

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

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10692

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

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)

State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

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

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

60 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

250,774.00

Submission Date

9/25/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	259,817.00	3,625,000.00
BD-2-7	GET	1,500,000.00	7,250,000.00
LD-1-4	GET	618,844.00	2,625,000.00
LD-1-3	GET	261,065.00	1,000,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		2,639,726.00	14,500,000.00

B. Indicative 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 Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component I: Integrated Landscape Planning and LDN-focused management	Investment	<p>Outcome 1: Ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods in Pamir-Alai wider landscape (outside PAs) secured through improved land use planning and management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity mainstreamed in land use practices in 235,000 ha (direct impact). LDN targets supported with increased investment 19,500 ha of priority pasture ecosystems restored 500 ha of priority HCVF restored Climate-sensitive wildlife conservation strategies in place. <p><i>Targets to be elaborated at PPG.</i></p>	<p>Output 1.1. Landscape-level integrated land use management approaches for Pamir Alay landscape designed and under implementation</p> <p>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,</p> <p>Output 1.3.</p> <p>SFM and LDN-focussed enabling environment through amendment of local rules and regulations on forestry and land use.</p> <p><i>(Pls. see additional details in main text)</i></p>	GET	781,947.00	5,000,000.00

Component II: Strengthening Key Biodiversity Areas	Investment	<p>Outcome 2. Sustainability of critical Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems secured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of PA network by 331,000 ha, • Higher management effectiveness of 173,023 ha of existing PAs, as indicated by increased METT • Improved enforcement efficiency and effectiveness of PA rangers • Stable or increasing populations of priority species, including snow leopard, ibex, argali, marmot, and other Red List species <p><i>Targets to be elaborated at PPG.</i></p>	<p>Output 2.1.</p> <p>Protected area estate expanded through gazettment of new PAs, supplying them with operational and financial management plans (see details in Annex A).</p> <p>Output 2.2.</p> <p>Increased management effectiveness of existing 7 PAs with focus on biodiversity monitoring and enforcement in protection zones.</p> <p>Output 2.3.</p> <p>Financing of protected areas improved through community-based ecotourism and private sector partnerships.</p> <p>Output 2.4. Community-based conservation mechanisms established and implemented, including wildlife monitoring, enforcement and awareness raising.</p>	GET	1,500,000.00	8,000,000.00
--	------------	---	--	-----	--------------	--------------

Component III: Knowledge-management, stakeholder coordination, M&E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3. Enhanced cooperation and knowledge sharing supporting LDN, and building the conservation community of practice nationally and regionally:	Output 3.1. Modules on biodiversity conservation and integrated land management for LDN integrated in publicity, vocational training, and higher education systems.	GET	232,318.00	1,000,000.00	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">at least 10 case studies / best-practice products developed and disseminated, through national, regional, and global platforms	Output 3.2. International coordination and information sharing, including support for future development of transboundary PAs in Pamir-Alai				
		<i>Targets to be further elaborated and confirmed at PPG.</i>	Output 3.3. Project monitoring and evaluation ensured				
Sub Total (\$)					2,514,265.00	14,000,000.00	
Project Management Cost (PMC)							
					GET	125,461.00	500,000.00
					Sub Total(\$)	125,461.00	500,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)						2,639,726.00	14,500,000.00

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Batken Province	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Osh Province	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Multiple district level governments	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	300,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	TBC: Potentially multiple (e.g. Snow Leopard Trust, GSLEP, Foundation Ilbirs, NABU, WWF, Panthera, CAREC, CAMP Alatoo, etc.	Grant	Investment mobilized	600,000.00
Donor Agency	World Bank	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Donor Agency	IFAD	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,400,000.00
Donor Agency	FAO	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,400,000.00
Donor Agency	ADB	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,400,000.00

Donor Agency	GIZ	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,400,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)				14,500,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Note on "Investment Mobilized": - - In case of project approval, the SAEPF has committed to support PAs foreseen to be established under the project (Output 2.1). In addition, the SAEPF will contribute to the development and implementation of sustainable forestry principles in high value mountain forests (Output 1.2 and 1.3), and options for sustainable livelihoods (under Output 2.3 and Output 2.4). - - UNDP will be prepared to invest grant financing to support the project. UNDP investment mobilized is expected to support project management costs, plus capacity development and knowledge management activities (Component 3). - - It is expected that the provincial and district level governments will mobilize investment to support the project activities on the ground at the local level in the priority districts and targeted pasture management units. This is expected to include activities such as infrastructure investment, environmental monitoring, ecological protection measures, and agricultural extension activities. - - it is anticipated that the national and international civil society organizations working in Kyrgyzstan on issues highly relevant to the project, such as snow leopard conservation, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, sustainable forestry, sustainable land use, sustainable rural livelihoods, and resilient livelihoods would be engaged by the project as partners, and would contribute to the achievement of the project objective, generating multiple synergies. - All co-financing commitments will be discussed at PPG with the entity providing the cofinancing. The amounts will be confirmed. The linkages and relevance to specific project sites/project activities will be agreed as well. Letters of cofinancing will be obtained that will confirm amounts, relevance and coordination with relevant project elements.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,759,817	167,183	1,927,000.00
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	879,909	83,591	963,500.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					2,639,726.00	250,774.00	2,890,500.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
100,000				9,500			
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republic	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	66,667	6,333	73,000.00
UNDP	GET	Kyrgyz Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	33,333	3,167	36,500.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					100,000.00	9,500.00	109,500.00


Core Indicators



Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

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






Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
"Alai Valley National Park"	Not assigned	National Park	113,000.00			


"Arka National Park"	Not assigned	National Park	54,000.00	
"Arpa Valley National Park"	Not assigned	National Park	164,000.00	

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
173,023.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akbura Zoological Zakaznik	167067	Habitat/Species Management Area	13,600.00						

Kara-Shoro National Park	167092	National Park	8,450.00	
Kulun-Ata State Nature Reserve	Not assigned	Strict Nature Reserve	27,434.00	
Kyrgyz-Ata National Park	167108	National Park	11,172.00	
Sarkent State National Nature Park	Not assigned	National Park	40,000.00	
Surma-Tash State Nature Reserve	Not assigned	Strict Nature Reserve	66,194.00	

Yasy Zoological Zakaznik	167130	Habitat/Species Management Area	6,173.00	
--------------------------------	--------	---------------------------------------	----------	---

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
20000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

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 restored

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

500.00

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------	---------------------

19,500.00

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	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	0.00	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			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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

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			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

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 ₂ e (direct)	1588009	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ 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 ₂ e (direct)	1,588,009			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2022			
Duration of accounting	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 ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
------------	---------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	--------------------------------

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

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

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1a. *Project Description:*

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

Overall background and target landscape

The Kyrgyz Republic is situated in the heart of Eurasia, surrounded by the arid plains of Central Asia. The distance to the ocean is about 3,000 km, which drives the overall aridity and continental climate of the country. The altitude ranges from 500 to 7,134 m above sea level. Almost 90 percent of the Kyrgyz Republic's territory is located over 1,500 m. The comparatively high biodiversity richness here is due to high the mountainous systems of the Tien Shan and Pamir-Alai, which accumulate moisture from upper layers of the atmosphere. The Kyrgyz Republic, including the Pamir-Alai landscape, is at the center of the "Mountains of Central Asia" global biodiversity hotspot. The country has about 1% of all known species on 0.13% of the earth's surface.

The Pamir-Alai landscape (see maps in Annex A) is defined as land above 2,000 m in Batken and Osh provinces, plus the At-Bashy district of Naryn province. The landscape is ~3 million hectares, of which 1.84 million hectares are pastureland, and 0.40 million hectares are forest. 1.12 million hectares are allocated as State Forest Fund land. The project area includes 6 KBAs (0.87 million hectares), which cover 25-30% of the landscape. KBAs have been identified on the basis of "trigger species", including numerous rare and threatened species, with the most iconic being the snow leopard. There are more than 2.5 million livestock in the region (~60% sheep and goats + ~40% cows, horses, other).

The Kyrgyz Republic has demonstrated its commitment over the past decade to achieving sustainable development. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to 2024 (2014) outlines the country's priorities for biodiversity conservation, which includes expansion of the PA system for wildlife conservation, conserving high mountain ecosystems, and reducing human-wildlife conflict in key habitats.

With respect to land degradation, Kyrgyzstan has made a commitment under the Bonn Challenge, pledging to restore 0.32 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. Kyrgyzstan has also set its national LDN targets, aiming to (i) improve pasture conditions in at least 40 village districts; (ii) improve access to 10,000 ha of pastures; (iii) adopt SLM on 100,000 ha of forest and pasture; and (iv) improve the conditions of 10,000 ha of land.

The Kyrgyz Republic's strong political support for snow leopard conservation is a key pillar for success of this project. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has shown a high level of support for GSLEP (the GSLEP Secretariat is hosted in Bishkek), and the Pamir-Alai is a priority snow leopard landscape in the Kyrgyz Republic. The National Strategy on Snow Leopard Conservation for 2013–2023 (2013) sets the principles, priorities and key policy toward snow leopard conservation. This presents an ideal opportunity to leverage the country's support for snow leopards to implement a large-scale landscape management plan for the Pamir-Alai that catalyzes transformational change for addressing competing land uses in the wider landscape, and conserving rare species.

Economically the Kyrgyz Republic is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, and has been increasing trade and improving relations with neighboring countries in recent years. Other key national policies and legislation that provides the foundational enabling environment for success:

- Concept of Environmental Security (2007).
- Kyrgyz National Development Strategy for 2018-2040 (2018)
- Forest Code (1999) and the Concept for Forest Sector Development to 2025 (2004)
- Law on Pastures (2009)
- Law on Agricultural Development (2009) and Law on Protection of Fertility of Agricultural Soils (2012)

Threats Related to Land-Use Planning

The underlying driver of much of competing uses in the wider landscape is land-use patterns (e.g. pasture and forest management) that are not sufficiently aligned and synchronized with the natural wildlife patterns and cycles (i.e. migration routes, calving seasons, etc.), nor organized appropriately in relation to wildlife critical habitat areas. The most serious causes of biodiversity loss in the Kyrgyz Republic are fragmentation of habitat and reduction of the total area of habitat types, as well as the consequences of anthropogenic influences. Among the anthropogenic threats to biodiversity are:

- obstruction of natural forest restoration from grazing;
- degradation of natural pastures from overgrazing;
- reduction of forests area as a result of lop-sided decisions on land acquisition for construction and other development;
- illegal take of forest products and illegal wood cutting in forests; and
- poaching of large and medium-sized mammals.

Threats Related to Livestock and Pasture Management

The Pamir-Alai is one of the poorest regions of Kyrgyzstan, and the vast majority of the rural population depends primarily on livestock as their main source of livelihood. The dependence on livestock as a livelihood, and the low levels of institutional and individual capacity in the region, lead to various types of unsustainable land management. Land use in fragile mountain ecosystems can negatively impact biodiversity if not carefully and sustainably managed, with proper support for rural communities. The collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, and the corresponding collapse of long-standing resource management systems led to poorly managed livestock systems. In the early years of independence the livestock population plummeted, but it has recovered and continuously increased over the past 20 years, with inadequate management leading to dire ecological consequences. The country attempted to address this through the 2009 Law on Pastures, which defined pastures as a national treasure, and provided for community-based mechanisms to sustainably manage pastures. However, due to lack of resources and capacity, this law is still not fully implemented in many parts of the country, especially in the most remote and least developed regions, such as the Pamir-Alai. As a result, large areas of valuable mountain pastures are degraded from overgrazing, erosion due to overuse, and the proliferation of unpalatable species due to unmanaged grazing.

Threats Related to Forest Management

Dependence on imported timber is high in Kyrgyzstan, since commercial forestry is prohibited, and relatively low volumes of wood (approximately 25,000 cubic meters annually) are drawn from maintenance/sanitary cutting. During the Soviet period, Kyrgyzstan imported 400,000-500,000 cubic meters of industrial roundwood and 2 million cubic meters of fuelwood annually, which is estimated as the minimal annual demand for timber and fuelwood for the country. Currently only 67,500 cubic meters of timber is imported, and an estimated 40-50,000 cubic meters is cut illegally, equating to only 20-25% of the estimated minimum annual demand. Consequently, the price of timber in local markets of US \$160-250/m³ is beyond the means of most rural households, indicating that illegal pressure on forests for fuelwood and local construction is high. Although forests cover only 5.6% of the country, almost 20% of the Kyrgyz population lives in or near forests, and more than one third of houses in Kyrgyzstan rely only on coal and fuelwood for heating and cooking. Recent economic shifts have led to rising costs of electricity and gas, leading many public institutions, such as schools and hospitals, to switch to charcoal and wood-based heating systems. Inadequate forest management facilitates multiple threats. Cutting over-mature trees, which is legally permitted in unprotected areas, removes ecologically important trees, destroys surrounding vegetation as a result of extensive construction of roads, reduces biological diversity, and impairs its resilience to anthropogenic and natural stress. The rate of natural regeneration and reforestation is unable to keep pace with the rate of forest degradation.

Threats Related to Poor Protected Area Management

Within Kyrgyzstan's national protected area system southern Kyrgyzstan is underrepresented, and is a priority for the government in terms of expanding PA coverage. Of the currently identified 866,000 ha of KBAs in the landscape, only 173,000 ha are covered by PAs, less than 20%. In places where KBAs are covered by formal PAs, the PA staff have extremely limited capacity to manage, monitor, and enforce wildlife protection measures. There is a need to raise the awareness and individual capacity of rangers and inspectors to support them in enforcing and reporting wildlife crime for effective prosecution. This system could be further supported through community-based monitoring systems, of which there are positive examples in other parts of Kyrgyzstan. For example, in

the Central Tian Shan region, in eastern Kyrgyzstan, a corps of volunteer community rangers have been trained and have made significant contributions to reducing wildlife crime violations. In addition, mountain ecosystems are considered to be some of the most at-risk ecosystems from climate change, and it is anticipated that ecological zones within the landscape will be shifted in terms of altitude, and depending on slope and other factors. This will impact the sensitive alpine biodiversity of the Pamir-Alai, and may significantly reduce the effectiveness of current protected areas.

Threats Related to Lack of Community-based Wildlife Management

High poverty leads to local-level poaching, both for subsistence, and as a means to garner extra income. The high levels of poverty, and low salaries, for border patrol guards, forest rangers, and even park rangers can result in situations where these individuals are responsible for poaching incidents, sometimes simply for subsistence when they are posted for extended periods in remote guard stations. Capacity limitations in the legal system, again combined with high poverty and low salaries for inspectors, leads to ineffective prosecution of wildlife crime. Kyrgyz law does allow for rangers to receive a percentage of the fines paid by violators – but only if they are prosecuted and fines are enforced, which, even if it does happen, is usually many months later. In addition, on rare occasions snow leopards raid livestock corrals at night, and other species (e.g. wild boar, bears) raid household gardens in high mountain villages. Considering the high dependence of rural communities on their livestock and subsistence gardens, incursions by wildlife often result in retaliatory killings. Preliminary efforts are being made by civil society organizations and the government to support local communities in seeing wildlife a more valuable resource alive than dead, but much work remains to turn this into widespread reality. Historical cultural norms also still play a role; despite much public education and awareness in recent years, in many parts of Central Asia, having a snow leopard skin in your house may be considered by some to be a symbol of power and wealth.

Transboundary Issues

The Pamir-Alai is a transboundary landscape, with portion of the ecoregion lying across the border in Tajikistan. Therefore a coordinated approach to conservation, landscape management, and ecological monitoring is required. In addition, the Pamir-Alai region includes a primary transit route between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and therefore the official (and unofficial) border crossings here are a hot spot for international wildlife trafficking (IWT). IWT in this region is driven mainly by demand for illegal trophy hunting on the one hand, and the Asian market for wildlife parts on the other hand.

Barriers to Achieving the Long-term Objective

Barrier 1: Lack of information and capacity for integrated land use planning at landscape scale or lower

Although the Pamir-Alai is a cohesive ecosystem, and individuals of certain species such as the snow leopard range widely in the landscape, there is limited or no integrated land use planning at the landscape scale for mountain ecosystems. The Pamir-Alai is a remote region, and is one of Kyrgyzstan's most impoverished, and there is little technical capacity for government officials to collect and analyze landscape-scale data. New technologies, such as remote sensing data collection, and GIS analysis are providing the tools to see and manage the landscape as whole (at a reasonable cost), but these technologies are

not yet widely used in southern Kyrgyzstan. In addition, there is currently no coordination mechanism for stakeholders, land users, land managers, and other partners to come together to consider the landscape as a whole, and to come to consensus on a strategic allocation of land use and sustainable management regimes. Beyond this, even at the scale of individual management units, such as forest management units or pasture user associations, there is little knowledge among managers and practitioners of current concepts such as HCVF management principles. While Kyrgyzstan does have an existing system of developing forest management plans, there are few analytical tools to determine optimized sustainable forest management outcomes. In addition, due to limited technical capacity and financial resources, forest managers do not have the ability to restore forest areas that have become degraded. The same is true for locally-run Pasture User Associations, which have been mandated to manage a large share of pastures, per the Law on Pastures. While the Law on Pastures provides a theoretically sound foundation, effective implementation of the law remains limited, especially in remote regions such as the Pamir-Alai.

Barrier 2: Inadequate protected area coverage and resources, including community-based conservation areas

The Pamir-Alai region is underrepresented in Kyrgyzstan's protected area system, and the Government of Kyrgyzstan has limited financial and technical capacity to expand the system without outside investment and support. Establishing new protected areas requires a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process, combined with extensive technical study and review; this is a challenging process that requires technical support and investment. The PAs that currently exist have extremely low effectiveness, due to their remoteness, recency (one of the PAs was established in 2004, and two others were established only in 2009), and limited capacity at all levels, including financial resources. METT scorecards have not yet been completed for the existing PAs targeted under this project (to be completed in the PPG phase) but scores for similar PAs in Kyrgyzstan's Western Tian Shan region found METT scores in the range of 17-43, and it is anticipated that the existing PAs in the Pamir-Alai will have similar or lower scores. PA staff do not have adequate training or resources to effectively manage PAs in the region. There is also a lack of knowledge and understanding of how climate change will affect the efficacy of PAs in the region; currently little is known about how climate change will affect the Pamir-Alai region, and how climate change will impact the distribution and abundance of species, including rare and threatened species. In addition, there are few community-based conservation mechanisms currently implemented on the ground in the Pamir-Alai, and therefore there are not yet strong linkages established between sustainable livelihoods and sustainable land use, and biodiversity conservation.

Barrier 3: Insufficient capacity, and transboundary cooperation, for effective integrated landscape management

Integrated sustainable landscape management remains an emerging concept in Kyrgyzstan, and there is a great need to increase the awareness and understanding of policy makers and land management practitioners on integrated approaches. Knowledge of integrated sustainable land management practices are still limited in Kyrgyzstan, although there are increasingly some positive examples in other parts of the country. However, in southern Kyrgyzstan, there is as yet no established effort at integrated landscape management of alpine ecosystems. Batken and Osh provinces in southern Kyrgyzstan border the fertile Fergana valley, and a large portion of Kyrgyzstan's population (Osh is the 2nd largest city in Kyrgyzstan) and agricultural production is centered here, in the lowland areas on the northern side of the Pamir-Alai. As such, the management and attention on management of mountain ecosystems in this region has been a secondary priority. The LDN target setting process highlighted that the technical capacities of the government institutions involved in land governance are not adequate to understand and define the problems and the solutions to land degradation issues in the country. The full LDN avoid-reduce-restore causal chain need to be understood and applied in integrated land use planning at systemic level. At the local level, the number of local extension officers deployed is insufficient, and many times these officials do not have the experience and know-how to advise farmers on sustainable resource use. Policy makers and land managers need to improve their awareness and understanding of the challenges of sustainable land management in the region for mountain ecosystems, and

need to be trained in effective integrated approaches to addressing these issues. In addition, there is not a high level of awareness about the globally significant biodiversity found in this region, and the urgent need to implement conservation measures. Furthermore, since the Pamir-Alai is a transboundary landscape, it can only be effectively managed in the long-term through transboundary cooperation and coordination. In the past there have been some initial positive steps taken between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in this region, but there is currently no formally established coordination mechanisms on land use management, biodiversity monitoring, enforcement, transboundary PAs, or other such approaches.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects,

In the current baseline there is little effective forest and pasture management in the Pamir-Alai landscape. This is one of Kyrgyzstan's most remote, and least developed regions. The 2009 Pasture Law is not fully implemented, and there is insufficient capacity to manage forests, and PAs. The region's KBAs are not sufficiently covered by PAs or other biodiversity conservation mechanisms. There is no integrated spatial planning or management approach that considers the landscape as a whole, as would be achieved through this project.

Under the current institutional framework the SAEPF is responsible for managing State Forest Fund land (implemented through individual forest management units, "leskhozes"), as well as PAs. The lands should be managed within the existing legislative and policy framework previously mentioned, including the Forest Code and the Law on Pastures.

Currently there is limited local stakeholder engagement in formal decision making relating to the management of protected areas and forests. Local consultation mechanisms (e.g. local advisory boards, etc.) are not yet implemented in relation to protected area and forest management. Pasture management is organized through Pasture User Associations, which provide a platform for coordinated self-management of pasture lands allocated to each PUA; however, in reality, the PUAs do not have the capacity to effectively and sustainably manage their allocated pasture lands.

There are also currently very few baseline initiatives on gender integration actually in practice in the Pamir-Alai region. However, Kyrgyzstan is continuously working to address gender mainstreaming issues, with donor assistance. UNDP in Kyrgyzstan has produced a Gender Equality Strategy (2018), outlining how gender equality will be addressed in UNDP's work in Kyrgyzstan in the 2018-2022 period. This strategy will be considered and integrated in the full development of this project during the PPG phase.

Kyrgyzstan sees significant ODA investment, and there are multiple baseline projects ongoing that have some thematic similarities to the proposed project, but which do not overlap geographically. The proposed project will work to coordinate closely with these stakeholders, and to promote two-way knowledge exchange in terms of good practices and lessons.

The table below provides a summary of the most relevant current baseline projects.

Organization	Title	Period	Budget	Summary
Global Snow Leopard Secretariat (Bishkek), with participation of Snow Leopard range Governments	Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)	Ongoing	N/A	GSLEP, the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program, is an alliance of all snow leopard range countries, non-governmental organizations, multi-lateral institutions, scientists and local communities, united by one goal: saving the snow leopard and its mountain ecosystems. The overarching goal of the GSLEP program is for the 12 range countries, with support from interested organizations, to work together to identify and secure at least 20 healthy populations of snow leopards across the cat's range by 2020, or 20 By 2020. Many of these populations will cross international boundaries. This is an interim goal for the period through 2020, and a key step toward the ultimate goal of ensuring that healthy snow leopard populations remain the icon of the mountains of Asia for generations to come.
Asian Development Bank	Climate Change and Disaster-Resilient Water Resources Sector Project	2018-2024	43,600,000 USD	The project will be improving the irrigation infrastructure, enhance the irrigation system and agricultural land management and improve the national disaster risk management capacity. The project focus in the Ferghana Valley in the southwest of the country and the Chui River Basin in the north of the country.
EBRD (lead MDB) plus ADB and World Bank	Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience Activity: 1) Development of the Climate Finance Coordination Mechanism including the Climate Finance Center	January 2016 – August 2021	1,500,000 USD	The interventions will be focused in the Ferghana Valley in the southwest of the country and the Chui River Basin in the north of the country, which are vulnerable to flooding, landslides (including mudflows), and drought risks that are likely to be exacerbated by climate change.

	Finance Center, 2) Development of the Climate Investment Programme (CIP).			
UNDP/GCF	Advancing development of a National Adaptation Plan process for medium and long-term adaptation planning and implementation in the Kyrgyz Republic	2020-2023	2,348,063 USD	The project supports the Kyrgyz Republic in establishing its National Adaptation Plan process and is consistent with the government's strategic vision for climate change adaptation. Its objective is to strengthen institutions and enhance vertical and horizontal coordination for climate change adaptation planning, facilitate mainstreaming of climate risks at sectoral and subnational levels, and identify a program of priority climate change adaptation investments.
GIZ - Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	Sustainable and climate land use for economic development in Central Asia (SUSTAIN-CA)	2016-2020	5,700,000 EUR	Under this technical assistance program, land users, government agencies and the private sector in Central Asia adopt integrated, economically and ecologically sustainable forms of land use, taking climate change into account. The programme's activities range from direct support for communities and inter-sectoral policy dialogue to the promotion of cross-border cooperation and regional partnerships. Forests, pastures, environmental economics, knowledge management, environmental education and awareness raising are the areas of programme work. In Kyrgyzstan the program is piloting forest sector reform, testing various approaches to forest management with participation of local communities.

3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

The project's theory-of-change (TOC) diagram can be found in the figure in the Annexes.

Summarize of the TOC: The project's strategy targets the identified threats and barriers to achieving the long-term objective. The major root cause of the identified threats ties to poverty, and the project focuses strongly on increasing the ecological sustainability of rural livelihoods, through securing necessary ecosystem services. The project aims to address the poverty-environment nexus in all aspects of the project, including catalyzing community economic benefits from sustainable pasture and forest management. Within the available LD and BD funding, the three components below are investing directly on the ground into resource management plans that support sustainable livelihoods to communities in order to support long-term resilience of ecosystems. Completely addressing poverty in Kyrgyzstan's Pamir-Alai landscape is a long-term goal that will require significant investment and development aid by many partners. As such, the proposed project takes a highly strategic approach of targeting the geographic areas in the landscape where human land-use activities have the greatest impacts on ecosystems that provide critical ecosystem services. The first component of the project is designed to address the first major barrier identified, related to the lack of a landscape level spatial approach to ecosystem management. Under Output 1.1 the project will work with all stakeholders within the landscape to develop a consensus on spatial planning for various land use types in a manner that supports long-term sustainability, and the conservation of important biodiversity. Sustainable management of forest and pasture resources will be taken to the individual management unit scale under Output 1.2, where sustainable forest and sustainable pasture plans in strategic areas will be developed and implemented. This will be further supported under Output 1.3 with the development of necessary policy and regulations to support the implementation of sustainable forest management practices. The second component works to address the effective conservation of biodiversity across the landscape, increasing the coverage and capacity for effective PA management within southern Kyrgyzstan. The project will focus on the conservation of specific areas in the landscape that have been identified as being of high conservation value, especially in terms of biodiversity values. This includes improving the management of PAs, establishing new PAs, securing KBAs outside of PAs, and working with local communities to ensure mutual benefits derived from conservation areas. Under Component 3 the project will implement a variety of capacity development and knowledge management measures to support successful project implementation, the long-term sustainability of results, and the catalytic influence of the project within Kyrgyzstan and beyond. These interventions are all interlinked through the strategic approach of catalyzing biodiversity-friendly sustainable land use in KBAs, and the immediately adjacent sustainable use zones. All project activities are to be further developed and confirmed during the PPG phase.

This project proposes an alternative scenario in which integrated and proactive approaches are used to address the interlinked challenges of conflicting and unsustainable land use, with community-based conservation approaches to develop incentives for the conservation of wildlife. Through these approaches, critical populations of high-value species will be more strategically and effectively managed to reduce threats, and coexistence between wildlife and resilient communities will be incentivized, with increased benefits flowing to affected communities. This scenario is centered on socially-inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration at national, regional and local scales; evidence-driven decision-making and management approaches (based on integrated social, economic and ecological research); and implementation of innovative, fit-for-purpose technologies and best-practices that enhance capacity for prevention and management of wildlife crime and human-wildlife conflict.

This will be achieved in the Pamir-Alai landscape, which is part of the "Mountains of Central Asia" biodiversity hotspot, specifically in 6 KBAs, 7 existing PAs and 3 newly established PAs, and the sustainable use landscapes that interlink these critical biodiversity areas.

Sustainably managing land (especially pastures and forests), while conserving biodiversity of the Pamir-Alai requires an integrated landscape-level approach that reconciles the livestock-based local livelihoods in the Pamir-Alai with the needs of wildlife, and the conservation of their critical habitats. The core strategy of the proposed project works to holistically improve conservation areas by taking wildlife from being a problem for local communities and making it an asset (that can attract investments) that delivers benefits. The project strategy also recognizes that local and multi-stakeholder engagement is critical for establishing the ownership of resource users in securing wildlife populations.

The project addresses multiple barriers including i). shortcomings in institutional framework, management, and financing for conservation areas; ii.) undefined land uses and limited multi-stakeholder consultations in land use plans; iii.) lack of opportunities for communities to engage in conservation; iv.) and a lack of political will and investments to tackle conflicting land uses and secure biodiversity conservation.

The components of the proposed project are interlinked, and have interdependencies. For example, Component 1 (integrated landscape management) links with Component 2 (secure conservation areas) in that PAs must be recognized within the wider landscape, and land resources outside of PAs must be managed in a sustainable way to allow PAs to effectively serve their purpose, while also facilitating sustainable livelihoods. The intersection of these components is the geographic and conceptual nexus where land use conflicts occur, and where they can be mitigated.

The project will leverage a landscape-level integrated land use management plan, particularly for the benefit of snow leopards (an objective strongly supported by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic) in order to transform land use across the Pamir-Alai. Snow leopards are a single flagship species, but because of their sensitivity to human disturbance, their large home ranges, and their position as an apex predator, effectively securing the landscape for the conservation of snow leopards provides a strong basis for generating multiple Global Environmental Benefits. These include reduced land degradation, and the sequestration of carbon related to AFOLU factors, as well as increasing climate resilience for local communities. Previous similar initiatives relating to integrated landscape management in the Kyrgyz Republic have been successful (e.g. in the Central Tian Shan).

The project is structured around three components, as follows:

Component 1: Integrated Landscape Planning and Management for Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods in the Pamir-Alai and LDN, in which Outcome 1 is Sustainable livelihoods in the Pamir-Alai landscape ensured, through improved land use planning and management. In this component Output 1.1 provides for the overarching land use management framework across the mosaic landscape, which will integrate different types of land use, including rangeland, forestland, conservation areas and the corridors that connect them. This will be achieved through a multi-stakeholder consultative process that brings together management planning for forests, pastures, and the identification and recognition of wildlife corridors. The project will target strategic priority management zones within the Pamir-Alai landscape, and will engage stakeholders on 6 district-level land use plans, and an overall landscape-level spatial plan, in the context of a snow leopard landscape management plan. Work under this output will also ensure that the project outcomes are climate resilient in order to be sustainable for the long-term, by identifying priority conservation zones across the landscape under future climate projections, which represents an important co-benefit from the adaptation perspective. This output draws on the recently developed “Spatial Planning for Protected Areas in Response to

Climate Change” (SPARC) methodology, which was created as part of a GEF targeted research project requested by the GEF STAP, and addresses adaptation co-benefits. Under Output 1.2 the project aims to ensure that competing land uses are carried out under sustainable approaches. The project will assist in developing conservation-compatible pasture management plans for 3 Pasture User Associations covering >100,000 ha of priority high-altitude pastures, and initiate implementation of these plans, including pasture restoration measures in 19,500 ha of degraded pastureland. The project will also work with 3 forest management units to revise forest management plans for <100,000 ha of priority HCV mountain forest ecosystems, and implement on-the-ground forest management measures, including restoration of 500 ha of degraded HCVF. The sustainable pasture and forest management plans to be developed will ensure that potential future climate change impacts are considered and integrated, and management plans will be adjusted to support increased resilience for local resource user communities, which is another mechanism through which adaptation co-benefits will be generated. Under Output 1.3 the project aims to tackle key weaknesses in the national-level enabling environment that present barriers to effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use, particularly in the forest management sector. These include: 1) By-laws for forest management outside state forest fund and protected areas (per Forest Code article); 2) Rules for conversion of forest land to non-forest land for uses not related to forest management and forestry (per Forest Code article); 3) Procedure for determining losses of forestry production for reimbursement (per Forest Code article). The results under this output are considered necessary by national stakeholders to effectively achieve the project objective, and the project results under this output will also be scaled up through implementation at the national level.

Component 2: Conserving Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Pamir-Alai Key Biodiversity Areas Through Expansion and Financial Strengthening of Kyrgyzstan’s Protected Areas System, in which Outcome 2 is Critical Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems secured, with strengthened financial basis for PAs. This project component is foreseen to encompass the largest share of the project budget, at \$1.50 m USD. The project involves a total of 10 PAs (3 foreseen new PAs, and 7 PAs existing in the target landscape), but the level of project engagement with the PAs will vary, allowing the project to make efficient and effective use of the resources for the 10 PAs. In addition, due to the relatively low local cost of goods and services in dollar terms, the project resources are expected to provide significant benefits to these PAs with relatively low levels of investment. Output 2.1. of this component focuses on the establishment of 3 new PAs in priority biodiversity areas, covering approximately 331,000 ha. This includes activities such as PA feasibility studies completed with engagement of all stakeholders including communities; PA zoning and regimes taking into account climate adaptation aspects, IUCN category and management arrangements defined; PAs gazetted; management and business plans jointly with communities developed and launched. The project will also work to expand existing PAs in priority areas where KBAs are not sufficiently covered. The proposed and existing PAs to be addressed by the project are indicated in Annex 1. of this document. The project will also inventory all protected areas (including IUCN III, IV category PAs) in Batken and Osh, and take decisions on how they need to comply with PA regimes and requirements. Output 2.2. will increase the management effectiveness of PAs (as assessed through the METT) within the Pamir-Alai landscape, particularly with regard to their monitoring and enforcement capacity, and biodiversity monitoring. This will include the identification of human pressure thresholds and officially stipulated for each targeted PA; regulations set forth to identify status and management for permanent and temporary dwellings (e.g. shepherds’ houses) in PAs; and increased PAs enforcement capacity. The targeted PAs in Osh and Batken oblasts capacitated to undertake wildlife monitoring and protection based on capacity needs assessment and METTs developed during PPG; wildlife monitoring and management will be strengthened in Batken and Osh oblasts (including focus on snow leopard and prey monitoring); and the project will help expand the wildlife data base. PA strengthening activities will also include climate vulnerability assessments for Kyrgyzstan’s network of PAs in the Pamir-Alai landscape (undertaken under Output 1.1), which will provide adaptation co-benefits for the future capacity of PAs to effectively conserve biodiversity. Under Output 2.3 the project will strengthen the financial basis of PAs through development of community-based ecotourism around PAs / KBAs / and community conservancies, including fully ensuring benefits accruing to local communities from wildlife. The specific strategies to be applied will be analyzed and confirmed during the PPG phase, but are likely to include (a) Community based tourism around KBAs with defined mechanism of how revenues from tourism benefit PAs and support

conservation in them; (b) partnership with larger economic enterprises (e.g. larger farmers, tourism companies) engaging them in activities aiming to ensure support of positive status of ecosystems in protected area buffer zones and corridors; (c) national PA financing strategies, regulations, and policies developed to elaborate financial relationships between PAs and community-based enterprises, and private sector at national level. This will include linkages with development of the national PA system, including strategic planning on sustainable use options such as the international hunting sector, and the establishment of regulations to ensure sustainability and maximize benefits to PAs and local communities from tourists. The project will further strengthen the financial basis for PAs through private sector partnerships for tourism and sustainable use in PA buffer zones, and adjacent areas, which will also be elaborated through national-level policies and strategies. Output 2.4 provides additional support for community-based management of natural resources, through education and awareness activities for local communities on sustainable pasture, forest management, planning and awareness raising targeted for communities near PAs and KBAs. In addition, the project will support implementation of community conservation areas, while strengthening existing conservancies in Taldy-Suu, Chak and Jar Bashe.

Component 3: Knowledge-management, stakeholder coordination and M&E, with Outcome 3, Enhanced coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing enables integrated and proactive response to biodiversity conservation and management, building the conservation community of practice in Kyrgyzstan and regionally. Output 3.1 will strengthen wildlife knowledge management and systemic capacity in Kyrgyzstan, including developing capacity building modules on sustainable wildlife management at all levels, establishing regular training courses, such as in existing scientific production center on sustainable natural resources use of the SAEPF, and introduced in colleges and universities (nature management faculties). Output 3.2 addresses international coordination and information sharing, including support for future development of transboundary PAs in the Pamir-Alai, convening of at least two regional biodiversity conservation symposiums / workshops with participation from local stakeholders and neighboring states, to share lessons and develop harmonized transboundary approaches, with case studies published. Output 3.3 covers the project's required monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

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

The project is consistent with the objectives and will contribute to the outcomes and outputs of the GEF's Biodiversity focal area. By the end of the project 235,000 hectares of production landscape will be under improved management, excluding PAs. 173,023 hectares of existing protected areas will be under improved management effectiveness, and the project will support the establishment of 331,000 ha of new protected areas.

The project is also supportive of the Land Degradation focal area strategies, as it focuses on improved integrated and use planning, and on practical improvements in soil and vegetation quality. As a result of its activities, 19,500 ha of high priority high altitude pastures will end up with improved soil organic carbon content and vegetation cover, supporting the LDN principles and national targets. Further, 500 hectares of degraded High Conservation Value Forests will be restored through reforestation and regeneration.

While the project is not directly participating in the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program, the project is fully in-line with and supportive of the GEF's strategy developed through this impact program. Key to the integrated approach is appropriate integrated spatial planning to determine optimum land uses for different soil types, ecosystems, and climatic conditions. The integrated approach unlocks a range of benefits, including improved biodiversity conservation through biodiversity-friendly land uses in and on the margins of KBAs, such as sustainable pastoralism. The project activities will be directly targeting small holders and pastoralists; in the high mountain zones of the Pamir-Alai in Osh and Batken provinces (the priority area of the project) the average household landholding is 2-10 acres, and livestock sales represent the main source of income for most households. The project will improve the management of forest and land resources (under Output 1.2), including sustainable livelihoods, land restoration, sustainable forest management, and sustainable pasture management.

The project will provide important co-benefits in adaptation: Under Component I priority conservation areas will be identified, with careful consideration of impacts from climate change, and aiming to achieve maximum climate resilience of species and ecosystems. This assessment will be carried out with the "Spatial Planning for Protected Areas in Response to Climate Change" (SPARC) methodology. The findings from this analysis will be included in the integrated landscape management plan for the Pamir-Alai landscape. Also under Component I, the project will be supporting local resource managers and users to develop sustainable pasture and forest management plans, and these plans will be generated considering future climate impacts, in order to support increased community resilience. Under Component II, protected area zoning will also consider possible ecosystem shifts that might be happening under climate change, and develop zoning regimes in view of achieving maximum climate resilience.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; and 6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and

<i>State of ecosystems under baseline</i>	<i>Summary of GEF incremental intervention</i>	<i>Benefits</i>
Biodiversity		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline government support for the 7 protected areas in the landscape covering 173,023 ha will continue to be at the most basic level, and the PAs will continue to have low management effectiveness, failing to fully achieve their biodiversity conservation objectives. The PAs will continue to be inadequately integrated in the wider landscape through implementation of land use planning that fully mainstreams biodiversity considerations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity strengthening for improved management effectiveness of 7 PAs covering >173,023 ha of KBAs in high value arid ecosystems Establishment of 3 new PAs covering 331,000 ha of Key Biodiversity Areas in mountain ecosystems Improvement in integration of PAs in wider production la 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened Kyrgyzstan PA system with improved management effectiveness for 173,023 ha of existing PAs in high value mountain ecosystems. Improved conservation status of rare and endangered species within PA boundaries due to improved monitoring and enforcement, and climate-smart PA zoning.

considerations.

Under the baseline situation the identified 6 high value mountain ecosystems (KBAs) covering 866,000 ha of Kyrgyzstan's Pamir-Alai landscape will continue to have their biodiversity degraded, as resource use is unsustainable and land use patterns do not adequately reflect biodiversity considerations. HCVF mountain forest in the landscape will continue to be degraded through overgrazing, with additional losses of already highly-depleted forest zones.

Populations of threatened species are likely to continue decreasing due to loss of habitat, poaching, and poor natural regeneration. These include the following KBA trigger species: *Acantholimon strictiforme*, *Astragalus neobotschantzevii*, *Seselopsis pusilla*, *Incarvillea oligae*, *Tulipa korolkowii*, *Corydalis pseudoadunca*, *Acantholimon langaricum*, *Astragalus khassanovii*, *Bupleurum isphairamicum*, *Cousinia jassyensis*, *Crataegus isfajramensis*, *Eremurus zenaidae*, *Ferula alaica*, *Ferula subtilis*, *Nathaliella alaica*, *Neuroloma botschantzevii*, *Neuroloma tianschanicum*, *Pedicularis popovii*, *Phlomis drobovii*, *Phlomoides pulchra*, *Phlomoides stellata*, *Physochlaina alaica*, *Saussurea schachimardani*, *Scutellaria nepetoides*, *Seseli alaicum*, *Semenovia alaica*, *Stubendorffia botschantzevii*, *Stubendorffia curvinervia*, *Draba alajica*, *Iskandera alaica*, *Little dalea alaica*, *Paraquilegia scabrifolia*, *Pulsatilla kostyczewii*, *Rindera alaica*, *Acantholimon alaicum*, *Artemisia knorriniana*, *Draba alajica*, *Hedysarum daru-*

of PAs in wider production landscape, with 6 district level spatial land use plans mainstreaming biodiversity considerations

Improved monitoring and enforcement of natural resource use regulations in KBAs and other areas beyond PAs borders in 6 target districts.

Recognition in local development and resource-use planning of the establishment of a landscape-level approach to biodiversity conservation for the high value mountain ecosystems in the Pamir-Alai landscape, with improved connectivity between PAs through buffer zones and corridors throughout KBAs (including HCVF stands)

KBAs in forest and pasturelands outside PAs are identified, recognized in management documents, and resource use is managed in accordance with biodiversity requirements.

Under-represented biodiversity is studied and monitored on a systematic basis.

Management effectiveness of the existing (>173,023 ha) PAs in the Pamir-Alai landscape is increased by an average of [50-100]% over the baseline (measured by METT; figures to be determined in PPG).

Biodiversity conservation principles integrated in territorial plans of 6 administrative districts, including the State Forest Fund territory managed by leskhozes and municipal pastureland and territory in the three districts, with future climate impacts integrated.

Conservation of globally significant biodiversity, through removal of threats (improved grazing, and elimination of illegal wood cutting) in 500 ha of stands of highly threatened tree and plant species; resulting in increased protection of globally threatened significant species listed in IUCN Red Data List.

The project results contribute to CBD PoWPA (expansion of PAs, integration of PAs in wider landscapes, and community engagement schemes) and Aichi targets.

<p><i>grana, Diaba alajica, Hedysarum uaiatu-kurganicum, Iskandera alaica, Littledalea alaica, Prangos gyrocarpa, Pulsatilla kostyczewii, Sorbaria olgae, Gloydus rickmersi, Ellobius alaicus, Panthera uncia, Falco cherrug, Acantholimon karad arjense, Acanthophyllum coloratum, Allium zergericum, Crataegus knorringiana, Hedysarum chaitocarpum, Helichrysum ferganicum, Nepeta pseudokokanica, Neuroloma tianschanicum, Olgaea vvedenskyi, Onosma azurea, Oxytropis masarensis, Phlomoides cordifolia, Allium semenovii, Taraxacum syrtorum, Anthropoides virgo.</i></p>		
<p>Sustainable Forest and Land Management</p>		
<p>Continued degradation of rare and highly threatened juniper and pine HCVF of Pamir-Alai landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Illegal wood cutting in forests in valuable ecosystems for fuel wood and local construction; - Poorly managed grazing in forests causing low natural regeneration of forests; - Forest lands encroachment for agriculture and settlements; - Unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sustainable use principles integrated in forest management plans for 3 forest management units for forests identified as HCVF; · Adjustment of volume, timing and mode of sanitary cutting to ensure ecological principles, and harvesting of non-timber resources in mountain forests, in line with ecosystem carrying capacity principles; · Support for natural regeneration in 500 ha of degraded forests; · Sustainable management of grazing in forest pastures to support natural regeneration; · Training of foresters and communities in forest management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 100,000 ha of HCVF identified and put under SFM ensuring stability of ecosystem functions, such as genetic reserves, and key habitats for biodiversity, with climate impacts integrated for improved long-term resilience. · 500 ha of degraded forests regenerated. · Significant contributions to the achievement of Kyrgyzstan's national LDN targets (achieving 50-80% of targets), and Bonn Challenge target (5-10% of target) · Key biodiversity areas in forest zones identified, demarcated, and managed appropriately as PAs and buffer zones to ensure ecosystem cohesiveness.

	ment planning and enforcement of HC VF standards.	climate resilience, and good habitat quality for threatened and globally significant plants and wildlife.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pasture managers do not have capacity or data to implement sustainable grazing and land management practices in their respective pasturelands · Overgrazed pastures: exceeding carrying capacity by [1.5-2] times resulting in reduced provision of ecosystem services, leading to reduced economic and ecological productivity, and diminished livelihoods; · Livestock numbers continue to increase beyond ecological carrying capacity; · Increased extent of less palatable grass and plant species, indicating degradation of pasturelands; · Pasturelands in forest territory are not managed in a coordinated and cohesive manner; · Poor agricultural land management near protected areas; · Wildlife is negatively impacted by livestock presence in key biodiversity areas at critical times of year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ecosystem services valued and incorporated in territorial planning based on multi-stakeholder engagement; · Dynamic pasture quality inventory integrated annually into grazing plans; · Sustainable pasture management practices implemented: rotational grazing to maintain soil upper layer; stimulate grasses for vigorous growth and healthy root systems through pasture watering and setting additional watering places and wells; increased investments in repair and maintenance of key pasture infrastructure (bridges) allows greater flock mobility; using the grazing process to feed livestock through maintaining soil cover and managing plant species composition to maintain feed quality. · SLM best practices are applied across sectors and integrated management approaches are applied across different land use sectors in the Pamir-Alai landscape as result of replication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Competitive pressures between land uses in mountain pasture and forest landscapes reduced in productive lands of 6 administrative districts; · Improved vegetation cover, fodder productivity and pasture regeneration throughout 19,500 ha of degraded pastureland; · Decrease in grazing pressure and improved condition of grassland ecosystems over 100,000 ha; · Well-functioning ecosystem services, such as forage productivity at pastures, stable water flows, and reduced erosion, with future climate impacts mitigated for increased long-term resilience; · Enhanced security and resilience of agricultural livelihoods for 18,000 rural, mostly poor, inhabitants; · Increased prevalence of SLM approaches applied by small-scale holders leading to soil and vegetation quality improvements. · GHG mitigation of 6,043,247 tCO₂e over 20 years

<i>Capacity Development and Knowledge Management</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pasture managers do not have capacity to implement sustainable land management in Pamir-Alai landscape; · Forest managers in areas with high conservation value arid forest ecosystems do not have knowledge and capacity to apply HCVF approach to forest management in State Forest Fund lands; · Protected area managers in Pamir-Alai landscape do not have capacity for effective PA management; · Baseline information on the distribution, abundance, seasonality and recruitment rates of rare and endangered species remains incomplete; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide data and knowledge management tools to support implementation of biodiversity friendly land uses; · Raise awareness of HCVF approach, and train foresters on implementation; · Provide equipment and training for PA managers in Pamir-Alai to improve management of PAs; · Host training sessions for researchers, scientists, academics, volunteers, students, NGO staff, government field staff, etc. on biodiversity, including monitoring and reporting; · Increase the coverage of camera traps, aerial surveys and aerial photography for monitoring and reporting on rare and endangered biodiversity, and for enforcing regulations; · Facilitate the participation and involvement of national scientists, researchers, managers and academics in regional/international biodiversity conservation initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased understanding and awareness of resource users and extension staff in 6 priority districts on sustainable land management practices, and potential climate impacts · Increased management capacity of approximately 200 forest management staff in understanding and awareness of HCVF management principles, supporting sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation · Enhanced management capacity of staff in 7 PAs (50-100 staff) for improved PA management, and improved monitoring of biodiversity in PAs covering >173,023 ha. · Improved data quantity and quality on biodiversity, land status, land degradation, and future climate impacts to facilitate improved management · Enhanced engagement of Kyrgyzstan in regional and global cooperation for improved management of resources, especially with countries bordering the Pamir-Alai landscape (i.e. China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan).

7) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation

The implementation of a landscape-level integrated spatial management plan will be highly innovative in southern Kyrgyzstan. The plan will be developed with GIS-based data and analysis, applying new remote sensing tools and data sources. Private sector partnerships will help establish a sustainable livestock system, as well as a forward-looking view to develop value-added opportunities to improve local livelihoods through innovations such as community conservancies. The project will utilize innovative financial mechanisms to increase access to capital, and incentives to support sustainable production.

Sustainability

Sustainability of the project results will be ensured through attention to the four elements of sustainability – financial, institutional, socio-political, and environmental. Project sustainability will ultimately depend on ensuring the full ownership of the project outputs and activities by the responsible public institutions, and securing their long-term commitment (regulatory, policy, funding and resources) to scale-up and replicate best practices in biodiversity-friendly sustainable forest and pasture management. Sustainability will be secured through strengthened government commitment to both sustainable management of land resources, and the effective management of protected areas in the Pamir-Alai mountain landscape. The enabling environment regarding sustainable land management is under constant progressive development in Kyrgyzstan, with numerous recent advances in relation to pasture and forest management, as well as the national protected area network. The national government is partnering with numerous development partners, including multilateral donors and civil society organizations to further this effort. This continued development of the enabling environment will fully support the socio-political and institutional and governance aspects of sustainability of the proposed project. In the long-term, local communities and governments will be empowered with increased capacity in ecosystem and biodiversity data, mapping, and planning to continue implementing sustainable land use practices in and around KBAs. In addition, the project's approach of strengthening the effective management of PAs within the wider landscape will be sustained through the government's ongoing strengthening commitment to the effective management of the national system of PAs. Institutional sustainability will be promoted in the project by strengthening and expanding the current capabilities of the key institutions that are directly responsible for the planning and management of protected areas, natural habitats, pastures and forests across the Pamir-Alai landscape. It will assist in building a professional corps of well-trained, adequately resourced and properly equipped management, monitoring, enforcement, community and pastoral extension service personnel, forest management units, and districts. The PIU will, during the course of project implementation, iteratively develop an institutional sustainability plan to ensure that the different project investments in building the capacity of the targeted institutions are maintained (and scaled-up, if feasible and affordable) beyond the term of the project. Socio-economic sustainability will be enhanced in the project by improving the living conditions of rural communities. This will be achieved through the implementation of sustainable resource use planning to encourage an incremental shift to more sustainable land use (focused on grazing and forest use) practices. The project will facilitate the economic benefits of communities living around targeted KBAs to help reduce illegal and unsustainable activities. Environmental sustainability will be enhanced by reducing degradation of land and forest resources in areas around KBAs, to further support the maintenance and conservation of biodiversity. The project will also enhance the monitoring and enforcement of regulations and laws related to the conservation of biodiversity and management of PAs. The project will reduce pressure on forest resources through increased awareness and enhanced socio-economic benefits for local communities within the project's target areas.

Catalytic Role: Potential for Replication and Scaling-up

The Pamir-Alai landscape covers approximately 3,000,000 ha with 300,000 rural residents. Virtually all of this area is snow leopard habitat that will be covered by the Pamir-Alai landscape snow leopard management plan, which will integrate the different land-use sub-plans (i.e. forest management plans, pasture management plans, PA management plans, etc.). In the long-term the project will have benefits across the entire landscape, including indirect benefits for the entire rural population living in the region. (The short-term direct beneficiaries are estimated at 18,000 rural residents, as further described in Section 2. on stakeholders, below.) The Government of Kyrgyzstan's strong political commitment to snow leopard conservation will catalyze the potential to achieve, in the long-term, large-scale change at the landscape level, as well as replicating and upscaling good practices and lessons in other regions of Kyrgyzstan. Multiple aspects of the project work at the national level, particularly with regard to strengthening the enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity in forest management, and on innovative financial mechanisms for PAs and sustainable livelihoods.

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

PROGRAM/PROJECT MAP AND GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

Source: GSLEP.

Approximate Location and General Boundary of Targeted Pamir-Alai Landscape in Kyrgyzstan

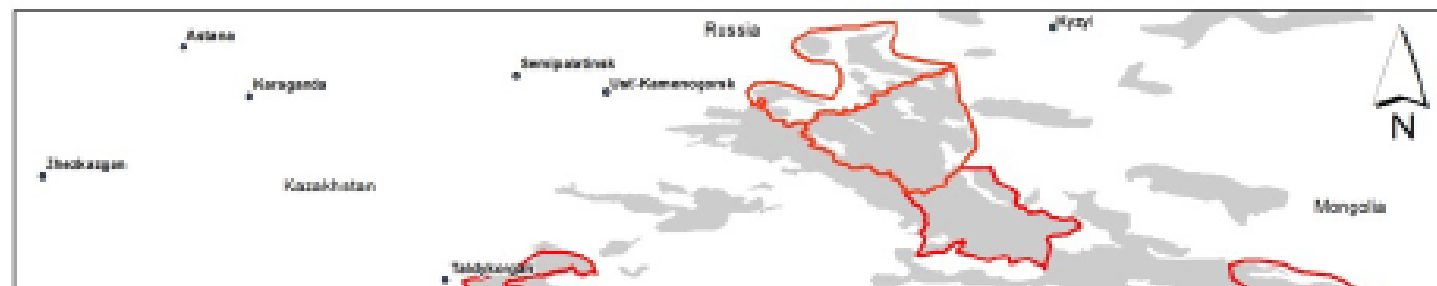


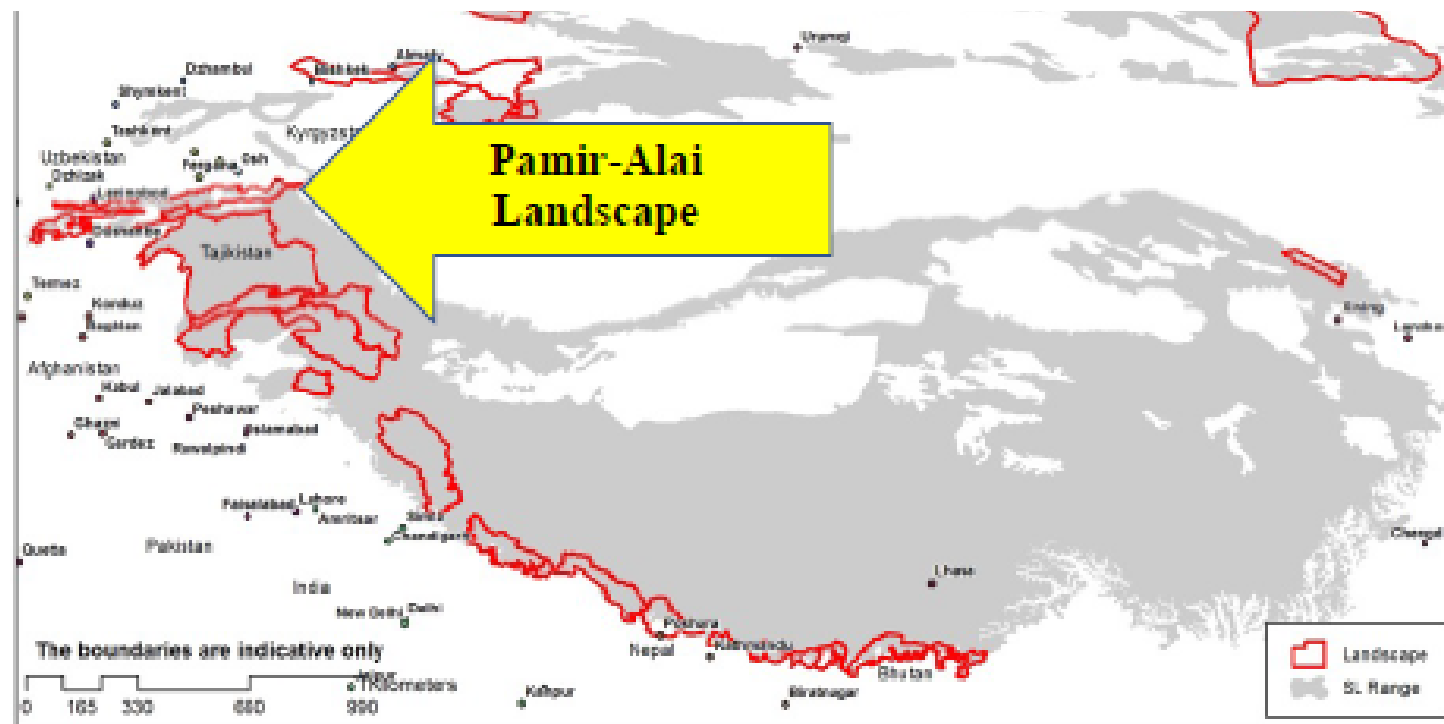
Map Source: Google Maps.

Annex A

PROGRAM/PROJECT MAP AND GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

Pamir-Alay Landscape within Global Snow Leopard Landscapes map





Source: GSLEP.

Approximate Location and General Boundary of Targeted Pamir-Alai Landscape in Kyrgyzstan





Map Source: Google Maps.

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The project concept was developed based on consultations with local governments and resource users in both Osh and Batken oblasts, national government stakeholders, and with other multi and bilateral organizations that are currently active with relevant ODA activities in Kyrgyzstan. The project concept is based directly on Kyrgyzstan's identified national priorities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use, as outlined in the NBSAP and other strategic policy documents related to biodiversity conservation and land use. These policy documents have been developed through comprehensive participatory processes, involving input from various types of stakeholders, including those listed above. All relevant stakeholders will be further consulted during the PPG phase, which will be conducted in a fully participatory manner.

The project preparation phase will be a fully participatory process, with frequent stakeholder consultations at various levels. Early in the project development process a comprehensive stakeholder analysis will be conducted to ensure all relevant stakeholders are identified and engaged. The preparation team will regularly meet with the key government partner, the SAEPP. Other national government stakeholders will also be regularly consulted, such as the Ministry of Agriculture. At the sub-national level, the project preparation team will conduct field missions for consultations with local government at the district and sub-district level in order to ensure the project is structured in a way that aligns with and supports local development priorities and addresses key barriers at the local level. The project will also consult with local resource users to collect detailed and specific data about local resource use, and critical local development issues. Local consultations will be conducted a minimum of 2-3 times in communities near targeted KBAs. At the start of the project preparation process the project development team will hold a series of introductory workshops to present the general concept to local stakeholders, and receive initial feedback. Additional inputs will be collected in a one-on-one basis throughout the preparation period. The project preparation team will then

hold a project validation workshop toward the end of the preparation process to present the final draft project framework to all stakeholders, and receive any further final feedback, which will then be incorporated in the final project design. Civil society organizations will also be frequently consulted during the project preparation process, with consultations at the national and local level.

Beneficiaries. The project will have direct beneficiaries through multiple project activities. However, the most conservative and “most direct” assessment of beneficiaries at the PIF stage is simply the number of rural inhabitants who will benefit from the project’s support to approximately 3 Pasture User Associations, in order to improve pasture management and reduce wildlife conflicts (especially with livestock). Pasture User Associations can consist of more than one village, but typically this is the case for an aggregation of smaller villages. Hence the average size of a Pasture User Association is similar to the size of an average village across the Pamir-Alai landscape. With 300,000 rural inhabitants in 63 villages, this equates to an average village size of approximately 4,500 people. Therefore, four villages equals 18,000 people. The actual number of expected direct beneficiaries will be confirmed during the PPG phase, when it is determined exactly which Pasture User Associations (and which villages) will be most directly cooperating with the project.

The table below provides a summary of the main stakeholder groups preliminarily identified, and their potential role in relation to the project.

Stakeholder	Role
Government Agencies	
State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF)	Main implementation partner hosting the Department of Forestry and Department on Protected Areas; key partner for adjustments to forest management plans (Output 1.3) and the key stakeholder for the elaboration of the national PA planning framework, ensuring organization of new PAs, and managerial and financial sustainability of the national PA system (Component 2).
Ministry of Agriculture, Processing Industry and Melioration	Key partner in the development and implementation of pasture management plans (Output 1.2.).
State Registration Service of the Kyrgyz Republic (SRS)	SRS will coordinate and control the registration of land property rights in the vicinity of the project sites. Within its mandate, it is responsible for the following: 1) regulating of land relations (state registration deed, land cadastre) in new PAs, corridors and buffer zone (Output 1.1 and Output 1.2); and 2) topography survey and mapping of proposed PAs to prepare state registration deed for land users (Output 2.1).
State Agency on Local Self-Governance and Interethnic Relations	Integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management issues into local development plans and their further implementation (Output 1.1.)
Province and District administration	Support to the establishment of new PAs and integration of biodiversity conserv

s	ation into corresponding administrative level development strategies and plans (Output 2.1., Output 1.1)
Local Communities	
Local Self Governance Bodies	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 integrated land use planning, buffer zones and corridors (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)
Associations of Pasture and 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 buffer zones and conservation-friendly uses in sensitive areas, as well as play a role in the development and implementation of alternative sustainable livelihoods (Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 2.4.)
Communities of the PA buffer zones	Active users of ecosystem services and to be involved in PA management and sustainable use practices to be promoted by the project (Component 2).
Non-government Organizations	
Kyrgyzstan Association of Forest and Land Users, CAMP Alatau, and RDF	These NGOs may be involved in multiple project activities that will be implemented at the community level. This may include support for the implementation of sustainable pasture management in partnership with PUAs (Output 1.2), community-based mechanisms for input to forest and PA management (Output 1.2, Output 2.2, Output 2.3) and community-based wildlife management (Output 2.3, Output 2.4). National civil society organizations will also be involved in the landscape level integrated resource management planning for the Pamir-Alai landscape (Output 1.1). Civil society organizations are also anticipated to be partners for capacity development, knowledge management, and education and awareness activities (Component 3).
International NGOs, e.g. Panthera, WWF, NABU, Foundation Irbis, GSLEP, Snow Leopard Trust, 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 (Output 1.1), and community-based wildlife management and PA financing strategies (Outputs 2.3 and 2.4).
Research and Expertise	
Two institutes of the National Science Academy	Based on their experience and expertise, these institutes will play a role in elaboration into corresponding administrative level development strategies and plans (Output 2.1., Output 1.1)

e Academy of the Kyrgyz Republic: Biology and Soils Institute; Forest Research Institute	ation of the scientific grounds for biodiversity monitoring, improving participation in biodiversity inventory, development of biodiversity sustainable use norms, identification of the areas under strong pressure, PA management effectiveness assessment (Output 2.2). Additionally they will be also involved capacity development and knowledge management activities (Component 3).
Private Sector	
Kyrgyz community based tourism association (KCBTA)	To 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 (Outputs 2.3 and 2.4).
Tourism and sustainable use companies	Private sector companies are expected to be key partners in the development of sustainable PA financing activities (Output 2.3) and community-based wildlife management mechanisms (Output 2.4).
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 (Output 1.2), and the identification of PA buffer zones and corridors (Output 1.1). Small holders will also be important partners supporting the financial sustainability of PAs (Output 2.3), and community-based ecosystem management mechanisms (Output 2.4).

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

The project will be fully in-line with and supportive of both the GEF's and UNDP's gender mainstreaming policies. A full gender analysis will be completed during the PPG phase, which will be the basis of a project Gender Strategy and Action Plan. UNDP's gender mainstreaming strategy requires gender disaggregated indicators, and these will be included in the project results framework. There are numerous ways in which gender dimensions are relevant to the project. The project addresses multiple types of agricultural land use, all of which have important gender dimensions, as they relate directly to the sustainability of local livelihoods. The project will work to improve the sustainability of livestock grazing in and around KBAs. Although women are not typically directly involved in livestock grazing, they can be involved in decision-making about grazing plans, and in the processing of livestock products. The project will also work on improving land management in PA and KBA buffer zones. Women do typically have a more direct role and higher level of involvement in the production of food crops. The project will ensure that project activities relating to improved land management, such as local trainings and local decision-making mechanisms have appropriate and adequate gender representation. The project will also be working on improving management of protected areas, and will also ensure the engagement of women in decision-making bodies related to protected areas, such as local management boards. In addition, the project will also work to ensure appropriate gender equality and women's empowerment in project implementation mechanisms, such as on the Project Steering Committee, and amongst the project team of national experts and consultants involved in implementation. The following gender-related project interventions are proposed, subject to the findings of more detailed assessment during PPG:

- ensure women (and youth) actively involved in designing and planning all outputs and activities to enable their knowledge and innovation to be fully integrated into KBA strategies and management plans;
- safeguard equitable access of women to skills development, training, technical and financial support;
- project technical and financial support to ensure that benefits are widely accessible to women living in KBAs and their peripheries;
- promote and sustain meaningful representation and active involvement of women in local, district and national committees, coordinating mechanism and other decision-making or networking platforms;
- promote the employment of female professionals and technicians in public institutions and agencies; and
- seek equitable representation of women on the project team and project board.

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

There are two main types of private sector companies the project is likely to partner with. Under Outputs 2.3 and 2.4 the project will seek to work with private sector tourism and sustainable use companies. Kyrgyzstan has a strong and active community-based tourism association, the Kyrgyz community based tourism association (KCBTA), and a wide network of community-based tourism operators. This sector has not fully extended into the southern Kyrgyzstan region, but there is potential for ecotourism and sustainable use tourism to grow in this region, with increased marketing, training, and capacity development for community-based tourism companies. These businesses would be closely linked with protected areas in the region, and the natural attractions they inherently encompass. The other type of companies in this segment are international hunting operators, which is a segment that is well established in other parts of Kyrgyzstan, but is so far relatively inactive in the Pamir-Alai region. By putting in place appropriate regulatory incentives and mechanisms, and supporting the capacity development of these private sector partners, there are significant opportunities for synergies to generate positive outcomes for sustainable livelihoods, and for the financing of nature conservation activities in the Pamir-Alai, particularly in and around PAs.

The second set of private sector companies relates to the livestock sector, which is the primary basis for rural livelihoods throughout the Pamir-Alai region. The project will be working with Pasture User Associations to develop and implement sustainable pasture management practices, primarily under Output 1.2, but also related to activities under Outputs 1.1, 1.3, 2.3, and 2.4. These PUAs are made up of the rural livestock small holders (small and micro private livestock business) from a given village or aggregation of multiple villages. The project will work with these private sector actors to improve the sustainability of the livestock system in southern Kyrgyzstan, and ensure that sustainable livelihood measures relating to the livestock sector are supported. Where possible the project will establish partnerships with value-added livestock processors and exporters to support market access for producers applying sustainable production practices. The project will seek to involve private sector stakeholders, such as the Batken Business Association, which has 60 members, including private agriculture entrepreneurs. This could include working with value chain actors such as transporters, for example to catalyze financing for improved transportation options for bringing livestock to market, or to improve cold storage facilities for locally storing processed livestock products prior to transport to regional markets. It is not anticipated that the project will be directly investing in such improvements, but will seek to act as a facilitator and to generate incentives for capital investment by the private sector. The details of all such project activities will be confirmed during the PPG phase.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

Identified Risks and Category	Impact	Likelihood	Risk assessment	Mitigation Measures
The modification of resource management regimes (e.g. forests, pastures, agricultural lands, biodiversity) toward long-term sustainability could affect short-term access and use of resources by local communities, including the rural poor and women.	Moderate	Not likely	Moderate	Mitigation measures are inherently included in the scope of the project as part of the execution of project activities. The project will constantly work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that these risks are minimized. In addition, the project will support the implementation of sustainable resource use, including protected area management, in accordance with all norms, policies, procedures and laws of Kyrgyzstan, as well as international norms in relation to land tenure and all associated rights. In any instances where economic displacement may occur the project will be working with stakeholders to provide compensation, offsetting support, and mitigation in relation to affected resource users.
National and local government institutions responsible for the management of protected areas, pastures and forests do not have adequate capacity to support, maintain and enforce working agreements with communities, pasture users' groups, and forest users' groups living in and near KBAs	Moderate	Moderately likely	Moderate	The project will seek to significantly strengthen and expand the current capabilities of the key institutions responsible for the planning and management of PAs, pastures and forests across the high value mountain ecosystems of Kyrgyzstan's Pamir-Alai landscape. The project will support the development of well-trained and properly equipped management, monitoring, enforcement, community liaison and pastoral and forest groups staff in the targeted PAs, leskhozes, and district administrations of the target communities. The UNDP PMU will develop an institutional sustainability plan to ensure that the different project investments in building the capacity of the targeted institutions are maintained (and scaled-up, if feasible and affordable) beyond the project.
Low levels of coordination and cooperation between public institutions, tenure holders, rights holders, land owners, NGOs/CBOs and natural resources users leads to	Moderate	Moderately likely	Moderate	The project is building on an extensive history of cooperation with communities and local and regional authorities in the implementation of biodiversity conservation initiatives under the framework of a UNDP-GEF-SAEFP partnership. This work suggests that a high level of engagement and

conflicts over any changes in use rights in PAs and high value mountain ecosystem pastures and forests				local ownership among local stakeholders will be maintained in this project, with careful attention given to stakeholder consultation, participation and conflict resolution. The project will work closely with the administration of the targeted PAs, leskhozoes, and districts in ensuring the effective involvement of all affected stakeholders in the implementation of project activities. The project will specifically work through the coordinating structures of PA local management bodies, Pasture User Associations (PUAs) and participatory forest management committees as an institutional mechanism to improve the communication, collaboration and cooperation between tenure holders, rights holders, natural resource users and the relevant state, regional and local administrations. The project will also strengthen the knowledge and skills base of protected area, pasture and forest users and managers in order to facilitate a more collaborative approach in the planning, implementation and enforcement of sustainable forest and pasture management practices. A full stakeholder participation plan will be prepared as the project is further developed.	
Climate Change Risks: Increased aridisation and shifting of ecological zones in high value mountain ecosystems in the Pamir-Alai landscape, as a result of the effects of climate change. The expected project impacts of the conservation of endangered and threatened species, restoration of degraded land, and sustainable management of forest and pasture resources could be sensitive to changing climatic conditions in the future.	Moderate	Moderately Likely	Moderate	Attention to the current and potential impacts of climate change will be built-in to all aspects of the project, and the project team will work with all partners and stakeholders to apply the best available climate change forecasts data for Kyrgyzstan's Pamir-Alai landscape, and will ensure that all project activities and plans take potential future climate impacts into consideration. For example, the project's support for the sustainable management of forests and pastures will review climate data and climate change projections as part of the development and implementation of sustainable management measures. The project will also identify potential gaps in the existing system of PAs in order to effectively conserve biodiversity, considering the potential for ecosystem change and ecological shifts due to climate change impacts. The project's work to establish sustainable land use practices will also be grounded in the best available and most recent climate science relevant for this region of Kyrgyzstan. As part of the project's work on strengthening the management effectiveness of PAs it will also strengthen	

				vironmental monitoring capacities in order to better track the future effects of climate change within PAs and the targeted KBAs more broadly.
COVID-19 related travel limitations may affect intended project's support to SLM and SFM activities	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	COVID-19 situation will be closely followed during the PPG. In case threats persist beyond the PPG phase, project's interventions requiring public gatherings will sought to be replaced by online alternatives. When it is going to be impossible, meetings' participants will be properly instructed to keep social distancing; they will be offered with a sufficient number of masks and sanitizers. Outdoor venues will be encouraged, necessary arrangements to make participation comfortable will be put in place. The Project Document and CEO ER will contain updated analysis and activities constructed accordingly.

Note on COVID-19:

Risk analysis: During PIF preparation, preliminary risk analysis of the COVID-19 related containment measures on the project outputs have been considered and appropriate mitigation measures have been mentioned above in the Risks Section. Possible consequences of the reinstatement of COVID-19 situation, will be re-assessed in a more detailed manner at PPG stage. Availability of technical expertise of dedicated staff and co-financing will be re-assessed and appropriate interventions will be designed and included in the project document. UNDP together with the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry have adaptive management capacities and possibilities to ensure COVID-19 related mitigation measures and effectiveness of the proposed overall project implementation and stakeholders engagement. The PPG stage will include consultations with a wide range of stakeholders in as much as possible, and the Stakeholders Engagement Plan will entail dedicated measures aimed at enabling the participation of all stakeholders in the project implementation, with appropriate mitigation measures in case of COVID-19 restrictions, including ways to reach out to the most marginalised groups.

Opportunity analysis / relations to “green recovery”: In response to the three Kyrgyz Government's COVID-19 anti-crises plans (the last one was approved on 13th of August 2020 by the Prime-Minister), the United Nations in the Kyrgyz Republic developed a Response Plan and Early Recovery with a 9 months horizon, based on the UNDAF and with the support of different development partners. The Plan has highlighted the amplified vulnerabilities and widening inequalities during the COVID-19, and the existing critical capacity gaps that are hampering adequate responses, focusing largely on health equipment and PPE in the short term. The short- and medium term recovery opportunities that this proposed project will support, are aligned with the integrated UN System in the Kyrgyz Republic's support to COVID-19 response under the “Early Recovery” pillar, including: 1) access to basic services; 2) Restoration of economic activities and livelihoods; 3) Security, Rule of Law, Social Cohesion; 4) Supporting migrants and displaced people impacted by the crisis. The project is fully aligned with the medium post COVID 19 recovery opportunities by supporting communities recovery through Integrated Landscape Planning and Management for Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods in the Pamir-Alai, through Expansion and Financial Strengthening of Kyrgyzstan's Protected Areas System and Knowledge-management, stakeholder coordination and M&E activities. In the long term the project will support the green recovery efforts by enabling strengthened natural and livelihoods resilience and protecting and restoring the natural capital and mountainous ecosystem services in the Pamir-Alai Mountains.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project will be implemented within the context of the United Nations Partnership Framework for the Kyrgyz Republic and UNDP Country Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic (2018-2022), aligned with the National Development Strategy 2040. The project implementation will be National Implemented (NIM), led by the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic.

UNDP Country Office (CO) in the Kyrgyz Republic will provide quality assurance, in accordance with the requirements of the GEF and UNDP Policies and Procedures. Most of UNDP's work for the project will be based in its Country Office in Bishkek under the supervision of the Programme Officer and other senior programme staff, including the UNDP Resident Representative and Deputy Resident Representative as warranted. UNDP will also engage contractors to carry out Midterm and Final Evaluations of the project. The UNDP Regional Technical Advisor, based in the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, will provide technical support in terms of project cycle management and oversight, to ensure consistency with expectations from UNDP and GEF.

National Implementing Partner: The State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic is the government institution responsible for the implementation of the project in accordance with the UNDP National Implementation Modality (NIM), implying full ownership of the project. This is in line with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) and the UN Partnership Framework for the Kyrgyz Republic between the UN and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The State Agency, acting as the Implementing Partner for this project, will be responsible for the overall coordination of project implementation, efficient use of project resources and achievement of the planned project objectives. At the same time, the State Agency is the focal agency of the Kyrgyz Republic for the GEF.

In addition, the project strategy and activities will be coordinated through existing donor coordination structures in place in Kyrgyzstan, which allows coordination of all development partners and relevant ODA-supported activities.

The project will be fully coordinated with a number of on-going relevant GEF-financed initiatives, in order to avoid duplication and increase synergies and effectiveness. The project will coordinate with and draw on the experience of the UNDP/GEF project *"Conservation of Globally Important Biodiversity and Associated Land and Forest Resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain Ecosystems to Support Sustainable Livelihoods"*. The Western Tian Shan project is addressing similar issues as the proposed project, albeit in a different geographic part of Kyrgyzstan, and should provide a wealth of knowledge and lessons for the proposed project to build on. The project will also use the lessons from the previously completed UNDP/GEF project *"Improving the Coverage and Management Effectiveness of PAs in the Central Tian Shan Mountains"*, which piloted multiple community-based conservation approaches.

The project will also coordinate with the ongoing World Bank GEF project, *“Sustainable Forest and Land Management”*, which is being implemented from 2017-2021. The project aim is to strengthen the capacity of government institutions and communities to improve sustainable forest ecosystem management through investments in management planning, ecosystem restoration, and infrastructure. The project also works with local communities depending on forest resources, but the scale of the work is limited to 20,000 USD per forestry unit.

At the regional level, the project will coordinate closely with the UNDP/GEF project in Tajikistan *“Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods”*, which is focusing on high mountain ecosystems in the same region on the Tajikistan side of the border. In addition, strong coordination will be sought with the project *“Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) II.”*

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.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

The Kyrgyz Republic has demonstrated its commitment over the past decade to achieving sustainable development. The Kyrgyz Republic is party to the UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, and has developed policies to implement these international agreements.

For biodiversity, the most recent NBSAP (2014) provides priorities for biodiversity conservation until 2024, and supports achievement of the Aichi targets. The NBSAP identifies four national high level strategic targets. In relation to each of these strategic targets, the NBSAP outlines additional sub-objectives, and corresponding “key actions” to support the achievement of these targets. These targets, key actions, and the project’s contributions are summarized below:

Strategic Target	Relevant NBSAP “Key Actions”	The project will...
Target 1: Integrate biodiversity conservation issues into the activities of state bodies and public organizations by 2020, as the basis of human being and sustainable economic development of the Kyrgyz Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop and approve the issue of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the educational programs, culture, government agencies’ plans and operational processes of all sectors and industries;- Raise awareness among the local population about the importance of biodiversity conservation and the role of ecosystem services, which support food security of the country, including the use of traditional knowledge and technologies based on the use of genetic resources;- Develop a mechanism for involving the public in decision-making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, management of specially protected natural areas.- Improve the environmentally friendly standards and volume of use of natural resources- Introduce an electronic information systems for improving the management of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strengthen the capacity of government agencies for integrated landscape planning and sustainable land management (Output 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2)- Increase awareness and understanding among rural resource users about biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services (Output 2.4, 3.1, 3.2)- Work with communities to support community-based nature conservation approaches, and sustainable land management (Output 1.2, 2.4)- Strengthen the effectiveness of PA management through the involvement of local communities in management of specially protected natural areas (Output 2.2, 2.4)- Improve the monitoring of biodiversity across the Pamir-Alai landscape, and especially in and around PAs, including the electronic management of biodiversity data (Output 2.2, 3.1)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve and unify the methodology for monitoring the state of biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the sustainability of forest and pasture use in 235,000 ha in and around Key Biodiversity Areas (Output 1.2)
Target 2: Reduce the impact on biodiversity and promote its sustainable use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the system of restrictions on imports or exports of endangered species, according to the requirements of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - Analyze and revise environmental legislation and regulations on the basis of functional changes in the government and local self-governments - Ensure proper use of funds, aimed at biodiversity and ecosystem conservation - Develop new funding mechanisms for the conservation of biodiversity - Develop mechanisms for generation of funds from use of biodiversity and ecosystem services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen capacity for monitoring and enforcement of anti-poaching measures in and around PAs and community conservancies (Output 2.2, 2.4) - Revise and strengthen forest management regulations for conservation of biodiversity and management of HCVF (Output 1.3) - Strengthen existing and develop new source of financing for PAs in the Pamir-Alai, and support the development of sustainable livelihoods through activities such as tourism and the international hunting sector (Output 2.3)
Target 3: Improve the system of SPNAs and environmental networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish new and expand the area of the existing SPNAs to increase the area up to 10% of the total territory of the Kyrgyz Republic by 2024 - Introduce the international system of economic valuation of biodiversity and effective management of SPNAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the establishment of 3 new PAs covering approximately 331,000 ha (Output 2.1) - Support the strengthened management of 7 existing PAs covering 173,023 ha (Output 2.2) - Support the mapping of buffer zones and corridors linking PAs and KBAs throughout the Pamir-Alai landscape (Output 1.1, 1.2, 2.4)
Target 4: Improve the social importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, increase the benefits of sustainable ecosystem services and traditional technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement measures on improvement management of biodiversity and ecosystems with a high socio-recreational status, medical and resort areas and recreation - Develop a draft Programme of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic on the rehabilitation of degraded land, considering the restoration of more than 10 per cent of degraded land - Implement measures for sustainable development of mountain forests and land resources in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in the development of ecotourism and international hunting sector socio-recreational opportunities in and around Key Biodiversity Areas in the Pamir-Alai (Output 2.3, Output 2.4) - Restore 19,500 ha of degraded pastureland, and 500 ha of degraded HCVF (Output 1.2) - Support the implementation of sustainable, climate resilient land management practices in an area of 235,000 ha of high mountain pastures and forests in and around Key Biodiversity Areas (Output 1.2)

	the face of climate change on the area of 30,000 ha	ut 1.2) - Identify priority areas for biodiversity conservation and further development of the PA network under projected climate change scenarios (Output 1.1)
--	---	--

In terms of the Kyrgyz Republic's support for implementation of the CBD Aichi Targets, the project directly supports the achievement of Aichi Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Through the landscape approach, and through the expansion and strengthening of Kyrgyzstan's national PA system, the project substantially contributes to the following Aichi Targets:

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

The National Action Plan and the Activity Frameworks for Implementing the UNCCD in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2015-2020. Kyrgyzstan has also set its national LDN targets, aiming to (i) improve pasture conditions in at least 40 village districts; (ii) improve access to 10,000 ha of pastures; (iii) adopt SLM on 100,000 ha of forest and pasture; and (iv) improve the conditions of 10,000 ha of land. The project will contribute to all of these national LDN targets, including potentially supporting full achievement of targets (iii) and (iv): The project will support the improvement of pasture condition in at least 3 village districts (target (i)); improve management of 100,000 ha of high mountain pastures, including potentially improving access to under-grazed areas (target (ii)); support development and implementation of sustainable management practices in 100,000 ha of forest land, and 100,000 ha of pastureland (target (iii)); and support the restoration of 20,000 ha of land (target (iv)).

Kyrgyzstan has made a commitment under the Bonn Challenge, pledging to restore 0.32 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. The project will make a significant contribution toward the achievement of this goal; the specific target amount of land restored with support of the project will be confirmed during the PPG phase, but the preliminary goal is that 20,000 ha will be restored (19,500 ha of degraded pasture, and 500 ha of degraded HCVF).

The “Priorities for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Kyrgyz Republic until 2017” were developed for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Based on the Priorities for Adaptation to Climate Change the main sectors in the country developed action plans. For example: Action Plan on the adaptation of agriculture and water management to climate change for 2016-2020, Program and Action Plan for the Adaptation to Climate Change, Sector “Forest and Biodiversity” for 2015-2017. The project will support the implementation of these national policies, including generating important adaptation co-benefits for rural communities in the Pamir-Alai landscape. The project will increase the resilience of Pamir-Alai ecosystems by reducing degradation, increasing the sustainability of forest and pasture management, and identifying priority conservation areas under climate change scenarios in order to develop a climate-smart national PA network in the Pamir-Alai.

The Kyrgyz Republic’s strong political support for snow leopard conservation is a key pillar for success of this project. The National Strategy on Snow Leopard Conservation for 2013–2023 (2013) sets the principles, priorities and key policy toward snow leopard conservation. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has shown high level of support for GSLEP (the GSLEP Secretariat is hosted in Bishkek), and the Pamir-Alai is a priority snow leopard landscape in the Kyrgyz Republic. This presents an ideal opportunity to leverage the Kyrgyz Republic’s support for snow leopards to implement a large-scale integrated landscape management plan for the Pamir-Alai that catalyzes transformational change. Previous similar initiatives relating to integrated landscape management in the Kyrgyz Republic have been successful (e.g. in Central Tian Shan). The project will be high profile proof in Central Asia that livelihoods can be improved with sustainably managed livestock production systems, while conserving biodiversity and ensuring the maintenance of critical ecosystem services.

Other key national policies and legislation that provides the foundational enabling environment for success:

- Concept of Environmental Security (2007).
- Kyrgyz National Development Strategy for 2018-2040 (2018)
- Forest Code (1999) and the Concept for Forest Sector Development to 2025 (2004)
- Law on Pastures (2009)
- Law on Agricultural Development (2009) and Law on Protection of Fertility of Agricultural Soils (2012)
- Priorities for Adaptation to CC until 2017 (2013) and Action Plan on the adaptation of agriculture and water management for 2016-2020 (2016)

Economically the Kyrgyz Republic is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, and has been increasing trade and improving relations with neighboring countries in recent years.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

The project's Knowledge Management approach and detailed Knowledge Management strategy will be fully elaborated during the PPG phase, as required. The project's knowledge management strategy focuses on four main elements:

- Communication and outreach to manage and expand public attention on sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation issues in the Pamir-Alai landscape
- Knowledge management and exchange focused on prioritized issues and gaps
- Develop/disseminate critical knowledge management analyses and guidance
- Engage strategically in global / regional events (e.g. GSLEP global forums, etc.) to strengthen linkages across partners and scales

The project has multiple elements that will contribute to the knowledge management approach. Each project output will include the documentation of lessons learned from implementation of activities under the output, and a collation of the tools and templates (and any other materials) developed during implementation. The Project Manager will ensure the collation of all the project experiences and information. This knowledge database will then be made accessible to different stakeholder groups in order to support better future decision-making processes in mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land management in Kyrgyzstan and more consistent adoption of best practices. For example, the project will provide knowledge documents and share data through the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem & Protection Program (GSLEP), including case studies on good practices, and monitoring data on snow leopards and their prey. In addition, Component 3 of the project foresees regional workshops and meetings with neighboring countries where innovative and good practices will be shared. The project will also disseminate information through relevant websites such as the SAEPPF website and the UNDP Country Office website, and produce and distribute quarterly updates to stakeholders, in order to further facilitate the dissemination of this information. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate - as relevant and appropriate - in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus. The project's monitoring and evaluation activities will also contribute to the learning process for capturing, assessing and documenting information, lessons, best practice and expertise generated during implementation. This will be through the annual PIR monitoring tool, as well as the mid-term review, and terminal evaluation of the project, which document lessons and good practices. The project strategic results framework will also include knowledge management results indicators. The project's knowledge management approach will also be covered in the project's communications strategy, which will be developed at the beginning of the project.

9. 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/Approval MTR

TE

Medium/Moderate

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Submitted

6444 Kyrgyzstan SESP

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

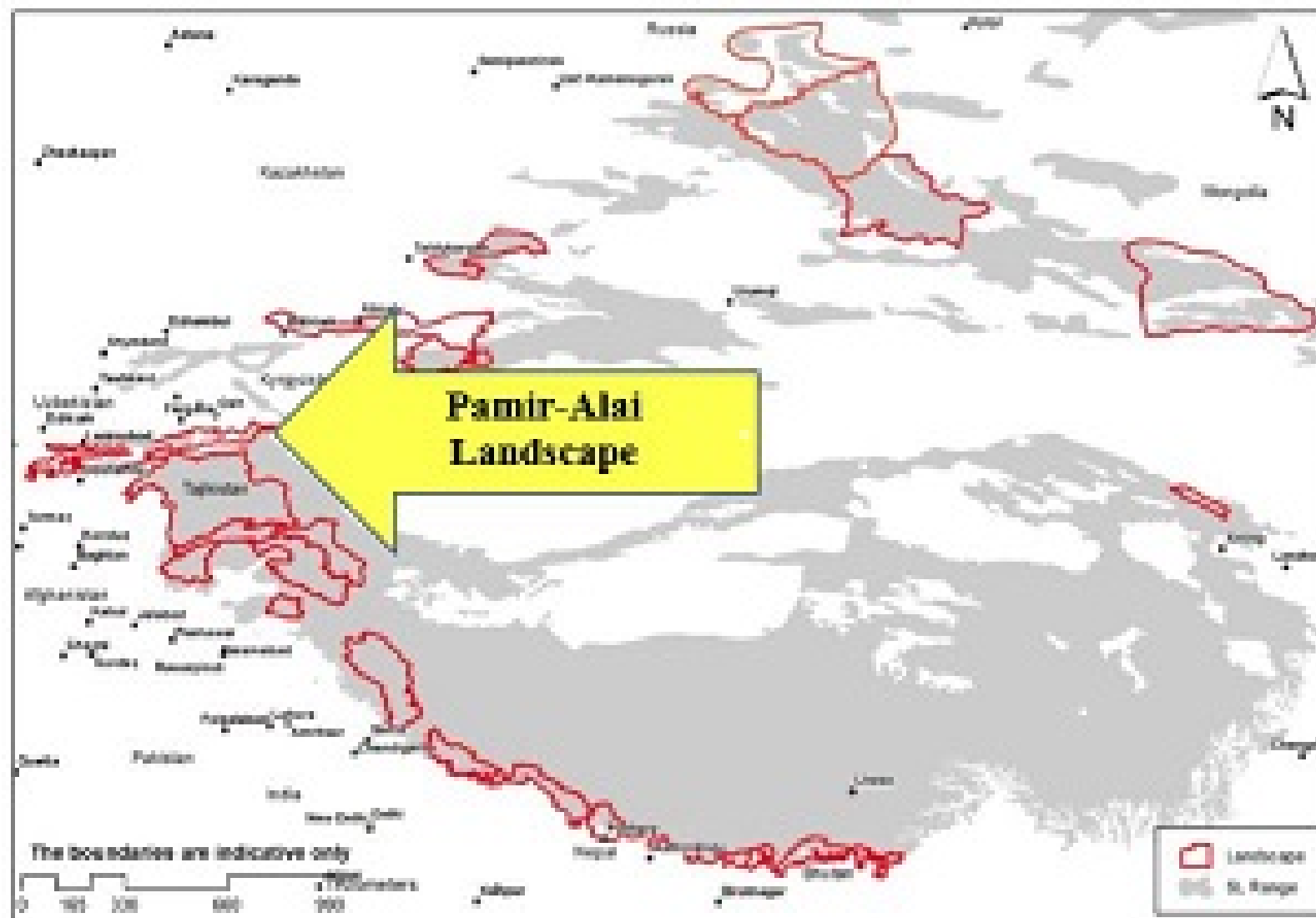
Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Mr. Mirslav Amankulov	GEF Operational Focal Point for the Kyrgyz Republic	The State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic	

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

PROGRAM/PROJECT MAP AND GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

Pamir-Alai Landscape within Global Snow Leopard Landscapes map



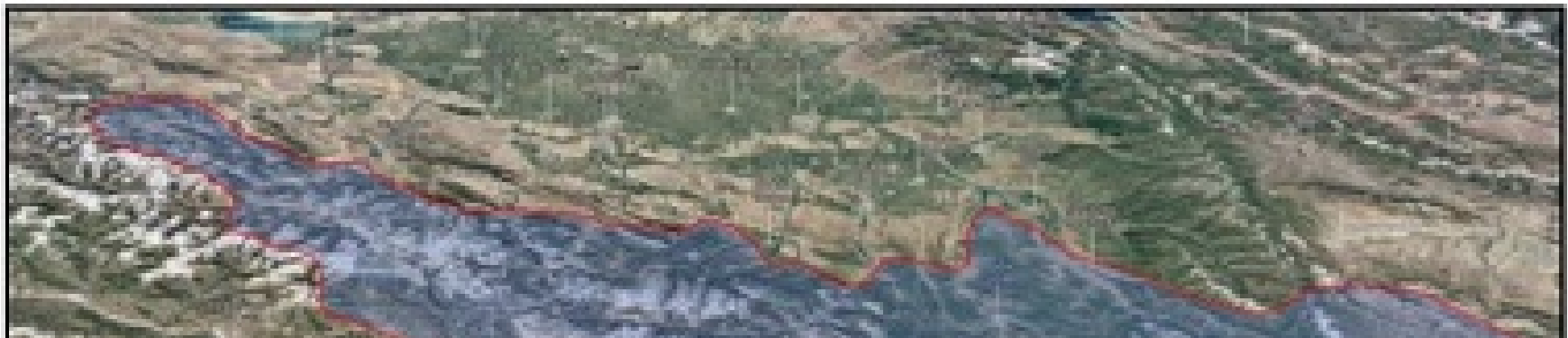
Source: OSLEP.

Approximate Location and General Boundary of Targeted Pamir-Alai Landscape in Kyrgyzstan



Map Source: Google Maps.

Satellite Image with Approximate Boundaries of Targeted Pamir-Alai Landscape



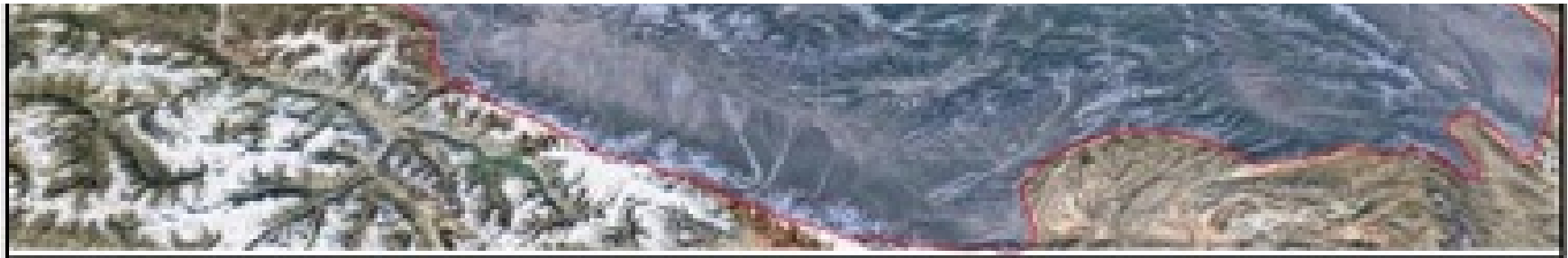
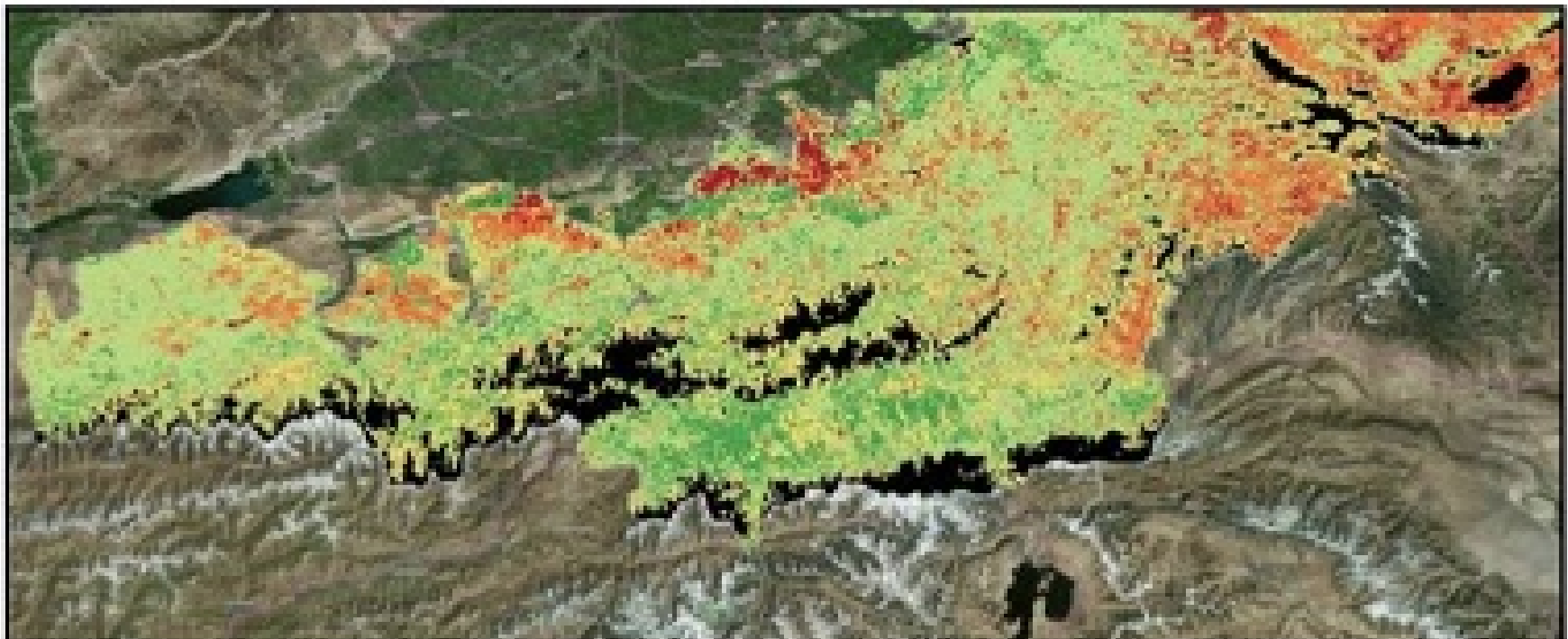


Image Source: Google Earth.

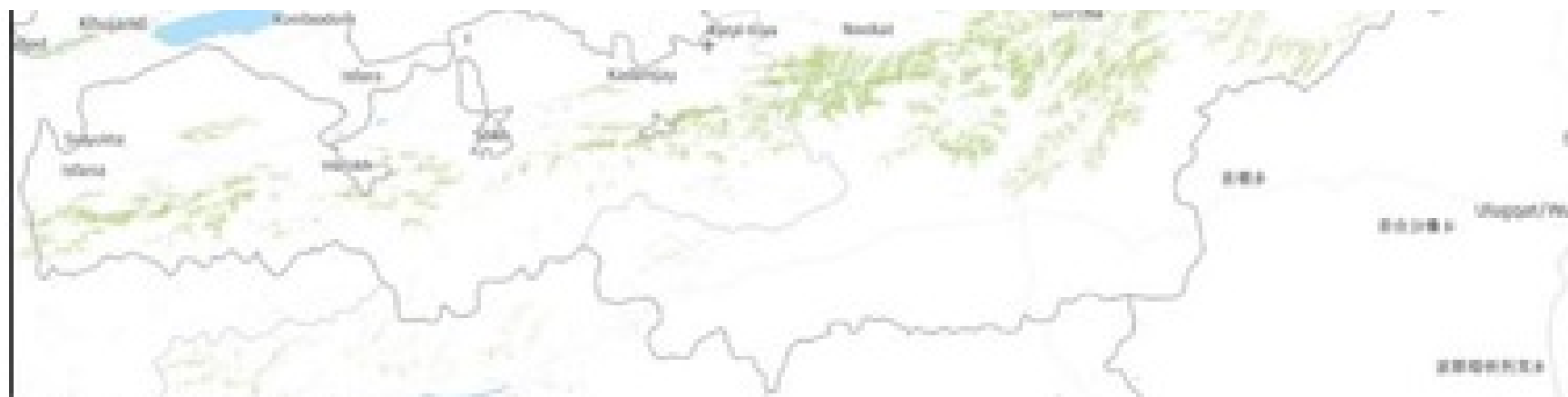
Land Productivity in the Pamir-Alai Landscape (NDVI-based)



Source: FAO.

Forest Cover in the Pamir-Alai Landscape





Source: Global Forest Watch (data: 2010).