from the proposed new Chong-Alai Park)	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Community conservancie s remain functional and operational during the project?s life.</li> <li>The successful completion of project activities will equate to improved management</li> </ul>
Outcome 3: Enhanced cooperation and knowledge sharing supporting LDN, and strengthened conservation community of practice nationally and regionally	17. Case studies / best practice knowledge products developed and disseminated, or events held, through national, regional, and global platforms, with at least one regional event and one published document related to future development of transboundary PAs in Pamir- Alai (number)	0	3	10	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	<ul> <li>Project activities provide a valuable basis for the creation of diagnostic, analytical, synthesis and communicati on products and tools</li> <li>Effective disseminatio n of knowledge products regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management</li> </ul>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
	18. Participants trained in biodiversity conservation and integrated land management for LDN (total number; % female)	0	50	200; 35% (50 at national level; 50 at oblast level; 100 at district and local level)	Project reports and documentatio n; Successful completion of project activities for relevant project components, as verified by the MTR and TE.	- Training participants will apply new knowledge in support of biodiversity conservation, SLM and LDN monitoring
Outcome 4. Project implemented in an accountable and transparent manner, with results documented and available to public	19. Status of required project monitoring and evaluation activities	N/A	Mid-term Review successfully completed, with all required inputs, including inception report, PIRs, co-finance reporting, tracking tools, and management response complete.	Terminal Evaluation successfully completed, with all required inputs, including PIRs, co- finance reporting, tracking tools, and management response complete.	Availability, completeness , and quality of mid-term review and terminal evaluation.	<ul> <li>Successful completion of the project</li> <li>Project team successfully carries out monitoring and reporting activities, providing necessary inputs for mid-term review and terminal evaluation</li> </ul>

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
Cross- cutting: Gender mainstreami ng during implementati on	20. Consistency of project gender mainstreaming approach with project plans	N/A ? Project not under implementati on; project design includes multiple elements designed to mainstream gender	Gender mainstreamin g action plan integrated in project workplan and under implementati on	Gender mainstreamin g carried out during project implementati on, as indicated by: a. Project Board and local stakeholder resource management boards have gender balance and/or include a gender expert; b. Policies, laws, and regulations developed with project support include gender perspectives, as relevant c. Project events and activities (e.g. trainings) promote gender balance among invited participants, as feasible d. Project technical training activities proactively recruit participants to achieve gender balance	Monitoring via annual project reporting (PIR) by project team; Verification at mid-term review and terminal evaluation by independent external experts	- All relevant stakeholders support or are in accordance with gender mainstreami ng efforts undertaken by the project - There are not structural demographic issues that will hamper project gender mainstreami ng efforts

	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Means of Verification	Assumption s
Cross- cutting: Co-benefit contribution to climate change mitigation	21. Tons of GHG avoided / sequestered (GEF-7 Core Indicator 6.1)	N/A (project activities not under implementati on)	0 (project activities not yet at stage where GHGs avoided / sequestered)	6,148,637 t CO2 eq	EX-ACT calculation tool	<ul> <li>Per assumptions in EX-ACT tool</li> <li>Project activities are implemented in the manner foreseen in the areas planned</li> </ul>

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<u>Germany:</u> With the exception of the forestry sector, responsibilities of the management of natural resources in Kyrgyzstan are not well defined and monitoring of respective management activities (pasture, water and agricultural) land is not very well developed, resulting in an increased deterioration of natural resources and a need for projects like the one proposed here.	Thank you for this comment. Through the PPG process it has been confirmed that the project is well-aligned with national needs and priorities related to the integrated management of natural resources including pastures, water, and agricultural lands.	No adjustments necessary.

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<u>Germany:</u> Considering the challenges Kyrgyzstan faces when implementing conservation measure, it is suggested to connect with the GIZ project ?Ecosystem- based Adaptation to Climate Change in high mountainous regions of Central Asia?. The project aims at providing policymakers in Central Asia with structured guidance and concrete examples on how to analyze climate risk information and integrate it into public policy planning and public planning. This project has also developed a methodology on the Conservation Standards Applied to Ecosystem-based Adaptation (CoSEbA) which is a multi-stakeholder approach to developing and implementing a climate change adaptation strategy. This approach can help identify priority ecosystems, assess climate-related and non-climate- related threats and find the most appropriate measures as well as identify responsibilities for different natural resources and how they are managed.	Thank you for this comment. The GIZ project ?Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change in high mountainous regions of Central Asia? has been noted, and consultations held with GIZ in Kyrgyzstan on opportunities for collaboration and synergies. Since the project was completed in 2020, the project has not been specifically included in the baseline projects section of the CEO Endorsement Request.	Reference to the methodology on the Conservation Standards Applied to Ecosystem- based Adaptation has been included in the Prodoc under Output 1.1.
<u>Germany:</u> We also recommend to further engage with GIZ offices located in the region to promote synergies and mobilize co-financing, as the current phase of the project ?Sustainable and climate land use for economic development in Central Asia (SUSTAIN-CA)? will cease activities in 2020.	Thank you for this comment. During the PPG phase consultations were held with the GIZ office in Bishkek regarding potential synergies and opportunities for collaboration.	No adjustments necessary.

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<u>Switzerland:</u> In principle, the topic is relevant: safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems, restore degraded lands, and ensure maintenance of critical ecosystem services for sustainable livelihoods in the Kyrgyz Republic. This is a real need in KG as well as in many other mountain ecosystems. But it is less clear, how high such a need is really on the list of priorities of the government which is currently absorbed (including its financial capacities) with the COVID crisis. It can be assumed that the actual ?demand? of the GoKG and thus the needed political willingness to walk the talk beyond this project might not be that solid, simply due to other priorities. That puts the question of how sustainable such an ambitious initiative will be in the first line of concern. And speaking of ambition: safeguard biodiversity, restore degraded lands and ensure critical ecosystem services are all likely to include a considerable amount of transformation of the current ?business- as- usual? to a better approach. That does take (a lot of) time and cannot be achieved in the frame of one project (of which the duration is unclear).	Thank you for the comment. It is absolutely certain that during the height of the covid pandemic, in 2020-2021, the government?s top priority was mitigating the impacts of covid, and recovering from its negative impacts. Nonetheless, during this period, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management work continued. As the country has slowly emerged from the covid crisis (along with the rest of the world), the importance of maintaining and conserving the country?s ecosystems, and natural resources has only been heightened. The national priorities and strategies related to natural resource management and conservation of biodiversity resources (e.g. NBSAP) remain valid, and have been attested to by the national government through its continued support for the development of this project. In addition, in a country like Kyrgyzstan, where so many rural livelihoods depend on pastoralism, the government?s commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable pasture management and Land Degradation Neutrality, remains a top priority. The government?s commitment to the project has remained steadfast during this period. The confirmation of government co- financing in support of the project is one indication of this, with co-financing confirmed at national, regional, and district levels. In addition, the government has remained committed to strengthening the national protected area system by establishing four new national-level protected areas, which increase the alignment of the protected area system with scientifically-identified Key Biodiversity Areas. There is no question that a single 5- year project cannot fully address such complex issues as integrated landscape management (including biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and maintenance of cosystem services). Therefore, the project has been carefully designed to build on previous efforts (including previous GEF-funded projects in Kyrgyzstan), and to help strengthen the foundation for current and future efforts to addr	Made         The project         has been         further         elaborated         and designed         during the         PPG phase.

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
Switzerland: Finances: the GEF contribution of 2.6 M USD is expected be complemented with 14.5 M from other sources, including from national sources. For instance, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry shall contribute 3 M USD with public investment. Are these amounts really all secured (particularly in view of the budget pressure due to COVID) or not (yet)? Please ensure that realistic co- financing figures are included in the project documents which are implementable and will also be monitored.	Thank you for this comment. The co- financing figures indicated at the PIF stage were preliminary, and during the PPG phase the project?s co-financing has been confirmed with relevant partners. The total confirmed co-financing has increased relative to the PIF estimate, with \$20.27 million USD in confirmed co-financing from the key project partners. As with all UNDP GEF project, the actual co- financing figures will be closely tracked during project implementation, and will be reported and validated in the project?s Mid-term Review, and Terminal Evaluation.	Confirmed co-financing figures are indicated in the full project package. The co-financing figures by partner are indicated previously in the CEO Endorsement Request, and in the UNDP Prodoc. The signed co- financing letters are attached as an annex to the Prodoc.
<u>Switzerland:</u> Embedment and partnership: it is rather unclear, how deep the understanding of the context and the past/ongoing/future initiatives from other partners actually are. The proposal does focus on mountain ecosystems, but makes no reference to e.g. high-level policy events in KG (2002 Global Mountain Summit; 2018 World Mountain Forum, see IISD/ENB+ @ WMF 2018   23-26 Oct 2018   Bishkek, KG   IISD Reporting Services). Nor does it mention UNEP and their recent activities in the region on CCA (see e.g. Climate change action in developing countries with fragile mountainous ecosystems   UNEP - UN Environment Programme).	Thank you for this comment. The importance and relevance of these previous initiatives has been noted. Additional references have been made in the project document. For example, if the project is able to begin implementation in 2022, the project will support knowledge management activities in Kyrgyzstan related to the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022.	References to previous high level events add to the Prodoc under the description of Component 3. Additional activities related to high level knowledge management activities included and budgeted in the project design.

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<u>Switzerland:</u> The proposal mentions (p. 54), that the project will coordinate closely with other relevant work by multilateral, bilateral, and civil society partners (e.g. World Bank, Asian Development Bank, GiZ, FAO, GCF, Swiss Development Cooperation). The scope of this proposed project has been carefully designed to be thematically synergistic with other current ongoing efforts in Kyrgyzstan, and to avoid any geographic overlap in the target region. The latter might be true, but it is not clear how far the coordination and the efforts for synergies actually went up to now.	Thank you for the comment. Historically UNDP has maintained close communication and coordination with other multi-lateral and bi-lateral development partners in Kyrgyzstan. There are regular meetings of donors in Kyrgyzstan, and informal communications are frequent (due to the relatively small size of the country, and the development community). UNDP maintains a register of current donor projects in Kyrgyzstan in order to ensure close cooperation and communication. With that said, as of the PIF phase, consultations with development partners in relation to potential GEF investment in the Pamir-Alai region were preliminary, and not in-depth. This is to be expected, considering that during the development of the PIF a) the concept had not been elaborated in detail; b) the likelihood of GEF funding was uncertain; and c) the timeframe on which any potential project activities would take place was also highly uncertain. During the PPG phase, these coordination efforts have been ramped up, with consultations held with multiple development partners. During implementation the project will ensure synergies with relevant development- partner initiatives and projects, including synergies with the World Bank on forest management efforts, and with IFAD on pasture management aspects.	The project?s potential partnerships, synergies, and coordination have been further elaborated in Section 4.2 of the Prodoc, pp. 24-31.
<u>Switzerland:</u> This proposal should be further improved with national/regional experts and in collaboration with other agencies to ensure it is well embedded, does not operate in isolation and meets realistic targets.	Thank you for this comment. The proposal has been substantially strengthened and further detailed through the PPG process, in close collaboration with national and regional experts, and other agencies. For example, the PPG team included multiple national experts on topics such as biodiversity conservation, sustainable pasture management, and sustainable forest management. Regional experts on issues such as the conservation of rare mountain species were also extensively consulted.	The proposal has been fully developed in multiple ways through the PPG process to meet the rigorous GEF and UNDP standards.

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
<u>United States:</u> Given the broad scope of this project, we would recommend strengthening training activities in rural livelihood skills, including refresher trainings on GIS mapping, and pasture management.	Thank you for this comment. The project has been more fully developed through the PPG process, including elaboration of the activities related to rural livelihood skills. For example, under Output 1.2, the project will train 41 Pasture Committees on aspects related to sustainable pasture management, including the implementation of the e-Pasture Management platform, using GIS mapping of pasture management areas for each specific Pasture Committee. In addition, under Outputs 2.3 and 2.4, the project will be working closely with local resource users to further develop and enhance rural livelihoods, such as nature- based tourism, and value-added processing of agricultural products.	Full development and elaboration of project activities related to strengthening sustainable rural livelihoods, including training sustainable pasture management.
<u>STAP:</u> STAP notes the project proposes activities focused on LDN. STAP encourages, therefore, for the project team to use the LDN Conceptual framework in the overall methodology. The LDN framework can assist in designing interventions, particularly to restore degraded lands, maintain, or enhance, critical ecosystems.	Thank you for this comment. The project strategy fully incorporates the avoid- reduce-reverse hierarchy. The avoid component is addressed through Component 2 of the project, which focuses on improved management of protected areas, in order to avoid any degradation of land within protected areas (among other benefits). The reduce component is addressed under Outputs 1.1., 1.2, and 1.3, which includes the improvement of land management measures to develop SLM approaches, reducing current rates of degradation across the landscape. The ?reverse? component is addressed partially through Outputs 1.2 and 1.3, which will contribute to the restoration of pasture and forest resources, through the implementation of sustainable forest management plans, which will include provisions to support the natural regeneration of pasture and forest ecosystems. In addition, under Output 1.3, the project aims to rapidly restore some degraded HCVF ecosystems through measures such as reforestation.	The LDN checklist is included as Annex 8 to the project, document, where additional information is provided explaining and confirming the project?s application of the LDN conceptual framework.

GEF Council and STAP Comments	Response	Adjustments Made
STAP: Additionally, STAP recommends for the executing agency to ensure cross- sectoral collaboration with the ministries in charge of the UNCCD implementation (Ministry of Agriculture and Melioration) so the LDN agenda may be implemented in collaboration with the CBD agenda. STAP would like to see the project embrace its innovation potential to support Kyrgyzstan?s dual commitments on biodiversity and land degradation. In this regard, STAP recommends paying attention to key aspects of ?enabling? activities to achieve the outputs and outcomes, and multiple benefits.	Thank you for this comment. The Ministry of Agriculture has been consulted and engaged during the PPG process. This cross-sectoral collaboration is even more critical since the re-structuring of the former State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), since forest management has been delegated to the new State Forest Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture will be a key partner in project implementation, and will be engaged in particular on activities under Output 1.2 related to pasture management and Output 1.3, related to sustainable forest management. The Ministry of Agriculture will also be represented on the Project Steering Committee.	State Forest Agency, Pastures Dept., will be engaged on project activities related to LDN aspects under Outputs 1.2 and 1.3. Project Steering Committee will include Ministry of Agriculture.
STAP: The risk section assigns a moderate risk to short-term access, and use, of resources by local communities. In addition to the mitigation measures offering compensation to resource users, STAP recommends developing additional mitigation mechanisms, with input from stakeholders. A technical committee that advises on response measures to these risks (and barriers) is an idea the project team could consider.	Thank you for this comment. The moderate risk rating was assigned in the PIF phase out of an abundance of caution. While the risk remains rated as ?moderate?, the likelihood is ?Not likely?. During the PPG process the project was developed through consultation through local stakeholder representatives, and through the input of national technical experts on issues such as pasture management, forest management, and biodiversity conservation. The national technical experts provided detailed and in- depth input and feedback on the design of the project, including the relevant mitigation measures related to the access and use of resources by local communities.	The risk section of the Prodoc has been updated during the PPG process, reflecting further assessment of the potential risks, and elaboration of relevant mitigation measures.
<u>STAP</u> : Lastly, STAP acknowledges the project team?s efforts to fully assess climate risks during the design phase. STAP welcomes this effort as identifying climate risks in the project area, and embedding these stressors in the project logic will be critical to conceptualizing the problem, and solutions.	Thank you for this comment. Climate aspects have been further considered and incorporated in the project design during the PPG phase. Under Output 1.1 the project activities include the application of the SPARC methodology, to assess the potential implications of climate change for Kyrgyzstan?s national protected areas system. As another example, ecological monitoring for PAs under Component 2 will include monitoring of climate impacts.	Climate risks have been incorporated in the detailed project design during the PPG phase.

# ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Expected unspent budget balance is USD \$ 1,747 (status on May 30, 2022)

## The unspent PPG funds will be returned to GEF.

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 100,000 USD					
	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)				
<b>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</b>	Budgeted Amount (US\$)	Amount Spent To date (US\$)	Amount Committed (US\$)		
<ol> <li>Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies &amp; Reviews</li> </ol>	8,356	7,626	730		
2. Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	77,897	21,106.90	56,790.10		
3. Component C: Validation Workshop and Report	13,747	1,747	12,000		
Total	100,000	30,479.90	69,520.10		

# ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

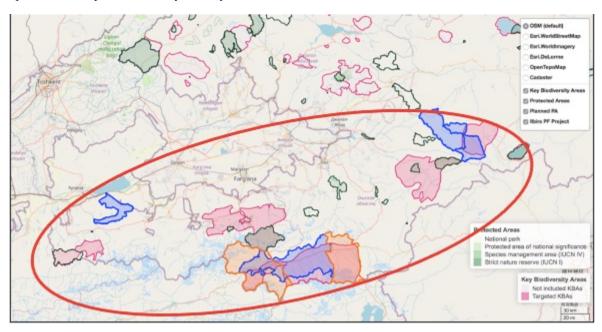
## Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Protecte d Area Name	Area (ha)	IUCN Catego ry	Date establis hed	Numb er of staff	Approxim ate location	Associated KBA(s)	KBA Notes	Regi on	District (s)
Surma- Tash State Nature Reserve (Reserve )	66,194	Ι	6/27/09	15	39058'25.5 " N, 71059'10.2 "E	KBA #20 "Isfairam- Shakhimard an"	KBA "Isfairam- Shakhimard an" partially covered by the Reserve	Batk en	Kadamj ai rayon
"Sarkent " State Nature Park (Nationa 1 Park)	40,000	II	6/27/09	16	39037'36.9 " N, 69023'14.2 "E	KBA #19 "Leilek"	SNP "Sarkent" located within KBA #19 "Leilek"	Batk en	Leilek rayon, office is in Isfana village
Kulun- Ata State Nature Reserve	27,434. 20	Ι	8/11/04	26	1) Cluster 40032'02.4 " N, 74019'22.6 "E; 2) Cluster 40026'01.8 "N, 73058'55.9 " E	KBA #23 ?Alai-Kuu?	The Kulun- Ata Reserve covers most part of the "Alai-Kuu" KBA	Osh	Kara- Kulja rayon

Protecte d Area Name	Area (ha)	IUCN Catego ry	Date establis hed	Numb er of staff	Approxim ate location	Associated KBA(s)	KBA Notes	Regi on	District (s)
Kyrgyz- Ata National Park	11,172	II	3/18/92	16	40004'31.2 " N, 72031'44.4 "E			Osh	Nookat rayon
Kara- Shoro National Park	8,450	II	8/2/96	15	40044'51.1 " N, 74001'08.7 "E			Osh	Uzgen rayon
Total area of existing PAs	153,250								
Proposed "Alai Valley National Park"	PAs 66,830. 79	II	N/A		39036'25.4 "N, 72019'13.5 " E	KBA #22 Alai Valley; KBA #21 Tuz	Depending on borders of PA, KBAs may be mostly within PA, but not entirely, depending on exact boundaries of KBAs	Osh	Chong- Alai
"Arka Zoologic al Reserve (zakazni k) "	50,000	IV	N/A		40004'35.8 "N, 64034'26.8 "E			Batk en	Leilek
"Arpa Valley Zoologic al Reserve (zakazni k)"	164,000	IV	N/A		40?45'52.9 "N, 74?40'00.2 "E	KBA #24 Ak-Sai	Depending on proposed boundaries of PA and exact boundaries of KBA - KBA potentially fully within PA - KBA is 90,000 hectares while PA is 164,000 hectares	Nary n	At- Bashy

Protecte d Area Name	Area (ha)	IUCN Catego ry	Date establis hed	Numb er of staff	Approxim ate location	Associated KBA(s)	KBA Notes	Regi on	District (s)
Aigul- Tash Botanica l Reserve (zakazni k)	253	IV	N/A		Adjacent to proposed Arka National Park, near the Kara- Bulak village on Aigul- Tash Mountain			Batk en	Leilek
Total area of propose d PAs	281,083 .79								

Georeferenced Web-based Pamir Alai Landscape Map Tool Developed Through PPG, Indicating KBAs (pink), Existing PAs (green), Planned PAs (blue), and Community-based Conservation Areas (orange). Pamir Alai Project Landscape Area Outlined in Red (~3.8 million hectares). Additional maps from the online mapping tool can be produced on request; mapping tool includes 7 base layer map options, and 17 possible overlay data layers.





#### Area above 2000 m

---- District borders

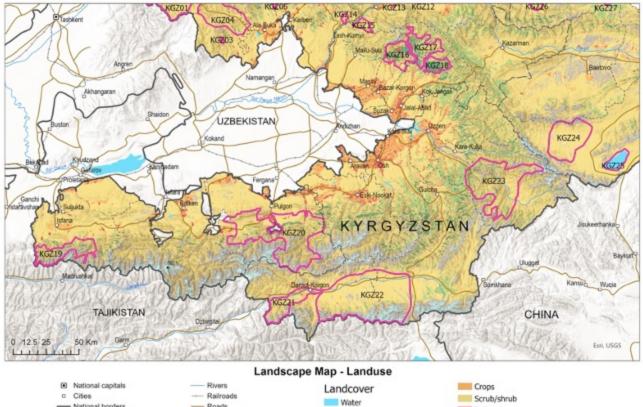
National capitals
 Cities

- National borders
- --- Province borders

Rivers
 Railroads

---- Roads

Waterbody Height 2000m and above Key Biodiversity Areas





-- Province borders

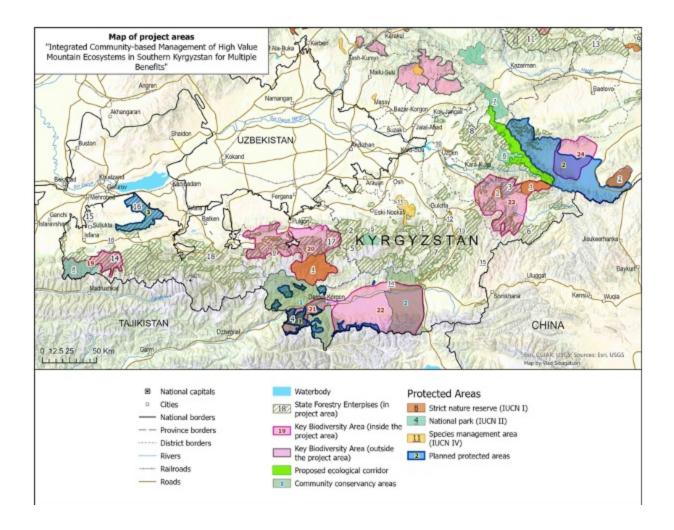
---- District borders

--- Railroads - Roads

C Key Biodiversity Areas

Trees Grass

Scrub/shrub Built area Bare ground Snow/Ice

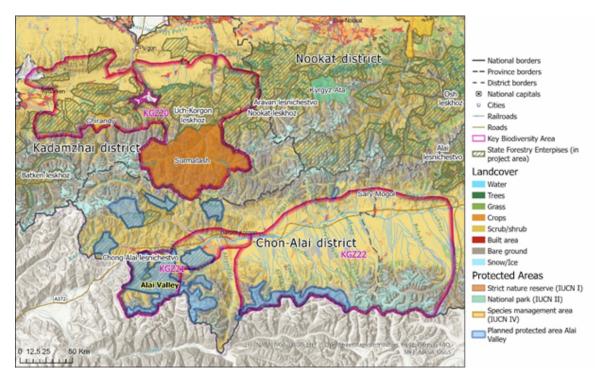


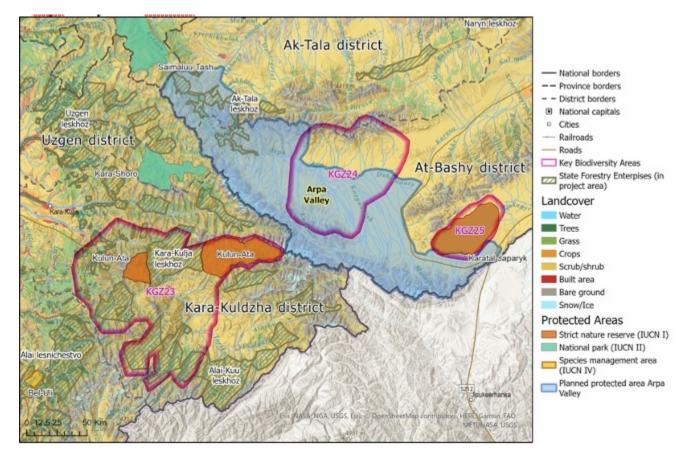
Nº	Protected Area	IUCN Category	Area, ha	Nº.	State Forestry Enterprises	Area, ha	Nº.	Planned Protected Area		Area, ha
1	Kulun-Ata	Strict nature reserve (IUCN I)	27434.2	1	Osh leskhoz	44632.4			Category	
2	Karatal-Japaryk	Strict nature reserve (IUCN I)	36449	2	Nookat leskhoz	94200.8	1	Alai Valley	National Park (IUCN II)	66502
3	Kulun-Ata	Strict nature reserve (IUCN I)	6000	3	Kara-Kulja leskhoz	77236.2	2	Arpa Valley	National Park	90831
4	Surmatash	Strict nature reserve (IUCN I)	66194	4	Chong-Alai lesnichestvo	43439.8	2	Arpa valley	(IUCN II)	90831
5	Kyrgyz-Ata	National park (IUCN II)	11172	5	Aravan lesnichestvo	29783.5	3	Arka	National Park	51146
6	Kara-Shoro	National park (IUCN II)	14340	6	Alai-Kuu leskhoz	44718.1			(IUCN II)	
7	Saimaluu-Tash	National park (IUCN II)	32007	1	Alai lesnichestvo	129989				
8	Sarkent	National park (IUCN II)	40000	8	Uzgen leskhoz	49190.2	N9	Key Biodiversity Area Name		Area, ha
9	Chirandy	Species management area	2457.5	9	Naryn leskhoz	139788	19	Leilek		66056
		(IUCN IV)		10	Kochkor leskhoz	5236.1	20	Isfairam-Shakhimarden		222688
10	Yasinky	Species management area (IUCN IV)	2132	11	Jumgal leskhoz	93508	21	Tuz		55492
11	Ak-Bura	Species management area	19561.4	12	At-Bashi leskhoz	89411.2	22	Alai Valley		267404
	HK-DUES	(IUCN IV)	19301.4	13	Ak-Tala leskhoz	81767.7	23	Alai-Kuu		165775
12	Gulcho	Species management area	1955	14	Leilek leskhaz	107781	24	Ak-Sai		91568
		(IUCN IV)		25	Bulak-Bashi leskhoz	2455.8				
13	Bel-Uli	Species management area	1909	16	Arka leskhoz	51146.3	Nº	Community Conservancy	Area Name	Area, ha
		(IUCN IV)		17	Uch-Korgon leskhoz	111413	1	Bek-Tosot		244223
14	Sary-Mogol	Species management area (IUCN IV)	60	18	Batken leskhoz	162402	2	Zhanaidar		157963
15	Bolshoy Oi-Kaiyn	Species management area (IUCN IV)	50							
16	Janchakty	Species management area (IUCN IV)	50							

The project has three main ?areas of interest? across the Pamir-Alai landscape, where KBAs and PAs are concentrated across the landscape:

- 1. The Alai Valley area
- 2. The Arpa Valley-Kara-Kuldja area
- 3. Leilek District area

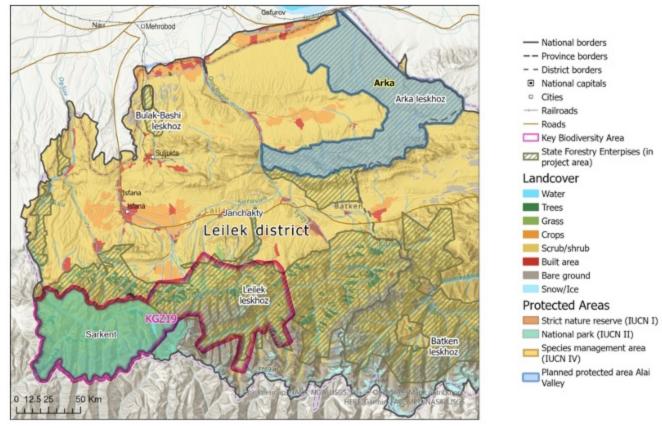
The Alai Valley area





2. Arpa Valley-Kara-Kuldzha District Area of Interest

3. Leilek District Area of Interest



**ANNEX E: Project Budget Table** 

Expenditu re Category	Detailed Description		Co		Responsi ble Entity				
		Compon ent 1	Compon ent 2	Compon ent 3		<i>M&amp;E</i>	РМС	Total (USDe q.)	<u>(Executin</u> <u>g Entity</u>
		Sub- compon ent 1.1	Sub- compone nt 2.1	Sub- compone nt 3.1	Sub- Total				receiving <u>funds</u> <u>from the</u> <u>GEF</u> <u>Agency)[</u> <u>1]</u>

Equipmen t	Output 1.2: \$50,000 for materials (water points, predator- proof corrals, etc.) to increase pasture accessibility to >10,000 ha of pastures. \$50,000 for materials (fencing, etc.) to support pasture restoration in 19,500 ha. Output 1.3: \$30,000 for establishme nt of tree seedling nurseries at 2 forest managemen t units. \$50,000 for reforestatio n of >500 ha	180,000		180,00 0		180,00 0	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
Equipmen t	Output 1.3: \$30,000 for hardware, software, and other IT for digitization, consolidatio n and integration of forestry data in online forest managemen t system	30,000		30,000		30,000	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo

Equipmen t	Output 2.2: \$17,000 for equipment and furniture for improveme nt of effectivenes s of protected area managemen t in 5 existing Pas		17,000		17,000			17,000	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
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tourism opportunitie s in community conservanci
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Equipmen t	\$5,000 for set-up of PMU office		0	5,000	5,000	UNDP
Equipmen t	\$3,000 for communicat ion equipment and A/V equipment for project team			3,000	3,000	UNDP
Equipmen t	\$5,000 (\$1,000/yea r for 5 years) for maintenanc e of computers, modems, and other IT equipment			5,000	5,000	UNDP

Grants/ Sub- grants	Output 2.3: \$100,000 for project competitive technical investment program for communitie s in/near new PAs. The competitive grant program will be organized such that local-level stakeholders will submit proposals for technical assistance, which will be reviewed through an independent and objective panel of technical experts. Upon selection, the project will provide granted technical assistance in the form of equipment, materials, requested to support sustainable non- livestock based livelihoods that are aligned with land use managemen t plans that mainstream biodiversity . This activity will be carried out in full conformity with the		100,000		100,00 0			100,00 0	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo	
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Contraction Contraction Contraction a Sources Part C methodolog y for Pamir- Alad. S30,000 (10 districts (gS3,000 early for for for for for for spatial planning. S20,000 for firm for establishme n of widdlife corridors. S26,090 for firm for most activities under this output related to working with 11 priority Pasture Commutes for sustainable pasture management t pmsu- Company districts S34,950 0 0 S34,950 S34,950 0 S34,950 0 S34,9
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Contractu al Services ? Company	Output 3.1: \$25,000 for firm to develop training modules related to integrated landscape planning, land degradation neutrality, biodiversity mainstreami ng, and gender consideratio ns in land managemen t. \$10,000 for firm for piloting of training modules with end- users, and revision		35,000	35,000		35,000	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
Contractu al Services ? Company	Output 4.1: \$20,000 for completion of baseline surveys in 1st year, and annual PIR results collation			0	20,00 0	20,000	UNDP
Internatio nal Consultan ts	Output 2.3: \$33,333 (lump sum contract) for internationa l consultants to develop independent 3rd party certification system for sustainable trophy hunting	33,333		33,333		33,333	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo

Internatio nal Consultan ts	Output 4.1: \$10,000 for lump sum contract for technical support for project inception phase. Output 4.2: \$36,000 for two lump sum contracts (2 * 30 days @\$600/day) for internationa l evaluation experts to conduct mid-term review and terminal evaluation				0	46,00 0		46,000	UNDP	
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Local Consultan ts	Output 1.1: \$16,000 (80 days @\$200/day) for local consultant GIS expert for aggregation of geospatial data and mapping for landscape managemen t planning; \$84,000 (420 days @\$200/day (50% time for 4 years) for local consultant landscape planning expert to facilitate landscape managemen t planning process, aggregation of landscape managemen t data, and production of landscape managemen t plan in collaboratio n with all stakeholders . \$75,000 (375 days @\$200/day) for local consultants conducting field studies on migration routes of large	198,500		198,50 0		198,50 0	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo	
	migration routes of large mammals,							

Local Consultan ts	Output 2.1: \$58,000 (290 days @\$200/day) for local consultants to conduct field work and other necessary studies as inputs to justification for establishme nt of new PAs, and developmen t of managemen t plans. \$7,500 (37.5 days @\$200/day) for local consultants to develop and implementi ng monitoring programs in new PAs. Output 2.2: \$5,745 (28.725 days @\$200/day) for local consultant for technical supervision of implementat ion of PA infrastructur e. Output 2.3: \$8,000 (40 days @\$200/day) for local consultant for technical supervision of implementat ion of PA infrastructur e. Output 2.3: \$8,000 (40 days @\$200/day) for local consultant for developmen t of strategic plan for developmen t of strategic plan for developmen t of trophy hunting sector. Output 2.4:	82,845	82,845		82,845	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
	hunting sector.					

Local Consultan ts	Output 3.1: \$5,000 for local consultants to conduct gender awareness and gender mainstreami ng training for key project staff and partners at beginning of project		5,000	5,000		5,000	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
Local Consultan ts	Output 4.1: \$5,000 for local consultant for collation of lessons learned and completion report. Output 4.2: \$12,000 for two lump sum contracts (2 * 30 days @\$200/day) for local evaluation experts to conduct mid-term review and terminal evaluation. \$7,200 (24 days@ \$300/day) for interpreter to assist with mid- term review and terminal evaluation			0	24,20 0	24,200	UNDP

S,       and       CAMP         Weetings       related to       developmen         t and       implementat       ion of         biodiversity       -friendly       forest         managemen       t plans.       Output 1.4:         \$2,500 for       meetings         and       workshops         related to       developmen         t plans.       Output 1.4:         \$2,500 for       meetings         and       workshops         related to       developmen         t of national       u of the
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mechanisms for existing PAs. Output 2.3: \$2,000 for meetings	Trainings, Workshop s, Meetings	PAs. Output 2.3: \$2,000 for		60,333		60,333			60,333	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
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Trainings, Workshop s, Meetings	Output 4.1: \$8,000 for 4 inception workshops (@\$2,000 ea) (Bishkek, Osh, Batken, At- Bashi district). \$5,000 for project completion workshop			0	13,00 0	13,000	UNDP
Travel	Output 1.1: \$16,250 for local travel for workshops, meetings, and stakeholder consultation s related to landscape managemen t planning. Output 1.3: \$4,000 for local travel to stakeholder meetings related to sustainable forest managemen t	20,250		20,250		20,250	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo

Travel	Output 2.1: \$3,000 for travel for stakeholder consultation s and research for establishme nt of new PAs. Output 2.2: \$3,333 for local travel for establishme nt of community- based managemen t and stakeholder input for managemen t of new PAs. Output 2.4: \$5,000 for local travel for replication of community- conservanci es in additional communitie s		11,334		11,334			11,334	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo	
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Travel	Output 3.1: \$5,000 for travel for partnerships with training institutes and academia for piloting training modules. Output 3.2: \$50,000 for internationa l travel for key project staff and partners for engagement in relevant internationa l and regional meetings, workshops and conferences		55,000	55,000			55,000	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
Travel	Output 4.2: \$20,000 for two internationa l trips @\$5,000 ea; two evaluation missions @\$5,000 of local transportati on total for evaluation team			0	20,00 0		20,000	UNDP
Office Supplies	\$5,000 for office supplies for project office (\$1,000/yea r).			0		5,000	5,000	UNDP

Other Operating Costs	Output 2.1: \$15,000 for issuance of official documentati on, including land registration changes, associated with establishme nt of new PAs. Output 2.3: \$15,799 for production of audio and visual materials to support the developmen t of community- based tourism in Pamir-Alai	30,799	30,799			30,799	(NIM) IP / RP (SLT and CAMP Alatoo
Other Operating Costs	Output 4.2: \$4,800 for translation of mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports			4,800		4,800	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	\$2,500 (\$500/year for 5 years) for office maintenanc e, phone service, electricity for office (NOT RENT).				2,500	2,500	UNDP

Other Operating Costs Grand	\$22,633 for GEF portion of annual financial audit (combined with Budget Note #37, below; total cost \$5,000/year * 5 years = \$25,000).		1,144,31		2,386,2	128,0	22,63 3	22,633	UNDP
Total		991,950	1,144,51	250,000	2,380,2	00	61	2,039,7	

## ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

<u>Instructions</u>. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

## ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

<u>Instructions</u>. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

## ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

<u>Instructions</u>. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).