



GEF-6 FULL-SIZED PROJECT FOR ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Sustainable natural resource use and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity			
Country(ies):	Uzbekistan	GEF Project ID:	8031
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5438
Other Executing Partner(s):	State Committee on Nature Protection (SCNP)	Submission Date:	August 2, 2016
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Biodiversity; Land Degradation; Sustainable Forest Management	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Parent Program	N/A	Agency fees (US\$)	589,937

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-1 Program 2	Outcome 2.2: Improved management effectiveness of protected areas	GEFTF	1,469,000	8,200,000
LD-3 Program 4	Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities based on gender sensitive needs	GEFTF	2,670,909	9,300,000
SFM-1	Outcome 1: Cross-sector policy and planning approaches at appropriate governance scales avoid loss of high conservation value forests	GEFTF	1,019,000	4,500,000
SFM-2	Outcome 3: Increased application of good management practices in all forests by relevant government, local community (both women and men) and private sector actors.	GEFTF	1,050,954	3,300,000
Total project costs			6,209,863	25,300,000

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To enhance the conservation, and sustainable use, of natural resources in the biodiverse high altitude mountain ecosystems of Uzbekistan						
Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. Landscape level planning and management decision-making	TA	Reliable up-to-date information on the state of ecosystems, habitats, species and natural resource use within the snow leopard distribution range is used to: (a) support sectoral land use planning; and	<u>Output 1.1:</u> Improve the quality of environmental information for the state cadastre across the snow leopard distribution range (collect and collate baseline environmental information; update information on land use and land tenure; collate data on the distribution and extent of livestock farming; identify biodiversity hotspots and priority areas for conservation	GEFTF	992 200	1 500 000

		(b) guide decision-making processes of the responsible central and local institutions on the sustainable management of natural resources.	and/or restoration; and conduct a valuation of the ecosystem services) <i>Output 1.2: Enhance the state of knowledge on snow leopard and prey populations across the snow leopard distribution range (establish national environmental information management system; design snow leopard research and monitoring programme; train researchers, academics and field staff on monitoring procedures and standards; and increase coverage of snow leopard and prey monitoring and population surveys)</i>			
2. Strengthening key biodiversity areas	TA	<p>The extent of the core conservation areas in Ugam-Chatkal NP and Gissar SNR increases from a baseline of 116,710 ha to 237,700ha.</p> <p>The conservation values of at least 200,000 ha of snow leopard and prey habitats (including 105,900 ha of HCVF) are secured, and effectively monitored and enforced in the core conservation areas of Ugam-Chatkal NP and Gissar SNR (evidenced by the average METT scores for Ugam-Chatkal NP, Chatkal SNR and Gissar SNR increasing from 22, 46 and 43 to >42, 60 and 56 respectively)</p>	<p><i>Output 2.1: Strengthen the management effectiveness of the core conservation zones (including High Conservation Value forests) in Ugam-Chatkal National Park (rationalise park governance arrangements; prepare an integrated Park Management Plan including forest management activities; demarcate boundaries; train and equip ranger patrol staff; upgrade ranger patrol infrastructure; and develop and implement a smart patrol system¹)</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.2: Extend, and improve the conservation security of, Gissar Strict Nature Reserve, including High Conservation Value Forests (train and equip ranger patrol staff; upgrade ranger patrol infrastructure; develop and implement a smart patrol system; proclaim a buffer zone; demarcate boundaries of buffer zone; and assess feasibility of expansion into upper reaches of Tupulang river; update Reserve Management Plan for forest management activities in line with HCVF principles).</i></p> <p><i>Output 2.3: Enhance community involvement in, and beneficiation from, protected areas in the Ugam Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes (employ community liaison officers; upgrade Chatkal education centre/museum; implement education and outreach programmes; provide short-course skills training for communities; optimise opportunities to appoint or procure services from local</i></p>	GEFTF	2 445 000	9 900 000

¹ A 'smart patrol system' seeks to integrate science and technology into field-based law enforcement and monitoring in protected areas.

			communities; recruit, train and equip a corps of (volunteer) environmental inspectors; establish an insurance scheme for pastoralists who lose livestock from predation by native wildlife; and develop a pilot tourism/ recreational facility – and associated services – in Ugam-Chatkal NP).			
3. Sustainable economic development incentives for communities	Inv	<p>The extent (ha) of high altitude mountain pasture areas within the Ugam-Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes under a more regulated and sustainable management regime increases from less than 5,000 ha to more than 50,000 ha.</p> <p>Average productivity (dry fodder mass in tons/ha) of the high altitude pastures in the areas administered by Pasture User Associations (PUAs) increases from a baseline of less than 0.4 t/ha to greater than 0.7t/ha.</p> <p>The extent (ha) of high altitude montane forest within the Ugam-Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes under a sustainable management regime increases from a baseline of less than 2,000 ha to greater than 16,000 ha.</p>	<p><u>Output 3.1: Incentivise sustainable pasture management practices</u> in the Ugam Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes (support drafting of Pasture Law; pilot the establishment of two pasture user associations [PUAs]; prepare pasture management plans for PUAs; align pasture management plans with pastoral use rights; provide technical and grant funding support to improve health of livestock, establish intensive livestock farms and develop alternative income-generating enterprises; restore heavily degraded pastures; and strengthen the enforcement capacities of forestry business units and local government).</p> <p><u>Output 3.2: Reduce impacts on, and improve the management of, forests</u> in the Ugam Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes (establish local tree nurseries; provide technical and grant funding support to establish woodlots/plantations, fruit and nut orchards and herb gardens; provide technical and grant funding support to install alternative energy and fuel technologies; develop and adopt measures to improve the sustainability of use of forests and forest products; restore heavily degraded forests; and strengthen the enforcement capacities of forestry business units and local government).</p>	GEFTF	2 014 600	10 900 000
4. Support to international cooperation	TA	<p>The total snow leopard population in Uzbekistan increases from 80 to more than 85 cats.</p> <p>The number of key snow leopard prey species - Siberian Ibex (SI), Siberian roe deer (SRD), Boar (B), Menzbier's marmot (MM) and</p>	<u>Output 4.1: Enhance the state of knowledge on snow leopard and prey populations</u> across the snow leopard distribution range (adopt the programme and action plan for snow leopard conservation in Uzbekistan; develop and implement a financing plan for the programme and action plan; and maintain a cooperative governance structure to monitor and report on the implementation of the programme and action plan).	GEFTF	462 355	1 800 000

		Long-tailed marmot (LTM) - within the Ugam-Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes increase from a baseline population of 3,900 (SI), 280 (SRD), 1,838 (B), 4300 (MM) and 7,994 (LTM) to greater than 5,500; 400; 2,150; 4,500; and 8,300 respectively.	Output 4.2: <i>Improve the coordination of, and cooperation in, snow leopard conservation and monitoring across the snow leopard distribution range</i> (establish trans-boundary working groups; develop and implement an in-service wildlife monitoring and enforcement course for border security officials; organise visits to snow leopard range countries; and facilitate the participation in regional and international snow leopard and prey research and monitoring initiatives).			
Subtotal				GEFTF	5 914 155	24 100 000
Project Management Cost (PMC)				GEFTF	295 708	1 200 000
Total project costs					6 209 863	25 300 000

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF [CO-FINANCING](#) FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for [co-financing](#) for the project with this form.

Sources of co-financing	Name of co-financier	Type of co-financing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	State Committee for Nature Protection (SCNP)	Grants	25 000 000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grants	300 000
Total co-financing			25 300 000

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b) ²	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEF TF	Uzbekistan	Biodiversity		1 469 000	139 555	1 608 555
UNDP	GEF TF	Uzbekistan	Land Degradation		2 670 909	253 736	2 924 645
UNDP	GEF TF	Uzbekistan		SFM	2 069 954	196 646	2 266 600
Total Grant Resources					6 209 863	589 937	6 799 800

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	614,000 ha ²
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	66,000 ha

² Improved management of Ugam-Chatkal NP (including Chatkal SNR) and Gissar SNR (237,000 ha), and the forests (15,000 ha) and pastures (50,000ha) located outside the core conservation zones of the protected areas.

3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	<i>Number of freshwater basins</i>
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	<i>Percent of fisheries, by volume</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>8,286,047 metric tons CO₂-eq/20 yr³</i>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries.	<i>Number of Countries:</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries.	<i>Number of Countries:</i>

³ Based on the FAO Exact model.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF⁴

A 1. Project Description.

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

The description of the environmental and/or adaptation problems has been considerably improved. These improvements are briefly summarized as follows (please refer to the UNDP PRODOC for a detailed description):

SECTION I, PART 1 *Situation Analysis* ('Context and global significance') of the UNDP PRODOC describes in more detail: the geographical context; the biodiversity significance and conservation status of the western Tian-Shan and Pamir Alai mountain ecosystems of Uzbekistan; the distribution and population status of snow leopard and wild prey in the high altitude mountains of the western Tian-Shan and Pamir Alai; a socio-economic profile of Uzbekistan, with specific reference to the rural communities living in these mountainous areas; the current conservation status of forests, pastures and protected areas in the high altitude mountain regions; and the institutional, policy and legislative context for the conservation and sustainable use of native wildlife (with specific reference to snow leopard, wild prey) and their montane habitats in Uzbekistan.

SECTION I, PART I *Situation Analysis* ('Threats, Root Causes and Impacts') of the UNDP PRODOC provides a more detailed description of the threats, the root causes of these threats and the impacts of these threats, on the countries mountain ecosystems and habitats, and their resident wildlife (with specific reference to snow leopard and prey). The key drivers of environmental degradation of the mountain ecosystems, and their native wildlife (notably snow leopard and prey) in Uzbekistan include: (i) unsustainable, and poorly regulated, levels of livestock grazing in the montane forests, steppes and sub-alpine meadows; (ii) high levels of dependency of rural communities on fuelwood from montane forests for heating and cooking; and (iii) extensive poaching of wildlife, along with increasing incidences of retaliatory killing of natural predators.

SECTION I, PART I *Situation Analysis* ('Long-term solution and barriers to the solution') of the UNDP PRODOC describes in detail the following four key barriers to preventing the further fragmentation and degradation of the mountain landscapes: (i) poor integration of environmental information into land use planning; (ii) limited resources for, and capabilities in, the planning and management of protected areas; (iii) unsustainable pasture and forest management practices; and (iv) incomplete information and knowledge management systems to guide management decision-making.

2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

The description of the baseline scenario, and the associated baseline projects, has been considerably improved.

SECTION I, PART I *Situation Analysis* ('Baseline Analysis') of the UNDP PRODOC provides details of the resources, capacity and financing that have been committed by a range of national and international organisations – over the five-year time frame of the project - to address, in part, the key barriers to the conservation and sustainable use of the western Tian-Shan and Pamir Alai mountain ecosystems, and their associated wildlife. The baseline analysis focuses on baseline investments that are targeting improvements in the management of protected areas, pastures and forests - and the social-economic development of rural communities - across the snow leopard landscapes.

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

⁴ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF, no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question.

SECTION I, PART II *Strategy* ('Rationale and summary of the GEF alternative') of the UNDP PRODOC has been significantly improved in response to STAP comments. These improvements are briefly summarized as follows (please refer to the UNDP PRODOC for the specific details of project components, outputs and activities):

The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP, 2013) provides the strategic context for this GEF-funded project. The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP, 2013) – a collaborative programme between the governments of 12 snow leopard range countries and other partner organisations – provides the overarching implementation framework for improving the conservation status of snow leopards, wild prey, and their ecosystems across the entire snow leopard range. Within the overarching framework of this GSLEP, this project will support the Government of Uzbekistan in the implementation of the National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection (NSLEP) portfolio for Uzbekistan.

The project will be spatially contained to the snow leopard distribution range in Uzbekistan. The snow leopard distribution range comprises 3 discrete snow leopard 'landscapes' - *Ugam-Chatkal* snow leopard landscape in the western Tien Shan; and the *Gissar* and *Zaamin* snow leopard landscapes in the Pamir-Alai.

Most of the project outputs and activities will however be focused in only two of these 'snow leopard landscapes': (i) the *Ugam-Chatkal snow leopard landscape*, located on the western spurs of the Chatkal, Pskem and Ugam Ranges in the Western Tien Shan (see map 5 below); and (ii) the *Gissar snow leopard landscape* on the western slopes of the Gissar ridge in the Pamir Alai.

The project is structured into four components, with each component comprising a complementary suite of two to three outputs which will collectively contribute to realizing the targeted outcome for the component.

The first component will enhance the quality of information on key ecosystems, habitats and species of the high altitude mountains that are home to snow leopard and prey populations. Information collected under this component will be used to support sectoral land use planning and decision-making in these mountainous regions. Work under this component will be focused around two key areas of project support: (i) Improve the quality of environmental information for state cadastre in the snow leopard distribution range (Output 1.1); and (ii) Enhance the state of knowledge on snow leopard and prey populations (Output 1.2).

The second component will seek to expand, and build the management capacity of, the core conservation zones located within the two targeted snow leopard landscapes. Outputs and activities in this component will be directed at securing the conservation security of the key snow leopard and prey migration corridors within the two snow leopard landscapes. Work under this component will be focused around three key areas of project support: (i) Strengthen the conservation tenure, and improve the management effectiveness, of the core conservation zones in Ugam-Chatkal National Park (Output 2.1); (ii) Extend, and improve the conservation security of, Gissar Strict Nature Reserve (Output 2.2); and (iii) Enhance community involvement in, and beneficitation from, the protected areas (Output 2.3).

The third component will seek to encourage more sustainable levels of use of the high altitude pastures and indigenous forests located within the two targeted snow leopard landscapes. Outputs and activities under this component will contribute to improving the ecological integrity and productivity of forest and grassland habitats in the snow leopard landscapes. Work under this component will be focused around two key areas of project support: (i) Incentivise the adoption of more sustainable pasture management practices (Output 3.1); and (ii) Reverse the trend of unsustainable forest use in, and degradation of, natural forests (Output 3.2).

The fourth component will promote improved cooperation and collaboration in the conservation of snow leopard and their ecosystems. It is envisaged that more integrated planning, stronger cooperative governance structures and improved institutional and individual capabilities of all partner agencies and institutions will improve the collective national capacity to conserve and sustainably use snow leopards, their prey and their ecosystems. Work under this component will be focused around two key areas of project support: (i) Improve inter-agency coordination in

conservation, monitoring and enforcement (Output 4.1); and (ii) Strengthen the capacity for trans-boundary planning and management (Output 4.2).

The total cost of investment in the project is estimated at US\$31,509,863, of which US\$ 6,209,863 constitutes grant funding from GEF and US\$25,300,000 comprises co-financing from national government and UNDP.

SECTION I, PART II *Strategy* (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC more fully details the full suite of project outcomes, outputs and activities as well as the specific implementation arrangements for the outputs and activities.

The table below summarises the adjustments made to the strategic focus of the components, and the changes made to the individual outputs within each component, in the PIF.

			Comments on the strategic focus of the component
Components	<i>1. Landscape level planning and management decision-making for Pamir Alai and Tian Shan mountain landscape</i>		This component has been strategically re-focused on: (i) improving the quality of information on the state of key ecosystems, habitats, species and natural resource use within the snow leopard distribution range; (ii) facilitating the access to, and use of, this environmental information to support sectoral land use planning initiatives in the mountain regions; and (iii) making this environmental information more readily available to assist the decision-making processes of the responsible central and local (<i>Khokimiat</i>) institutions on the sustainable management of natural resources in mountain regions. The information generated from this component will also be used to support the implementation of project outputs and activities across components 2, 3 and 4.
	<i>2. Strengthening key biodiversity areas within Pamir Alai and Tian Shan landscape</i>		The strategic focus of this component is consistent with the PIF. Due to political sensibilities about the location of the Zaamin snow leopard landscape within a highly sensitive border security area, it was agreed with stakeholders to spatially limit activities under this component to the Ugam-Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes.
	<i>3. Sustainable economic development incentives for communities to reverse environmental degradation in Tian Shan and Pamir Alai landscapes</i>		The strategic focus of this component is consistent with the PIF. For the reasons mentioned above, the Zaamin snow leopard landscape was also not included under this component.
	<i>3. Promoting regional and global cooperation in combatting poaching, advancing monitoring and research on key species, setting the scene for u-scaling</i>		The strategic focus of this component is consistent with the PIF. The development and implementation of a national snow leopard (and prey) research and monitoring system has however been moved to component 1 (see below).
	Original outputs in the PIF	Changes made to outputs at GEF CEO ER stage	Rationale for changes to outputs
Component 1 (Outputs)	<i>1.1 Inventory, classification and mapping</i>	1.1 Improve the quality of environmental information for state cadastre	This output remains consistent with the PIF.

	<i>1.2 Community-level integrated land use plans</i>	Removed	<p>Extensive consultations undertaken during the PPG phase indicated that there is currently limited political and institutional support, and no enabling policy and legislative environment, for the integrated land use planning activities that were originally envisaged in the PIF. All land use planning undertaken in Uzbekistan is sectorally based, with most of the sectoral plans drawing from information contained in the central state cadastre database.</p> <p>As discussed above, this component now focuses on improving the state of knowledge of the mountain ecosystems, and integrating this information into the state cadastre database for use in the preparation of different sectoral land use plans.</p>
	<i>1.3 Training in the development and implementation of integrated land use planning</i>		
	<i>(4.3 System for long-term regular monitoring of snow leopard)</i>	<p>Moved from component 4 to component 1.</p> <p>1.2 Enhance the state of knowledge on snow leopard and prey populations</p>	<p>During the PPG phase, the government requested that the project assist in facilitating the establishment of a national environmental information management system, which will then host environmental data generated by this project.</p> <p>In response, this output will now support the design and initial establishment of an environmental information management system (EIMS) for Uzbekistan. Within the overarching framework of this centralised EIMS, the project activities will then focus on supporting the development and implementation of a comprehensive snow leopard (and prey) research and monitoring system.</p>
Component 2 (Outputs)	<i>2.1 Expansion of protected area system</i>	<p>2.1 Strengthen the management effectiveness of core conservation zones in Ugam-Chatkal National Park</p> <p>2.2 Extend, and improve the conservation security, of Gissar Strict Nature Reserve</p>	<p>In response to the STAP comments, Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 have been re-focused on piloting the implementation of a smart patrol system in the protected areas within the two snow leopard landscapes.</p> <p>Project outputs have been spatially separated, with Output 2.1 spatially focused on protected areas in the Ugam-Chatkal snow leopard landscape (western Tian Shan) and Output 2.2 on protected areas in the Gissar snow leopard landscape (Pamir Alai).</p> <p>After extensive consultations during the PPG phase, it was also agreed that the project will: (i) support improving the protection status (by designating additional core conservation zones) of key biodiversity areas in Ugam-Chatkal NP⁵ and; (ii) assess the feasibility of expanding Gissar into the upper reaches of the Tupulang river.</p>
	<i>2.2 Management and business plans for PAs, and vocational training for PA staff</i>	Removed	<p>Management planning and staff training activities are fully integrated into Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 above.</p>
	<i>None</i>	<p>2.3 Enhance community involvement in, and beneficitation from, protected areas</p>	<p>Extensive consultations undertaken during the PPG phase have clearly demonstrated the need to: (i) raise the awareness in rural communities living in the snow leopard landscapes of the intrinsic value of the high altitude mountain ecosystems, habitats, flora and wildlife; and (ii) develop opportunities that would</p>

⁵ Note: Some of the areas identified for ‘expansion’ in the PIF (i.e. Pskem and the ‘wildlife corridor’) are already located within the Ugam-Chatkal National Park, so there is little sense in proclaiming a new protected area.

			<p>enable these rural communities to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the protected areas.</p> <p>This new output has thus been added to respond to both this need, and the comments from the STAP review (see below).</p> <p>The activities envisaged under Output 4.2 in the PIF have now been subsumed under this output.</p>
Component 3 (Outputs)	<i>3.1 Incentive-based collaborative forest partnerships</i>	3.2 Encouraging more sustainable levels of forest use	Both project outputs remain broadly consistent with the PIF.
	<i>3.2 Incentive-based community pasture management plans</i>	3.1 Incentivising sustainable pasture management practices	
Component 4 (Outputs)	<i>4.1 Targeted support for joint management of Tupulang area</i>	None	<p>Extensive consultations undertaken during the PPG phase indicated that, due to politically sensitive border security concerns, the project will need to spend considerable time in negotiations with a range of state institutions to satisfactorily address these concerns, and to find mutually acceptable compromises. The final proclamation of a new protected area (or the expansion of the Gissar SNR) may thus be beyond the scope of the project timelines.</p> <p>Project support has thus been limited to supporting the preliminary feasibility assessment, negotiating optimal boundaries, defining governance arrangements, motivating for medium-term budget allocations, and preparing a submission for formal declaration (see Output 2.2 above).</p>
	<i>4.2 Community-based wildlife management and awareness-raising and training campaigns</i>	<p>Moved from component 4 to component 2.</p> <p>2.3 Enhance community involvement in, and beneficitation from, protected areas</p>	This output has been fully incorporated into Output 2.3 above.
	<i>4.3 System for long-term regular monitoring of snow leopard</i>	1.2 Enhance the state of knowledge on snow leopard and prey populations	Moved from component 4 to component 1 (see explanation above).
	<i>4.4 Targeted support provided to participation in the Global GSLCP process</i>	4.1 Improve inter-agency coordination in conservation, monitoring and enforcement	<p>These output are broadly consistent with the PIF. The outputs and activities under this component are now specifically directed at: (i) preparing a <i>Programme and Action Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation in Uzbekistan</i>; (ii) coordinating the efforts of different partner institutions, organisations and individuals in the implementation of the programme and action plan; (iii) sourcing additional financing support for the implementation of the programme and action plan; and (iv) building the capacities of partner institutions, organisations and individuals to collaborate in the implementation and monitoring of the programme and action plan.</p>
		4.2 Strengthen the capacity for trans-boundary planning and management.	

- 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing
- 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

SECTION I, PART II *Strategy* ('Rationale and summary of GEF Alternative') of the UNDP PRODOC has been improved in response to STAP comments. These improvements are briefly summarized as follows:

Without the GEF investment in the proposed project, the 'business-as-usual scenario' for the conservation of high mountain ecosystems and their native wildlife (notably snow leopard and prey), is one where: (i) the ecological integrity of the montane steppe, forest and alpine meadows habitats further degrades as a consequence of increasingly unsustainable agricultural practices and high levels of wood harvesting and fuelwood collection; (ii) the low levels of monitoring, enforcement and prosecutions of illegal activities continue to undermine the effectiveness of localised conservation efforts across the mountainous areas; (iii) the numbers of indigenous medium-sized mountain ungulates continue to decrease as large domestic livestock populations use more of the higher altitude pastures, and for longer periods of time; and (iv) indigenous predators (including snow leopards), in the absence of their natural prey species, progressively resort to killing domestic livestock, leading to an increase in retaliatory killings by farmers

The 'alternative scenario' that the project seeks to contribute to is characterised by: (i) preventing the further fragmentation and degradation of the mountain landscapes; (ii) maintaining and/or restoring the quality of habitats within these mountain landscapes; (iii) increasing native wildlife numbers (particularly snow leopard and prey) across the mountain landscapes to promote viable populations; (iv) facilitating a transformative shift to more sustainable levels of natural resource use in the montane steppes, meadows and forests; (v) improving the socio-economic well-being of rural communities using natural resources in mountain areas; (vi) reducing the impacts of predation and mortality of livestock, and decreasing retaliatory killing of predators in mountainous areas; and (vi) improving the planning, administration, enforcement and monitoring capacities of institutions responsible for the conservation stewardship of these mountainous regions.

The incremental value of the alternative scenario is summarized in the table below:

Business-as-usual	GEF alternative	Benefits
<i>Snow leopard and prey populations</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensive poaching by local communities of species (including Ibex and marmot) that naturally form the prey base of native predator species (including snow leopard) in mountainous areas continues; - Native predator species increasingly resort to predation of livestock and poultry; - Human-wildlife conflicts increase, leading to further retaliatory killings by farmers. - Enforcement of wildlife laws outside the strict nature reserves continues to be very weak or non-existent; and - Efforts to control poaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement an in-service wildlife enforcement program for staff of all the key responsible government agencies; - Procure key equipment for local field-based environmental (<i>Goskomprorida</i>) and forestry (Forestry Directorate) monitoring and enforcement staff. - Pilot the staffing, training and equipping of a corps of environmental inspectors; - Update and formally adopt the <i>Programme and Action Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation in Uzbekistan</i>; - Establish and maintain a cooperative governance structure to coordinate the efforts of partner institutions in the implementation of the <i>Programme and Action Plan</i>; 	<p>The snow leopard population continues to grow, albeit modestly - increasing to more than 85 cats across the country - as fewer snow leopards are being trapped, hunted or poached;</p> <p>The population of key medium-sized ungulates that form the prey base of snow leopards continue to grow, with the Siberian Ibex population increasing from ~3,800 to more than 5,500 animals;</p> <p>The responsible government institutions are better capacitated and resourced to monitor wildlife crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 150 personnel/annum participate in wildlife monitoring and enforcement training and skills development programs; and

Business-as-usual	GEF alternative	Benefits
<p>of, and illegal trade in, snow leopard and prey species between neighbouring countries remains uncoordinated and poorly controlled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish and maintain working groups to facilitate trans-boundary collaboration in conserving wildlife and wildlife movement corridors; – Strengthen the capacity of border security officials to implement trans-boundary poaching and wildlife trade agreements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – at least 105 field-based wildlife enforcement staff in the Forestry Directorate and Goskomprorida, and 10 environmental inspectors are fully equipped - including uniforms, rations, GPS, communications, transport, etc. - and operational; <p>An insurance scheme is established to compensate pastoralists for livestock losses from predation by wild animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – at least 20 pastoralist households are partially or fully compensated for livestock losses from native predators; and <p>The capacity for collaboration and coordination between international, national and local institutions in the conservation of snow leopard, their prey and their ecosystems is significantly improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – at least two technical working groups addressing trans-boundary collaboration in the management of snow leopard and wildlife crime are under implementation; – the <i>Programme and Action Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation in Uzbekistan</i> is adequately resourced, and is under implementation; and – a cooperative governance structure for the programme and action plan is constituted and operational.
Protected areas		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Most core conservation zones of protected areas are still too small to effectively conserve viable snow leopard and prey populations and are not configured to secure safe movement corridors for snow leopards and prey; – Sub-optimal levels of monitoring, enforcement and prosecution of illegal activities continues to compromise the management effectiveness of protected areas across the snow leopard range; – Outdated planning systems and conservative operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expand the extent of the core conservation areas in the Ugam-Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes; – Strengthen the medium-term and annual management planning and budgeting systems of Ugam-Chatkal National Park and the Gissar Strict Nature Reserve; – Improve the boundary demarcation of the core conservation zones in Ugam-Chatkal NP and of Gissar SNR; – Design and implement a smart patrol system for the core conservation zones of Ugam-Chatkal NP and Gissar SNR; – Establish and deploy a core of 	<p>The extent of the core conservation areas in Ugam-Chatkal NP and Gissar SNR increases from a baseline of 116,710 ha to 237,700ha;</p> <p>The conservation values of at least 200,000 ha of snow leopard and prey habitats are secured, and effectively monitored and enforced in the core conservation areas of Ugam-Chatkal NP (Chatkal SNR and its wildlife corridor, Pskem and Akbulak) and Gissar SNR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the average METT scores for Ugam-Chatkal NP, Chatkal SNR and Gissar SNR increases from 22, 46 and 43 to

Business-as-usual	GEF alternative	Benefits
<p>approaches fail to effectively address the emerging management challenges facing protected areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding for the administration of protected areas is not yet sufficient to address key management requirements; and - Limited meaningful and sustained collaboration between the protected areas and adjacent communities (most of whom still rely on access to natural resources for part of their livelihood) in the protection of snow leopard, their prey and key habitats. 	<p>professionally trained and fully equipped rangers in the core conservation zones of Ugam-Chatkal NP and in Gissar SNR;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish and maintain a smart patrol database and data collection system in Ugam-Chatkal NP and in Gissar SNR; - Improve the park infrastructure (ranger outposts, central data center) and equipment (communications, transport) to support the implementation of the smart patrol system in the core conservation zones of Ugam-Chatkal NP and in Gissar SNR; - Raise awareness levels in communities living in Ugam-Chatkal NP and around Gissar SNR of the benefits of snow leopard and prey conservation; - Improve the extent and scale of economic involvement of communities in the conservation, monitoring and use of Ugam-Chatkal NP and in the management of Gissar SNR; - Pilot the establishment of nature-based tourism facilities and services in Ugam-Chatkal NP and/or the buffer zones of Gissar SNR; - Support the establishment and functioning of local management committees for Ugam-Chatkal NP and Gissar SNR. 	<p>>42, 60 and 56 respectively;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 60% of the core conservation areas of Ugam-Chatkal NP, and 100% of Gissar SNR, are fully covered by a smart patrol system; and - the number of illegal incidents recorded in the core conservation areas of Ugam-Chatkal NP and in Gissar SNR decreases to less than 195/annum, from a baseline of more than 1,739/annum; <p>The number of individuals from villages in Ugam-Chatkal and around Gissar SNR that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - financially benefit from the management of the protected areas increases from a baseline of less than 25 individuals/annum to more than 150 individuals/annum, of whom at least 80 are women; - have completed project funded skills training courses reaches 100 (of whom 60 are women); and; - are involved in the education and outreach programmes reaches >1,000/annum
Pastures and forests		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of sustainable pasture and forest management practices is limited due to poor technical skills, limited knowledge and a severe lack of funding; - An upsurge in domestic livestock populations using higher altitude pastures (and forests), and for longer periods of time, leads to an increase in competition for forage with indigenous medium-sized mountain ungulates; - The continued increase in livestock populations in high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the drafting of the new Law on Pastures; <p>In the snow leopard landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot the establishment and functioning of two PUAs in the high altitude pastures; - Prepare pasture management plans for the PUAs; - Provide technical and financial support to improve the health of livestock herds; - Provide technical and financial incentives to pastoralists to shift to alternative income-generating enterprises or to intensive livestock farming; 	<p>The extent of high altitude pastures under a more sustainable management regime in the Ugam-Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes increases from less than 5,000 ha to more than 50,000 ha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the productivity of high altitude pastures increases from less than 0.4 t/ha of dry fodder mass to greater than 0.7 t/ha; - the % of unpalatable species in high altitude pastures decreases from greater than 40% to less than 30%; - at least 2 pasture management plans are under implementation by PUAs; - at least 90 households benefit from

Business-as-usual	GEF alternative	Benefits
<p>altitude areas leads to further killing of snow leopards (and other natural predators) by pastoralists to ensure protection of their livestock;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ecological integrity of the natural alpine and sub-alpine habitats further degrades as a consequence of increasingly unsustainable pastoral practices and high levels of wood harvesting and fuelwood collection; and - An ongoing lack of awareness and understanding of the plight of the snow leopard (and other predators); the value of conserving snow leopards, prey, and habitat; and the local and regional consequences of the constant degradation of ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore and/or rehabilitate degraded high altitude pastures; - Establish local tree nurseries; - Provide technical and financial support to the establishment and maintenance of woodlots; - Provide financial and technical support to the establishment and maintenance of fruit and nut orchards and herb gardens; - Provide technical and financial support to the installation and maintenance of alternative energy and fuel technologies; - Restore and/or rehabilitate degraded high altitude forests; and - Strengthen the institutional and individual capacities to monitor and enforce pasture and forest use. 	<p>technical and grant funding support for improving the health of their livestock herds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 8 new intensive livestock farms are established; - At least 30 households are sufficiently incentivized to shift to alternative means of income-generation; - 5,000 ha of degraded pastures are under active rehabilitation; - Future secured for 105,900 ha of high conservation value forests within the target PAs, precluding 5% loss of these in the next 20 years. - The extent of high altitude forests under a sustainable management regime in the Ugam-Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes outside PAs increases from less than 2,000 ha to more than 16,000 ha; - an enabling policy and regulatory framework for the sustainable harvesting and use of forest products from high altitude forests is consultatively developed and enforced; - at least 100 ha of woodlots/plantation areas are planted in and around villages; - at least 25 households benefit from technical and grant funding support for establishing orchards and herb gardens - more than 100 households benefit from technical and grant funding support for the adoption of alternative fuel and energy technologies. - Carbon sequestered and emissions avoided: 8,286,047 tCO₂-eq/20 years (based on FAO Exact model).
Knowledge management		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline information on the distribution, abundance, seasonality and recruitment rates of snow leopards and prey remains incomplete; - No national program in place to coordinate the monitoring of snow leopard and prey populations and habitats; - No formally adopted, and properly resourced, National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation of Snow Leopard in place; and - National scientific and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop, implement and maintain a national environmental information management system; - Design a snow leopard research and monitoring programme; - Host specialist training sessions for all researchers, scientists, academics, volunteers, students, NGO staff, government field staff, etc. on the implementation of the snow leopard research and monitoring programme; and - Increase the coverage of camera traps, video traps, aerial surveys, foot patrol counts and aerial 	<p>A strong scientific base for the conservation of snow leopard and their prey is established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a national environmental information management system, is established and operational; - the national coverage (as a % of the total snow leopard range) of snow leopard and prey monitoring activities increases from a baseline of less than 5% for snow leopard, and 5% for snow leopard prey, to more than 75% and 50% respectively; and

Business-as-usual	GEF alternative	Benefits
management institutions continue to work in relative isolation from their counterparts from other home range countries as a result of the low levels of inter-governmental cooperation in snow leopard conservation.	photography for monitoring and reporting on snow leopard and/or medium-sized ungulate populations.	– at least 40 managers, scientists, researchers, technician, managers or academics are involved in international exchange programs, country visits and/or trans-boundary snow leopard monitoring and research projects.

6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

SECTION I, PART II *Strategy* ('Sustainability and replicability') of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated to reflect the revision of project outputs and activities, as follows:

Project sustainability will ultimately depend on ensuring the full ownership of the project outputs and activities by the responsible mandated public institutions and securing their long-term commitment (regulatory, policy, funding and resources) to scale-up and replicate best practices in snow leopard conservation, and sustainable forest and pasture management, beyond project completion.

Environmental sustainability will be enhanced in the project by: (a) preventing the further fragmentation of snow leopard and prey landscapes in Uzbekistan; (b) maintaining and/or restoring the quality of key snow leopard and prey habitats within these landscapes; (c) improving the conservation status, and sustainability of pasture and forest use, in these key snow leopard and prey habitats; and (d) reducing the direct threats to the survival of snow leopards and prey populations living in these key habitats. More specifically, the project will support the development and implementation of a smart patrol system in targeted protected areas and reduce the impacts on, and improve the sustainable management of, the high altitude livestock pastures and indigenous forests located on, or immediately adjacent to, the key snow leopard migration paths. The project will also seek to improve the awareness of rural communities living in the snow leopard range of the importance of conserving snow leopard, their prey and their habitats.

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 snow leopard range in Uzbekistan. 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 in targeted PAs, *forest business units*, border security areas, *khokimiats* and self-governing community organisations. The project will specifically: (i) establish and maintain a national environmental information management system; (ii) pilot the implementation of a smart patrol system in core conservation areas of the NP and SNRs; (iii) strengthen wildlife monitoring and enforcement capacities in the responsible state agencies; and (iv) build the capacity of border security officials to improve the detection of illegal wildlife trade. The PIU and SCNP 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.

Replication of good practices developed by the project will be achieved through the direct replication of selected project elements and practices and methods, as well as the scaling up of experiences. The following activities have preliminarily been identified as suitable for replication and/or scaling up: (i) implementation of smart patrol systems in PAs; (ii) demarcation of PA boundaries; (iii) formalizing and implementing co-management agreements with PA-adjacent village communities; (iv) rehabilitation and restoration of degraded high altitude pastures; and (v) new snow leopard and prey population monitoring technologies (e.g. aerial drones, faecal DNA analysis and radio collars). The lessons learnt in project implementation will be incorporated into the development of the *Programme and Action Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation in Uzbekistan*. The sharing of best practices and lessons learned in

project implementation with other member countries of the GSLEP will be facilitated through regional GSLEP meetings and regular communications through the GSLEP Secretariat.

A 2. Child Project? If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

NA

A 3. Stakeholders.

During the project preparation stage, a stakeholder analysis was undertaken in order to identify key stakeholders and assess their prospective roles and responsibilities in the context of the proposed project (see also the profile of institutions in description of the *Institutional Context* above). The table below lists the key stakeholder organisations; provides a brief summary of the responsibilities of each of these stakeholder organisations (specifically as it applies to the conservation of mountain landscapes, habitats and wildlife - notably snow leopard); and broadly describes the anticipated role of each of the stakeholder organisations in supporting or facilitating the implementation of project activities:

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities	Proposed involvement in the Project
National Government		
<i>Committee for Nature Protection (Goskompriroda)</i>	The role of <i>Goskompriroda</i> is to: (i) regulate environmental management functions and activities; (ii) develop and coordinate the implementation of environmental policies; (iii) regulate the use and management of natural resources; and (iv) develop medium and long-term state programs for nature protection and sustainable use of natural resources.	<i>Goskompriroda</i> is the focal point for implementation of the CBD in Uzbekistan. It has also been identified as the lead executing agency of this project and will take overall responsibility for co-ordinating, monitoring progress and reporting on the project. <i>Goskompriroda</i> will chair the project Steering Committee. It will play a leading role in implementing the project outputs and activities through its central and regional administrations.
<i>State Biological Control Service (Gosbiokontrol)</i>	<i>Gosbiokontrol</i> is responsible for developing, regulating and coordinating the implementation of national legislation and policies in the conservation of flora and fauna.	<i>Gosbiokontrol</i> will be the key institution within <i>Goskompriroda</i> responsible for coordinating project activities to ensure the delivery of the agreed project outcomes. It may be independently represented on the project Steering Committee.
<i>Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR)</i>	The MAWR is responsible for the development and implementation of state policy relating to agriculture, water and forestry development.	The Ministry will be represented on the Steering Committee of the project to ensure the full alignment of project activities with national forest and pasture legislation, policies and programmes.
<i>Directorate of Forestry (DF)</i>	The DF is responsible for the planning and management of forests, the use of natural resources and the administration of protected areas situated on state forest fund land.	The DF will play a leading institutional role in the implementation of project outputs and activities, primarily through the <i>Glavohota</i> , <i>Uzgirpoumonloyiha</i> and forestry business units located in mountainous areas. The DF will be represented on the project Steering Committee.
<i>Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and National Cadastre</i>	The Committee is responsible for implementing land policy and manages the process of land reform and land-use planning.	The Committee will serve as a reference for, and provide guidance on matters relating to, land use and land use planning.

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities	Proposed involvement in the Project
Committee for State Border Protection	Responsible for the security of border security and border control points.	The Committee will be represented on the Steering Committee of the project to ensure effective consultation relating to any project activities that may affect and/or involve national security issues along mountain border control areas.
The Academy of Sciences	As the main scientific organisation in the country, the Academy coordinates research in all areas of science and technology.	The Academy will provide scientific support and advisory services, through its research institutions, to the project outputs and activities. The Academy may be represented on the Steering Committee of the project.
Institute of the Gene Pool of Plants and Animals (IGPPP)	The IGPPP undertakes research on plant and animal genes, species, populations, habitats and ecosystems.	The IGPPP may be contracted to implement targeted project outputs and activities.
Regional and local government		
Regional government (viloyat)	The <i>viloyats</i> have overall responsibility for the economic and development activities within the region. They may regulate land use and supervise land use decision making. There are a number of regions within the project domain.	A representative <i>khokim</i> of the affected <i>viloyats</i> will sit in the project steering committee and will mediate two-way communication between national policy directives and local project activities and actions to ensure that there is good alignment between them.
District Government (rayon)	The <i>rayons</i> provides support for local economic activities and regulates land use and supervises land use decision making. There are a number of <i>rayons</i> within the project domain.	The <i>rayons</i> will play an important role in supporting the implementation of the project in selected mountain areas (in the project domain). They are likely to be direct beneficiaries of capacity development activities.
Local CBOs and NGOs		
Mahallas (in khishlaks and auls)	The <i>mahallas</i> are self-governing bodies set up to resolve issues of local interest and importance.	The <i>mahallas</i> will provide the mechanism for the ongoing consultation will local villages and rural settlements in the mountainous regions on project outputs and activities.
Local and national NGOs (e.g. Society for the protection of birds in Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan Zoological Society, Ecosan)	The NGOs will provide specific communication and awareness support to ensure that the project is clearly understood and to encourage active involvement and participation in the project and its activities. NGOs may also be contracted to implement specific project activities.	
Local communities		
Rural communities in auls and kishlaks	Local residents in the targeted project areas will be actively engaged in the project, especially in relation to alternative livelihoods and improving sustainable land use practices. They are likely to be direct beneficiaries of project-funded activities and support services that are linked to community beneficiation. They will be consulted in the planning of all project activities affecting local communities, and may contribute to the implementation of activities likely to benefit individuals, villages and rural settlements.	
International Partners		
Secretariat of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection programme (in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)	These partners will participate in knowledge sharing and technology transfer exercises as well as communications on data collection and sharing, best practices for planning and priority-setting	
Panthera	Panthera support baseline surveys and	May provide technical and scientific advice

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities	Proposed involvement in the Project
	research on snow leopard and prey populations.	to the project. Panthera may also be contracted to implement specific project activities.
Development partners (e.g. German Government, World Bank, FAO)	Development partners supporting conservation projects and initiatives to improve the sustainable management of high mountain habitats in Uzbekistan will be important project partners. They will share, coordinate and collaborate with the project as and where relevant. They may be represented on the project Steering Committee.	

A 4. Gender Considerations. Elaborate on how gender considerations were mainstreamed into the project preparation and implementation, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women.

At the practical level, the term “gender” is not in wide use in Uzbekistan, particularly not by policy makers. The term is largely considered synonymous with “women,” and gender-oriented work is almost exclusively concerned with resolving social issues. Gender equality is largely perceived as a process of being just and fair to women, but it is not generally recognized as a prerequisite for the country’s economic growth and stability.

In the 2014 edition of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)⁶, Uzbekistan reportedly has medium levels of discrimination against women in social institutions (SIGI score of 0.1475), with higher discrimination in ‘restricted access to resources and assets’.

During the project preparation phase, the following key gender issues were identified:

- Current legislation has officially removed all legal obstacles that previously prevented Uzbekistani women from leasing land, and women have the same rights as men to obtain long-term leases on land (which come with inheritance and mortgage rights). However, the proportion of women who actually have access to land is still relatively low, with land titles usually registered to the name of the oldest male in the household.
- The number of economically active women remains considerably lower than the number of economically active men, and although overall employment rates are increasing, the rate of increase for men has been almost double the rate for women. Women’s economic opportunities are still greater in the informal sector, and women are more likely to earn income through small family-based businesses such as farming or handicrafts.
- The labor market exhibits distinct gender patterns, with women over-represented in public sector jobs (health care and education), which carry lower salaries, and men predominating in technical and other more profitable fields (construction, transport and communications, and industry). Unemployment and limited jobs continue to be the primary push factors for labor migration, and men represent the larger share of migrants. Still, labor migration is becoming increasingly feminized, and women’s lack of competitiveness in local labor markets is leading them to seek work elsewhere. As single-income households struggle to survive on the remittances of the male migrant, women are making important contributions to the family budget.
- Equal access to education is guaranteed in Uzbekistan, and gender parity is seen in the enrolment rates of girls and boys at the primary and secondary levels. Women’s enrolment rates in post-secondary and higher education are however lower than men’s rates, and concern has been expressed about the increasing number of young women not continuing their studies beyond the 12-year compulsory schooling.
- In Uzbekistan, issues of irrigation and drainage are key to agricultural production, and limited water resources affect food security. Water user associations (WUAs) are the primary community structure for resolving disputes that arise between the managers of irrigation systems and water users. Although women represent a large portion of water users for agricultural production, they only make up only a small minority of WUA members and an even smaller number of association leaders.

⁶ The SIGI measures gender-based discrimination in social norms, practices and laws. It covers five dimensions of discriminatory social institutions, spanning major socio-economic areas that affect women’s lives: (i) discriminatory family code; (ii) restricted physical integrity; (iii) son bias; (iv) restricted resources and assets; and (v) restricted civil liberties. The SIGI’s variables quantify discriminatory social institutions such as unequal inheritance rights, early marriage, violence against women, and unequal land and property rights.

- In some regions, power supplies cannot meet the needs of industry, social service provision, and households. Women perform most household chores (cooking, cleaning, and laundry) and are particularly burdened by power interruptions and the inability to use labor-saving appliances. Energy investments have tended to focus on physical and infrastructure improvements rather than assistance to households to enable them to transition to modern and more efficient forms of energy.
- Support for entrepreneurship, particularly small businesses, has been a priority for Uzbekistan, because private enterprise is increasingly driving the economy. New legislation and national programs to create an environment supportive of private enterprise, and to develop a market economy, have meant that in many ways opportunities to start a business have improved. However, several obstacles still hinder micro, small, and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) development. Female entrepreneurs are more affected by these challenges due to differences in the size and capacity of their businesses, their spheres of operation, and prevalent gender norms. Most female entrepreneurs are involved in small-scale consumer goods production, trade, or delivery of health, education, and other personal services. In rural regions, in particular, women's businesses are mainly micro and small enterprises. The nature of "women's business" means that mainstream MSME support projects may not adequately meet the specific needs of female entrepreneurs. Instead, business support services should be tailored to the current needs of female entrepreneurs, and efforts are needed to diversify the sectors in which women have businesses and assist them in entering non-traditional and high-level industries. Female entrepreneurs also face a number of specific gender-based constraints to doing business, including unequal access to financial services (due in large part to lack of formal property ownership and lack of collateral); bureaucratic obstacles to running a business, which are multiplied for women who balance business activities with domestic responsibilities; lack of information, business knowledge, skills, and technical resources needed to run a successful business; and cultural perceptions and stereotypes. Targeted microlending programs for women have demonstrated that businesswomen are interested in using financial services, but their access to loans through commercial banks remains quite limited.

The project activities have been designed to address some of these gender-related issues, as follows:

- The project will facilitate the employment, training and equipping of woman as park rangers (Output 2.1 and 2.2), smart patrol trainers (Output 2.1 and 2.2), community liaison officers (Output 2.3), forest business unit enforcement staff (Output 3.1 and 3.2), local environmental inspectors (Output 2.3) and nursery maintenance staff (Output 3.2).
- The project will actively encourage the equitable use of women labour and supervisors from local rural villages in: the development of tourism and recreational facilities and services (Output 2.3); the planning and implementation of pasture management plans (Output 3.1); the planning and restoration of degraded high altitude pastures (Output 3.1); the establishment and management of tree nurseries (Output 3.2) and the planning and rehabilitation/restoration of high altitude forests (Output 3.2).
- The project will ensure that women-owned and/or managed businesses participate equitably in the procurement of project-funded equipment, technical services and infrastructure (all outputs). In some instances, the project may adopt a preferential procurement approach to the provision of minor services and supplies (e.g. supply of rations for park rangers, accommodation) from local women-owned businesses.
- The project will ensure that the reach of project-funded education/awareness-raising programmes, sustainable livelihood development support, and skills training in villages in Ugam Chatkal NP and around Gissar SNR will include both male- and female-headed households from the targeted villages (Output 2.3).
- The project will ensure that the interests of women and women-headed households are adequately represented on Park Management Committees (Output 2.3) and Pasture User Associations (Output 3.1); and are actively involved in the planning of protected areas, pastures and forests in the two snow leopard landscapes.
- The project will ensure that the reach of project- grant funded financial and technical support in targeted villages in the Ugam Chatkal and Gissar snow leopard landscapes will equitably include both male- and female-headed households from the targeted villages (Output 3.1 and 3.2).
- The project will actively assist women-headed households living in the targeted villages in the two snow leopard landscapes to access: (i) micro-financing for sustainable livelihoods; and (ii) technical and financial support from project grants for improving the health of livestock, establishing intensive livestock farms,

developing alternative income-generating enterprises, establishment of woodlots/plantations, installation and maintenance of alternative energy and fuel technologies, and production of fruit, nut and herbs.

- The project will commit dedicated financial and technical support to addressing the significant knowledge constraints in pasture users from women-headed households.
- The project will provide support to women-headed households in negotiating and securing longer-term (up to 10-year) resource use (to forest-derived natural resources) and land lease rights (to forests and pastures) from the Directorate of Forestry on forest fund land.
- The project will ensure that the *Programme and Action Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation* includes strategies, activities and budgets that will enable and finance the equitable involvement of women in the implementation of the action plan.
- The project will advocate for an increase in the number of women involved in the collection of baseline environmental data and in the research and monitoring of snow leopard and prey populations.
- Wherever possible, the project will seek to procure professional, technical and management services from suitably qualified and experienced female national consultants and women-owned businesses.
- The project will collaborate with the project-contracted businesses and international experts to continually develop and implement mechanisms which may further strengthen the capacities of local women and women-headed households across the project planning domain.

The project has targeted the involvement of at least 900 women (of a total of 1,500) in, and the direct beneficiation of at least 410 women (of a total of 700) from, project activities.

A 5. Risk. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental future risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation:

Project risks and risk mitigation measures have been significantly improved. The revised risks and risk mitigation measures are described in the table below:

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND CATEGORY	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	RISK ASSESSMENT	MITIGATION MEASURES
The state institutions directly responsible for the administration of protected areas, pastures and forests do not have adequate capacity to plan, administer and enforce sustainable natural resource use in the snow leopard landscapes.	HIGH	MODERATELY LIKELY	MEDIUM	As a signatory to the 'Bishkek Declaration on the conservation of the Snow Leopard' (October, 2013), the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU) has resolved to 'commit resources for (the) implementation' (of the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program). It has further committed to act to 'protect and recover snow leopard populations and their fragile habitats'. This project has thus been developed to provide practical assistance to the GoU in meeting the commitments represented in these (and other regional and global ⁷) resolutions and commitments. The project will seek to significantly strengthen and expand the current capabilities of the key institutions ⁸ that are directly responsible for the planning and management of protected areas, natural habitats, pastures and forests across the snow leopard landscapes in Uzbekistan. More specifically, it will

⁷ Such as the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

⁸ This includes: departments, research centres, forestry business units and protected areas under the Directorate of Forestry; departments, institutes and protected areas under the SCNP; research centres and institutes under the Academy of Sciences; Border Security Service; Tashkent Regional Administration; and other *khokimiats*.

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND CATEGORY	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	RISK ASSESSMENT	MITIGATION MEASURES
				<p>assist in building a professional corps of well-trained and properly equipped management, monitoring, enforcement, community liaison and pastoral extension services staff in the targeted protected area, <i>forest business units</i>, border security services, regional and local government institutions and self-governing community organisations.</p> <p>The PIU and SCNP 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.</p> <p>The project will also support the implementation of income-generating opportunities (e.g. income from pasture tax, recreational and tourism services and facilities, income from fines, fund-raising, etc.) to further augment the current budgets of the responsible institutions.</p>
<p>Low levels of compliance with environmental legislation, and a reluctance to adopt more sustainable natural resource use practices, by communities leads to the further degradation of, and loss of productivity in, snow leopard and prey habitats.</p>	HIGH	MODERATELY LIKELY	MEDIUM	<p>The project has adopted a three-pronged approach to addressing this risk.</p> <p>In the <u>first</u> instance, while the widespread culture of impunity from environmental prosecution will not be fully reversed, the project will seek to improve the monitoring and enforcement capabilities across the snow leopard landscapes. The project will specifically: pilot the implementation of a smart patrol system in the core conservation areas of Ugam-Chatkal NP and Gissar SNR (Output 2.1 and 2.2); strengthen the monitoring and enforcement capacities (knowledge, training, skills, equipment and staff) in the forestry business units and <i>khokimiats</i> (Output 3.1 and 3.2); pilot the training, equipping and deployment of a corps of local environmental inspectors (Output 2.3); and build the capacity of border and customs officials to improve the detection of illegal wildlife trade (Output 3.2).</p> <p>In the <u>second</u> instance, the project will seek to incentivise an incremental shift to more sustainable land use (focused on grazing and forest use) practices. The project will specifically: facilitate the economic beneficiation (employment, contractual work, provision of services, income from hunting concessions, etc.) of communities living in the snow leopard landscapes in return for a reduction in illegal activities in the protected areas (Output 2.3); help village governments to plan, source funding for and implement alternative livelihoods (Output 2.3, 3.1 and 3.2); provide technical and financial grant support to pastoralists in return for a shift to more sustainable pasture management practices (Output 3.1); and provide small grants to assist rural communities and local governments to install alternative fuel and energy technologies in return for a reduction in</p>

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND CATEGORY	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	RISK ASSESSMENT	MITIGATION MEASURES
				<p>harvesting of wood for fuel and energy needs from forests (Output 3.2).</p> <p>In the <u>third</u> instance, the project will seek to improve the awareness of rural communities living in the snow leopard range of the importance of conserving snow leopard, their prey and their habitats. The project will specifically: develop and implement an education and awareness programme around the protected areas (Output 2.3); strengthen the knowledge and awareness of sustainable pasture management in the PUAs (Output 3.1); strengthen the knowledge and awareness of sustainable forest management in local villages (Output 3.2); and conduct an ecosystem services and economic valuation of snow leopard and their mountain ecosystems (Output 1.1).</p>
<p>Low levels of coordination and cooperation between public institutions, tenure holders, rights holders, land owners, NGOs/CBOs and natural resources users leads to conflicts over any changes in use rights in SPNAs and high altitude pastures and forests</p>	MODERATE	MODERATELY LIKELY	MEDIUM	<p>The project is building on almost a decade of cooperation with communities and local and regional authorities in the implementation of biodiversity conservation initiatives under the framework of a UNDP-GEF-SCNP partnership. This work suggests that a high level of engagement and 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 protected areas, <i>forest business units</i>, <i>khokimiats</i> and self-governing community organisations in ensuring the effective involvement of all affected stakeholders in the implementation of project activities.</p> <p>The project will specifically work through (and assist in establishing, where these have not yet been constituted) the coordinating structures of Park Management Committees and Pasture User Associations (PUAs) 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.</p> <p>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 practises.</p> <p>The project will further facilitate the establishment and maintenance of a cooperative governance structure to coordinate, monitor and report on the efforts of the different partner institutions, organizations and individuals in the implementation of the <i>Programme and Action Plan for the Conservation of Snow Leopard in Uzbekistan</i>. A full stakeholder participation plan will be prepared as the project is further developed.</p>

IDENTIFIED RISKS AND CATEGORY	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	RISK ASSESSMENT	MITIGATION MEASURES
The increasing aridisation of high altitude habitats, as a result of the effects of climate change, results in more intensive and extensive grazing pressures on high altitude pastures, potentially leading to the local extirpation of snow leopard and medium-sized prey.	MODERATE	UNLIKELY	LOW	<p>The effects of climate change are likely to exacerbate the effects of the existing threats to snow leopard, their prey and their habitats. They are however not likely (under current climate change scenarios) to result in the emergence of new, potentially catastrophic threats. The project has thus been developed to improve the capacity of the country to proactively and more effectively address the current matrix of threats in anticipation of a future increase in the extent and intensity of these threats as a result of changing climate.</p> <p>Snow leopards and their prey also have large home ranges and should – assuming safe access to available habitats - be able to move in response to the projected effects and impacts of climate-change. The project has thus adopted a landscape-scale approach, with a strong emphasis on maintaining viable and secure movement corridors between formal protected areas both within the snow leopard landscapes of Uzbekistan and into adjacent protected areas in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. More specifically, the project will support the establishment and maintenance of trans-boundary working groups to improve the conservation security of snow leopard and prey migration corridors between the countries (Output 4.2).</p> <p>The project will also support the finalisation of the <i>Programme and Action Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation in Uzbekistan</i> (Output 4.1). An integral part of the action plan will be the development of strategies and approaches to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change on snow leopard conservation.</p> <p>The project will further support the involvement of managers, scientists, researchers and academics in more rigorously monitoring the effects of climate change on snow leopard and prey and collaborating in regional initiatives to develop strategies to mitigate and manage these effects (Output 4.2).</p>

A 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination.

(i) Implementation arrangements:

The project will be implemented over a period of five years.

The project will be nationally implemented (NIM) by the State Committee on Nature Protection (SCNP) in line with Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), signed by the parties on 10 June 1993.

Following the programming guidelines for national implementation of UNDP supported projects, the SCNP will sign the Project Document with UNDP and will be accountable to UNDP for the disbursement of funds and the achievement of the project objective and outcomes, according to the approved work plan.

The UNDP will monitor the implementation of the project, review progress in the realization of the project outputs, and ensure the proper use of UNDP/GEF funds. Working in close cooperation with the SCNP, the UNDP Country Office (CO) will provide support services to the project - including procurement, contracting of service providers, human resources management, administration of project grant funding, and financial services - in accordance with a Letter of Agreement (LOA) for the provision of support services concluded between the SCNP and the UNDP. The UNDP CO will also ensure conformance with UNDP Programme and Operational Policies and Procedures and UNDP Results-Based Management (RBM) guidelines.

The SCNP as the Implementing Partner (IP), will be responsible for the following functions: (i) coordinating activities to ensure the delivery of agreed outcomes; (ii) certifying expenditures in line with approved budgets and work-plans; (iii) facilitating, monitoring and reporting on the procurement of inputs and delivery of outputs; (iv) coordinating interventions financed by GEF/UNDP with other parallel interventions; (v) approval of tender documents for sub-contracted inputs; (vi) reporting to UNDP on project delivery and impact; (vii) certifying the AWP; and (viii) carrying out the selection and recruitment process. It will also be directly responsible for creating the enabling conditions for implementation of all project activities. The SCNP will work in close cooperation with the Directorate of Forestry and will coordinate all project activities at the local level, in close collaboration with the local government authorities in each of the targeted snow leopard landscapes.

The SCNP will designate a senior staff member to act as a National Project Coordinator (NPC). The NPC will provide the strategic oversight and guidance to project implementation and will chair the meetings of the Project Steering Committee .

The day-to-day administration of the project will be carried out by a full-time Project Manager (PM), with the administrative support of a Project Financial Assistant (PFA). Field-based technical support and oversight will be provided by 3 Field Coordinators (FC), one for knowledge management (components 1 and 4), one for protected areas (component 2) and one for pastures and forests (component 3). The development and implementation of the small grants programmes under the project (Outputs 3.1 and 3.2) will be administered by a Project Grants Manager (PGM).

Collectively the PM, PFA, 3 FCs, and PGM will comprise the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The PIU staff will be allocated office space in the premises of the State Biological Control Service in Tashkent. A project driver will be recruited to transport the PIU staff, as required.

The PM has the authority to administer the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the SCNP and UNDP, within the constraints laid down by the Project Steering Committee. The PM's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The PM will liaise and work closely with all partner institutions to link the project with complementary national programs and initiatives. The PM is accountable to the NPD and UNDP for the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of the activities carried out, as well as for the use of funds. The PFA, FCs, PGM and a project driver will report to the PM and will provide professional, technical and administrative support to the PM, as required. The terms of reference for the PM, PFA, FCs and PGM are detailed in Section IV, Part I.

An international Technical Adviser (TA) will provide overall professional and technical backstopping to the Project. He/She will render professional and technical support to the PIU, SCNP, and other government counterparts. The TA will support the provision of the required professional and technical inputs, reviewing and preparing Terms of Reference (TORs) and reviewing the outputs of service providers, experts and other sub-contractors. He/She will report directly to the NPC and PM.

The PIU will be technically supported by contracted teams of national experts, international NGO's, international consultants and companies. The recruitment of specialist support services and procurement of any equipment and

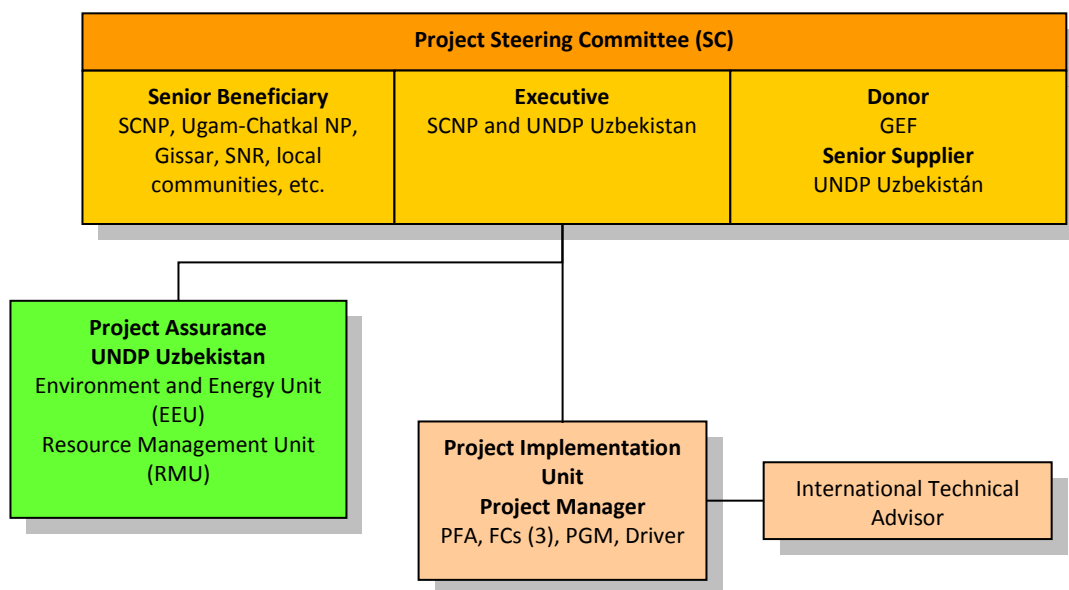
materials for the project will be done by the PM, in consultation with the PC, and in accordance with relevant recruitment and procurement rules and procedures. The terms of reference of the key individual national and international experts and consultants to be contracted by the project are detailed in Section IV, Part I.

The SCNP, the Directorate of Forestry and the Academy of Sciences may also, in accordance with the AWP, directly implement some project activities, under the supervision of the PM and NPC.

A project Steering Committee (SC) will be constituted to serve as the executive decision making body for the project. While the final composition of the SC will be determined at the Project Inception Workshop (see Section I, Part IV), it may include representation from the SCNP, UNDP, Directorate of Forestry, State Security Services, Academy of Sciences, affected regional administrative authorities, NGOs and pasture user associations. The SC will ensure that the project remains on course to deliver the desired outcomes of the required quality. The SC will meet at least twice per annum (more often where required). The SC provides overall guidance and policy direction to the implementation of the project, and provides advice on appropriate strategies for project sustainability. The SC will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluation by quality assuring the project processes and products. It will arbitrate on any conflicts within the project, or negotiate a solution to any problems with external bodies. It will also approve the appointment and responsibilities of the Project Manager and any delegation of its project assurance responsibilities.

The PM will produce an Annual Work Plan (AWP) to be approved by the SC at the beginning of each year. These plans will provide the basis for allocating resources to planned project activities. Once the SC approves the AWP, it will be signed by SCNP and UNDP and sent to the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) at the GEF Regional Service Centre (RSC) in Istanbul for clearance. Once the AWP is cleared by the RSC, it will be sent to the UNDP/GEF Unit in New York for final approval and release of the funding. The PM will further produce quarterly operational reports, Annual Progress Reports (APR) and the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report for review by the SC, or any other reports at the request of the SC. These reports will summarize the progress made by the project versus the expected results, explain any significant variances, detail the necessary adjustments and be the main reporting mechanism for monitoring project activities.

The management arrangements are summarized as follows:



(ii) Coordination

This project is complementary to the regional (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) UNDP-GEF medium-sized project *Transboundary Cooperation for Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation*. The

implementation phase of the regional project (2015-2018) will overlap with the implementation phase of this project (2016-2020). This project will thus seek to adopt and operationalise, at the national level, the relevant tools and guidelines that will be developed under the regional project. The GSLEP Focal Point for Uzbekistan will be represented on the Project Board of both the regional project and this projects Steering Committee (SC) committee in order to strengthen the strategic linkages between the projects. The Project Manager of this project will also maintain a close working relationship with the Project Technical Committee (PTC) of the regional project in order to enhance the operational linkages between the projects. The implementation of Component 3 (Outputs 3.1 and 3.2) of this project will, in particular, benefit significantly from the effective coordination of efforts, and sharing of knowledge between the projects.

This project is a logical extension of the recently completed UNDP-GEF medium-sized project, *Strengthening Sustainability of the National Protected Area System by Focusing on Strictly Protected Areas*. UNDP-GEF. Lessons learnt from the piloting of new management approaches in Surkhan Strict Nature Reserve under the earlier GEF project will guide the implementation of work under this project, particularly in the protected areas and their buffer zones within the snow leopard landscapes. The Master Plan for Protected Areas that was developed in that GEF project also provides the policy and strategic planning framework for this project's support to Gissar and Chatkal SNRs and Chatkal NP. Further, much of the expertise and skills developed under the earlier GEF project have been retained, and will be recruited (both in a project management and expert support role) to direct the implementation of this project and ensure continuity and consistency between the projects.

The project will meet on a regular basis with international development agencies (including the FAO, GIZ and/or Asian Development Bank) that are either funding or implementing complementary sustainable forest and pasture management initiatives in Uzbekistan, in order to identify and develop opportunities for ongoing collaboration. A particular focus of discussions will be on harmonising the financial and technical support provided to rural communities in: implementing more sustainable pasture management practices; improving the management and sustainable use of forests; developing alternative income-generating opportunities; and adopting more environmentally-friendly fuel and energy technologies. The project will specifically seek to build on the substantial foundational work already being undertaken by these development agencies in setting up and maintaining participatory forest management committees, community-based conservancies and Pasture User Associations across the region.

The Project Grants Manager (PGM) in the PIU will work closely with the National Coordinator of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Uzbekistan (total of \$1,095,048 for the period 2008-2018) to ensure that grant support to the targeted rural pasture and forest users under this project complements and supports the investments made by the SGP (e.g. the introduction of Biogas technology, planting of pistachios and introduction of solar greenhouses).

The project will seek to develop collaborative agreements with key NGO partners (notably Panthera) and international research institutions to support the implementation of selected project activities (e.g. snow leopard and prey surveys and monitoring, specialised training, public awareness-raising, forest and grassland restoration planning, smart patrol system development, etc.). The project will, within the framework of these collaborative agreement/s, then assist in reimbursing the costs of NGOs and research/academic institutions in the direct implementation of activities that fall directly within the ambit of the project outputs.

The project may, if considered feasible by the Government of Uzbekistan, support the establishment and administration of the National Environment Security Task Force (NEST), as envisaged by the *Regional Enforcement Strategy to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in Central Asia*. If established, this NEST will then nationally address and combat wildlife crime through a more coordinated, collaborative and strategic response. The PIU may also, during the project implementation phase, later facilitate linkages with the envisioned regional Snow Leopard and Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLAWEN) once it has been established.

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A 7. Benefits. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. Do any of these benefits support the achievement of global environment benefits (for GEF Trust Fund)?

Socio-economic benefits will be enhanced in the project by improving the living conditions of rural communities. This will be achieved through the implementation of fiscal (and other incentives) that will seek to encourage an incremental shift to more sustainable land use (focused on grazing and forest use) practices. The project will specifically: (i) facilitate the economic beneficiation (from direct employment, contractual work, provision of services, income from hunting concessions, etc.) of communities living around targeted PAs in return for a reduction in illegal activities in the PAs; (ii) help rural communities to plan, source funding for and implement alternative livelihoods; (iii) provide technical and financial grant support to pastoralists in return for a shift to more sustainable pasture management practices; and (iv) provide small grants to assist rural communities and local governments to establish woodlots, plant fruit and nut orchards and install alternative fuel and energy technologies in return for a reduction in harvesting of wood for fuel and energy needs from forests. The project will primarily work through (and assist in establishing, where these have not yet been constituted) local governance structures - including Park Management Committees and Pasture User Associations - as means of improving 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 support the identification and implementation of viable income-generating opportunities (e.g. income from hunting fees, income from pasture tax, specialist tourism services, income from fines, alternative livelihoods, etc.) to further augment the current budgets of the responsible institutions.

A 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.

Each project output will include the documentation of lessons learnt 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 snow leopard conservation and more consistent adoption of best practice. The project will also host and maintain a website, and produce and distribute quarterly newsletters to stakeholders, in order to further facilitate the dissemination of this information.

B. Description of the consistency of the project with:

B 1. Consistency with National Priorities.

The project addresses some of the priorities identified in the *National Action Program to Combat Desertification* (NAPCD, 2002), including: improvement of integrated land use planning; restoration of degraded pastures and forests; and development of economic mechanisms for ensuring more sustainable use of natural resources.

The project will support the implementation the *National Environmental Action Plan* (EAP, 2013-2017), notably in respect of two thematic areas: (i) ‘improving the ecological condition of flora’ (improved forest and grassland management capacities, restoration of degraded grasslands and forests and reforestation); and (ii) ‘improving the ecological condition of fauna’ (improving the habitats of migratory species, inventory of rare and threatened fauna; strengthening the protection of migratory wildlife).

The project will also contribute to implementing the priority activities identified in the *State Program on Development of Forestry in the Republic of Uzbekistan* (2015-2018), notably the suite of activities linked to the conservation of existing forests, development of the forestry sector and regularization of state forest fund lands - including pastures – in support of rural development.

The spatial priorities for the rationalisation and expansion of protected areas in the project are fully consistent with those in the *Programme on creation and expansion of the network of protected areas in the Republic of Uzbekistan* (2015), including: the upper reaches of Pskem river; the wildlife corridor connecting the two sections of Chatkal SNR; Akbulak; and the upper reaches of the Tupulang river

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

The project will be monitored through the following Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities.

Project start-up:

A Project Inception Workshop will be held within the first 4 months of project start with those with assigned roles in the project organization structure, the UNDP Country Office (CO) and, where appropriate/ feasible, regional technical policy and programme advisors as well as other stakeholders. The Inception Workshop is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan.

The Inception Workshop should address a number of key issues including:

- a) Assist all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project. Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP CO, SCNP and the UNDP-GEF Regional Service Centre (RSC) vis-à-vis the project team. Discuss the roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff will be discussed again, as needed.
- b) Based on the Project Results Framework and the relevant GEF Tracking Tool, if appropriate, finalize the first Annual Work Plan (AWP). Review and agree on the indicators, targets and their means of verification, and re-check assumptions and risks.
- c) Provide a detailed overview of reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) work plan and budget should be agreed and scheduled.
- d) Discuss financial reporting procedures and obligations, and arrangements for annual audit.
- e) Plan and schedule project Steering Committee (SC) meetings.

Roles and responsibilities of all project organization structures should be clarified and meetings planned. The first SC meeting should be held within the first 6 months following the inception workshop.

An Inception Workshop report is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Quarterly:

Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.

Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high.

Based on the information recorded in ATLAS, a Project Progress Report (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.

Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc. The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

Annually:

Annual Project Review/Project Implementation Reports (APR/PIR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period. The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements.

The APR/PIR includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual)
- Lesson learned/good practice
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR)
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF focal area tracking tools) are used by most focal areas on an annual basis as well.

Periodic Monitoring through site visits:

UNDP CO and the UNDP-GEF RSC will conduct visits to project sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Other members of the Steering Committee may also join these visits. A Field Visit Report/BTOR will be prepared by the UNDP CO and UNDP-GEF RSC and will be circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team and Steering Committee members.

Mid-term of project cycle:

The project will undergo an independent Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) at the mid-point of project implementation. The MTE will determine progress being made toward the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the MTE will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this MTE will be prepared by the UNDP CO, based on guidance from the UNDP-GEF RSC. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre (ERC).

The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed during the mid-term evaluation cycle.

End of Project:

An independent Final Evaluation will take place three months prior to the final Steering Committee meeting and will be undertaken in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance. The final evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project's results as initially planned (and as corrected after the MTE, if any such correction took place). The final evaluation will look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental benefits/goals. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP CO, based on guidance from the UNDP-GEF RSC.

The final evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response which should be uploaded to PIMS and to the UNDP ERC.

The relevant GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools will also be completed during the final evaluation.

During the last three months, the project team will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize the results achieved (objectives, outcomes, outputs), lessons learned, problems met and areas where results may not have been achieved. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's results.

Learning and knowledge sharing:

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 though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects.

Finally, there will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

Communications and visibility requirements

Full compliance is required with UNDP's Branding Guidelines. These can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>, and specific guidelines on UNDP logo use can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/branding/useOfLogo.html>. Amongst other things, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP logo needs to be used, as well as how the logos of donors to UNDP projects needs to be used. For the avoidance of any doubt, when logo use is required, the UNDP logo needs to be used alongside the GEF logo. The GEF logo can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo. The UNDP logo can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>.

Full compliance is required with the GEF's Communication and Visibility Guidelines (the "GEF Guidelines"). The GEF Guidelines can be accessed at: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf. Amongst other things, the GEF Guidelines describe when and how the GEF logo needs to be used in project publications, vehicles, supplies and other project equipment. The GEF Guidelines also describe other GEF promotional requirements regarding press releases, press conferences, press visits, visits by Government officials, productions and other promotional items.

M&E work plan and budget


Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM UNDP CO UNDP-GEF RSC 	Indicative cost: 12,000	Within first four months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	PM will, with support from the UNDP-GEF RSC, oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members.	To be finalized in Inception Phase and Workshop.	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on <i>output and implementation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM 	Household surveys (inception, mid-term, final). Indicative cost: \$5,000 per survey. Any additional surveys required will be determined as part of the preparation of the AWP.	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM UNDP CO UNDP RTA UNDP ERC 	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM 	None	Quarterly

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ <i>Excluding project team staff time</i>	Time frame
Mid-term Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM UNDP CO UNDP RSC External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team) 	Indicative cost: 45,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Final Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM UNDP CO UNDP RSC External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team) 	Indicative cost: 45,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Project Terminal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM UNDP CO local consultant 	0	At least three months before the end of the project
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP CO Project manager and team 	Indicative cost: 2,000/annum (paid from UNDP TRAC funding)	Yearly
Visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP CO UNDP RSC (as appropriate) Government representatives 	0	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST <i>Excluding project staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses</i>		US\$ 127,000	

Note: Costs included in this table are part and parcel of the UNDP Total Budget and Work Plan (TBWP) in the PRODOC, and not additional to it.

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁹ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Executive Coordinator, UNDP - GEF		8/2/2016	Maxim Vergeichik, Regional Technical Advisor, EBD, UNDP	+42-190-563-3046	maxim.vergeichik@undp.org

⁹ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

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

The *Strategic Results Framework* is found in SECTION II of the UNDP PRODOC (pages 80-89).

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

Comments (summary of main issues and key quotes from review sheets)	Responses	Changes made in full project
Scientific and Technical Screening of the PIF (STAP)		
1. Project objective <i>The project objective could be made more concise and clear</i>	Agreed.	The project objective has been changed as follows: <i>'To enhance the conservation, and sustainable use, of natural resources in the biodiverse high altitude mountain ecosystems of Uzbekistan'</i>
2. Over-ambitious targets and time-frames <i>... the primary concern (is whether the project logic) is realistic. ... The PPG should assess the capacity (of the responsible institutions) to undertake this work ...</i>	Agreed. This issue was critically addressed during the project preparation phase. Stakeholder institutions were requested to scale down the scope of the project outputs and activities to better align with the limited time frame for implementation, the low capacities of the implementing agencies, and the constraints of the project budget.	SECTION I, PART II <i>Strategy</i> (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC reflects the significant changes made to the scope and scale of project outputs and activities. The <i>Strategic Results Framework</i> in SECTION II of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated to reflect the revised baselines and targets.
3. Accompanying maps <i>The text would be strengthened by including (maps) of the areas mentioned.</i>	Agreed. Maps were prepared by the national experts during the project preparation phase.	SECTION I, PART I <i>Situation analysis</i> and SECTION I, PART II <i>Strategy</i> now include contextual maps of the mountain ecosystems, the snow leopard distribution area and the individual snow leopard landscapes in Uzbekistan (including the location of administrative boundaries, villages, pastures and protected areas).
4. Evidence base for statements <i>Some statements in the PIF should ... be cited or the evidence base provided. A small number of</i>	Agreed. During the project preparation phase, national experts (covering protected areas, wildlife management, pasture management, forest management, land use planning	Key expert reports (in Russian) have been appended to SECTION IV, PART VI

Comments (summary of main issues and key quotes from review sheets)	Responses	Changes made in full project
<i>words seem wrong or need explanation ...</i>	<p>and economic incentives) prepared specialist reports that summarise all the known (documented or evidence-based) institutional, legal, environmental and socio-economic information for the snow leopard landscapes. Statements in the UNDP PRODOC and GEF CEO ER now have direct reference to cited material and/or to existing datasets. Invariably some of the statements initially made in the PIF have been revised accordingly.</p> <p>Many of the words that ‘seem wrong’ or ‘need explanation’ are idiosyncratic to the region or the country (many of Russian origin, with no equivalent English word) or are a direct English translation from the original Russian term.</p>	<p><i>Technical reports and information</i> of the UNDP PRODOC.</p> <p>Statements contained in the UNDP PRODOC have been aligned with the information contained in the expert reports. Any non-standard terminology used in the PRODOC is preceded by a brief explanation (often in the footnotes).</p>
<p>5. Addressing root causes of threats to biodiversity</p> <p><i>Reading between the lines, this suggests that the root cause of many of these problems are weak institutions of property rights, community property rights, land use planning and regulation, and extension services. The PPG must address these underlying institutional causes of degradation ...</i></p>	<p>While weak institutions (particularly in respect of a commitment to enforce legislation and regulations) undoubtedly contribute significantly to the countries inability to address the ongoing environmental degradation of these mountain ecosystems and their native wildlife, this is arguably not the only root cause of ‘many of these problems’.</p> <p>There are other deeper social, political and economic issues facing the country. These include: an increasing demand for agricultural and timber products; endemic poverty; weak governance; marginalization of rural communities and women; insecure land tenure; and low levels of social consciousness to sustainably manage natural resource use.</p> <p>Many of the communities living in the mountainous areas are amongst the poorest in Uzbekistan. High rates of poverty within these communities mean that there is a high dependency on natural resources to meet food, fuel and shelter requirements. It is suggested that these factors are also collectively making a significant contribution to increasing the rates of overgrazing, deforestation, irreversible biodiversity loss and deeper poverty for rural communities.</p> <p>The project has thus been designed – as far as is realistically achievable – to address many of the underlying root causes, including (but not limited to) building and strengthening institutional capacities of the key responsible state agencies.</p>	<p>SECTION I, PART II <i>Strategy</i> (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC reflects the significant changes made to the scope and scale of project outputs and activities.</p>
<p>6. Description of global biodiversity, and development of indicators</p> <p><i>The PIF lists sufficient global biodiversity to justify the project, but the PPG should describe this in a more organised way and should develop the biodiversity (financial and socio-economic) indicators for (Component 2).</i></p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>SECTION I, PART I <i>Situation analysis</i> more fully describes the biodiversity significance and conservation status of the ecosystems, habitats and species in the western Tian-Shan and Pamir Alai mountains in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>The biodiversity, financial and socio-economic indicators have been substantively improved in</p>

Comments (summary of main issues and key quotes from review sheets)	Responses	Changes made in full project
		SECTION II <i>Strategic Results Framework</i> of the UNDP PRODOC.
<p>7. Forestry plan and inventory <i>The baseline scenario discusses a national forestry plan ..., including an inventory of forests and revisions to the financial, institutional and policy instruments for SFM. ... what is the status of this plan. Is the inventory available ...? To what extent were local communities consulted ...?</i></p>	<p>The <i>State Program on Development of Forestry in the Republic of Uzbekistan</i> (2015-2018) has been approved. The different elements of the state program are comprehensively described in the expert report on forestry, appended to the UNDP PRODOC. The level of consultation with local communities in the development of state programs is however somewhat utilitarian at best, typically focused on a top-down approach.</p> <p>There are no substantive revisions to the existing financial, institutional and policy instruments for SFM.</p> <p>The <i>Integrated Forest Land and Tree Resources Assessment</i> funded by the FAO (US\$ 430,000) has not yet been completed, and will form part of the baseline for the project implementation phase.</p> <p>All the enabling forestry legislation, policies, norms, standards and donor-funded projects have been integrated into, and/or are closely aligned with, the project outputs and activities (notably under Output 3.2).</p> <p>This project is spatially focused on the forests located in the mountainous regions of the country (less than 20% of the country), and does not attempt to reform national forestry legislation, policies and state programs. While there may be a strong motivation to reform forestry planning and management in Uzbekistan, this however falls outside the ambit of this project.</p>	SECTION I, PART I <i>Situation analysis</i> more fully describes the institutional, policy and planning context for forest management in Uzbekistan.
<p>8. Integrated Land Use and Forestry Planning <i>The ... PPG ... needs more clarity on exactly how land use planning will be done and enforced. What methods will be used (for data collection and analysis)? Do local partners have the capacity to gather, process and utilise this information.</i></p>	<p>Extensive consultations undertaken during the PPG phase indicated that there is currently limited political and institutional support, and no enabling policy and legislative environment, for the ‘integrated land use and forestry planning’ activities that were originally envisaged in the PIF. All land use planning undertaken in Uzbekistan is sectorally based, with most of the sectoral plans drawing from information contained in the central state cadastre database.</p> <p>Component 1 now rather focuses on improving the state of knowledge of the mountain ecosystems, and then integrating this information into the state cadastre for use in the preparation of the different sectoral land use plans, including local forest (<i>leskhoz</i>) and pasture (PUA) management plans. The project will also support the establishment of a national Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) to host, maintain and disseminate all environmental data for the country, including the information developed by this project.</p> <p>The Academy of Sciences has the requisite capacity to gather and process the information, and have been extensively consulted on the most cost-effective data collection methodologies and technologies for analysis of the environmental and socio-economic data. Where required, the project will also contract international expertise to supplement and complement this national capacity as needed.</p>	SECTION I, PART II <i>Strategy</i> (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated to reflect the changes to Component 1.

Comments (summary of main issues and key quotes from review sheets)	Responses	Changes made in full project
9. Making the case for PAs <i>Should the PPG not consider making the case for PAs ...?</i>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Component 2 has been revised to include a third output ‘Enhance community involvement in, and beneficiation from, protected areas’. This output focuses on: (i) raising the awareness in rural communities living in the snow leopard landscapes of the intrinsic value of the high altitude mountain ecosystems, habitats, flora and wildlife; and (ii) developing opportunities that would enable these rural communities to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the protected areas.</p>	<p>SECTION I, PART II <i>Strategy</i> (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated to reflect the changes to Component 2.</p>
10. Local level institutions for managing common pastures <i>The PPG should draw on theory ... in the design of local level institutions for managing (pastures), and perhaps in the design of local level organisations/constitutions to manage these rules. Further details about (pasture management plans) will help strengthen the interventions and project rationale ...</i>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Output 3.1 has been strategically re-focused and now includes: (i) piloting the establishment and administration of multi-stakeholder pasture user associations (PUAs) in the snow leopard landscapes; (ii) developing pasture management plans for these PUAs; (iii) supporting the implementation of these pasture management plans; (iv) incentivising the adoption of more sustainable pasture management practices by the PUA members; (v) encouraging a shift by pastoralists to alternative income-generating opportunities; and (vi) rehabilitating and restoring the ecological functioning of heavily degraded grasslands.</p> <p>This will however require including project support to the drafting of the new Law on Pastures, to ensure that the PUAs have a legislative basis for their constitution and administration.</p>	<p>SECTION I, PART II <i>Strategy</i> (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated to reflect the changes to Component 3.</p>
11. The role of fire in maintaining grasslands <i>Will this project consider the role of disturbance (e.g. fire and grazing) and its role in maintaining species in (steppe grasslands) ...?</i>	<p>Yes it will, particularly in respect of judiciously using fire (and other natural disturbance regimes) as an integral part of improving the productivity of highly degraded pastures.</p>	
12. Other general comments 12.1 ... <i>why waste resources on sniffer dogs?</i> 12.2 <i>CBNRM is welcomed, but should this not be targeted (in components 2 and 3)?</i> 12.3 <i>Will there also be a plan for protecting prey as a strategy to protect snow leopards</i>	<p>12.1 Agreed – this has been removed</p> <p>12.2 Agreed – CBNRM-type activities are now all subsumed under components 2 and 3</p> <p>12.3 Yes, the entire project strategy (and associated activities) is premised on the inter-dependent relationship between snow leopards, their prey and the integrity of the habitats of snow leopard and prey.</p>	<p>SECTION I, PART II <i>Strategy</i> (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC has been updated to reflect the changes to the Components.</p>
GEF Council Comments		
<p>The proposal for Uzbekistan’s sustainable environment for snow leopard habitat is related to the one from the Kyrgyz Republic – and they both seem to address part of the same geographic area.</p> <p>1. Is there a reason why these projects were submitted as two separate concepts rather than as a single regional</p>	<p>While the protected areas targeted by the projects in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan do not have common borders they are part of the single Pamir – Tian Shan mountain landscape, which hosts similar biodiversity (including the Snow Leopard which is the flagship species covered by both projects).</p> <p>The need for two separate but coordinated projects was driven by differences in the country contexts – the local land use and forest management systems, protected area management, while similar yet have specific characteristics which make require</p>	<p>Outcome 4, relevant Outputs mention cooperation with Kyrgyzstan activities.</p>

Comments (summary of main issues and key quotes from review sheets)	Responses	Changes made in full project
<p>proposal?</p> <p>2. How will the UNDP work with Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic so that the two proposed projects may enhance or build on one another during implementation?</p>	<p>country approach more ground-rooted and more effective in getting conservation results on the ground and ensuring national ownership by local communities and Government authorities.</p> <p>At the same time, each country project has a component on regional coordination and cross-country cooperation, which will ensure synchrony and cohesiveness of the activities across the project.</p> <p>Specifically, Output 4.1 of this project will focus on strengthening the capacities (knowledge, training, networking, skills) of the responsible government agencies (e.g. MDF, <i>Goskompriroda</i>, Academy of Sciences, border security) to collaborate with counterparts in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. This will presuppose establishment of joint working groups - one for the Gissar-Alai and one for the west Tien-Shan trans-boundary snow leopard landscapes - with counterparts in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to facilitate transboundary collaboration in managing migrating snow leopard and prey populations across country border. Additional assistance to the coordination of activities between the countries will come from the Global Medium Size project of UNDP GEF on supporting the Global Snow Leopard Conservation and Ecosystems Program.</p>	

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF (GEF): US\$ 160,000					
GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Project Preparation Activities Implemented (GEF)	GEF Amount (\$)			
		Budgeted amount	Amount spent to date	Amount committed	Balance
Project preparation grant to finalize the UNDP-GEF project document for project “Sustainable natural resource and forest management in key mountainous areas important for globally significant biodiversity”	Component A: Technical review	32,261.16	32,261.16	-	-
	Component B: Institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation	29,202.80	26,887.15	2,315.65	-
	Component C: Financial planning and co-financing investments	19,222.47	16,612.48	2,609.99	-
	Component D: Validation workshop	64,000.61	28,184.88	35,815.73	-
	Component E: Completion of final documentation	15,312.96	6,269.10	9,043.86	-
Total		160,000.00	110,214.77	49,785.23	-

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

NA