

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan
Project Title:	Supporting private sector and community conservation co-management in Baljuvan Key Biodiversity Area, Tajikistan
Grant Number:	CEPF-110796
Hotspot:	Mountains of Central Asia
Strategic Direction:	4 Engage communities of interest and economic sectors, including the private sector, in improved management of production landscapes (i.e. priority sites and corridors that are not formally protected)
Grant Amount:	\$123,550.00
Project Dates:	December 01, 2020 - October 31, 2022
Date of Report:	November 24, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Local Government authority of Baljuvan district – The government of Baljuvan played an important role in the inception of the project by authorising the project and facilitating ANCOT in communications with

local communities. At the later stage of the project the government of Baljuvan was always supportive of the activities conducted in villages during the project life including holding of trainings and wilderness camp.

Representation of the Forest Agency in Baljuvan district - The Forest Agency authorised project activities in Miron concession and took part in one Urial survey.

LLC Oxus Holding – Being one of the main partners and the owner of Miron concession where main project activities took place, Oxus Holding played vital role during the project implementation. Besides authorising ANCOT to implement the project in its territory Oxus Holding management facilitated in such activities as wildlife guards' trainings, urial surveys, beekeeping development in nearby communities and in organization of wilderness camps for schoolchildren.

Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan – Three experts from the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan were involved in the project. The urial survey reports and botanical survey report were developed with the assistance and review from the Academy of Sciences.

The Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEPRT) – CEPRT facilitated in better collaboration with other partners and assisted in two urial surveys.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) – WCS supported ANCOT greatly during the life of the project with consultations, guidelines and monitoring.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Urial population increases by 30% and all wild fruit tree areas identified in the area remain stable in extent, with significant re-colonization by saplings of their surroundings within five years of spring 2022 baseline.	Observed trends are aligned with long terms anticipated impact.
At least 40 households in the four villages adjacent to the project area increase their annual incomes by 30% thanks to wild fruit and bee production within 7 years of the end of project baseline.	The beekeeping action has been successfully propagated in all four villages and 42 households who were engaged in the action during the project life have increased their incomes. Some households were less productive in terms of honey sales and yields in the second year of the project. ANCOT will continue the propagation and will further develop the action in the second phase of the project with the intention to achieve more sustainable impact in the future.
As an indication of urial re-colonization process along the Vakhsh mountain range, sighting reports of urial outside the project area in Baljuvan and Dangara districts, are multiplied by four within five years following the end of the project.	Surveys outside the concession were not carried out.

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
By 2022, 24,000 hectares of the Baljuvan KBA are under improved management through the implementation of a management plan by Oxus Holding and sustainable grazing by nearby residents.	A draft of the management plan has been developed, the document requires further review before finalization. This will be carried out during the second phase of the project.
By 2022, threats to urial (<i>Ovis vignei boharensis</i>) and three globally threatened plant species listed as priority species in CEPF Baljuvan profile (two Pear trees and Hawthorn tree) are reduced through better management of the Baljuvan concession, with regular monitoring of at least two of these species.	Considered Achieved. The level of threat (grazing and extraction) has been markedly reduced, the population of urial is stable or increasing as per results of three monitoring surveys, no collection of rare fruit trees has been reported during the project duration.

Impact Description	Impact Summary
(NB: with regard to plant species, we'd need prior study by the botanist to confirm this).	
By 2022, 5 hectares of orchards are established and beekeeping is instituted across four villages, allowing for sustainable livelihoods and future increased income streams.	This activity has been cancelled as social safeguarding precautionary measure.
There is attitude change of local children, and individuals in charge of decision-making toward protection of natural resources (pre- and post-survey)	This change of attitude has been perceived to happen in communities and Oxus Holding. A final survey will be carried out at the end of the second phase of the project to compare with baseline results.
ANCOT's operational and reporting capacities are strengthened, administrative processes are upgraded to international standards, principles of monitoring and evaluation are understood and applied, quality versus quantity approaches are privileged in future projects.	This goal is achieved. With the assistance and guidance of WCS during the project duration ANCOT adopted 5 policy documents, improved and enhanced its reporting capacity and overall administrative capacity thanks to various reporting and administrative template documentations developed and provided by WCS.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Due to better understanding and acceptance of Oxus Holding operations in the territory by surrounding communities, more local people became interested in working in Miron Concession. Oxus Holding management also realized that it is better to employ people living in nearby communities. In 2022 two more local people were employed by Oxus Holding. Establishment of orchards was cancelled due to a possible child labour involvement and beekeeping development was up-scaled instead.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

- The project has delivered 200 beehives and bee colonies in communities close to Miron concession which resulted in additional income for the families of people who received them.
- Through sustainable livelihood action ANCOT has managed to put closer collaboration between Oxus Holding and Local communities.
- The acceptance of Oxus Holding and its activities including the restrictions that are in place are better recognized and adhered by local people.
- The status and state of rare tree species in Miron concession are better studied, and the concession staff is informed of their importance and need for conservation. Conservation measures for the mentioned tree species are incorporated in the management plan of Oxus Holding.
- Wildlife guards of Oxus Holding have received important training and equipment to better perform at work, patrolling, enforcement, wildlife surveying.
- Children in the four villages around Miron concession better understand the importance of healthy ecosystems and the services it provides them with. They are more knowledgeable about their local flora and fauna.
- The populations of urial and ibex in the concession have been better studied. Threats to the urial and ibex have been identified and addressed in the management plan of Miron concession.

- The first draft of the five-year management plan has been developed and is currently under the review by Oxus Holding.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2.0	Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company.	2.1	Report on ranger training, including dates, names and other details of trainees, training agendas and materials, detailed disposition list with handover of equipment, ranger TOR, ranger operations manual, pictures and future recommendations.	Achieved. The report containing information on the trainings and list of participants, dates, and photos is submitted. Ranger ToR, SOP and the detailed disposition list with handover of equipment were also submitted with previous reports.
1.0	Inception Phase	1.1	Annual work plan, administrative documentation, agenda and list of participants to inception meeting / minutes of the meeting.	Achieved. Reported.
2.0	Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company.	2.2	Report on threats to Baljuvan concession and recommendations for conflict resolution.	The major threats to the concession and wildlife are identified and addressed in the management plan.
2.0	Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company.	2.3	Report on urial and ibex monitoring within the Baljuvan concession, including maps.	Achieved. Reported.
2.0	Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company.	2.4	Report on results of camera trapping to document the presence of carnivores.	Camera trap monitoring has been initiated but could not be developed to anticipated scale because of the very low capacity of rangers. The development of this method/tool will be

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				continued during the second phase of the project.
2.0	Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company.	2.5	Report on vegetation cover and priority conservation zones in the Baljuvan concession.	Achieved. Report submitted.
2.0	Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company.	2.6	Monitoring and evaluation plan to be used by ANCOT and Oxus Holdings.	A guideline document for project monitoring developed by WCS is being adopted and followed by ANCOT.
2.0	Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company.	2.7	Five-Year management plan on Baljuvan concession and associated dissemination report (dates of public meetings, participant list by name, organization, sex)	Achieved, management plan development is in progress and will be continued during the second phase of the project.
3.0	Collaborative engagement of a private company with communities for sustainable livelihood and enterprise support.	3.1	Report on beekeeper training, including dates of trainings; names, sex, and appropriate demographic details of trainees; training agendas; training materials provided; pictures; lists of next steps; and written agreements between ANCOT and beekeepers.	Achieved. Reported.
3.0	Collaborative engagement of a private company with communities for sustainable livelihood and enterprise support.	3.2	Report on installation of beekeeping equipment, disposition list detailing handover of equipment, summaries of monitoring over the life of the project,	Achieved. Report and other documents submitted.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			summaries of yields, and recommended next steps.	
3.0	Collaborative engagement of a private company with communities for sustainable livelihood and enterprise support.	3.3	Orchard establishment (DELETED with amendment of October 2021)	Cancelled.
3.0	Collaborative engagement of a private company with communities for sustainable livelihood and enterprise support.	3.4	Fruit trees (DELETED with amendment of October 2021)	Cancelled.
4.0	Action-oriented community education and awareness.	4.1	Report on training to 10 rangers and 20 community members on sustainable ecosystem management, including agenda, training materials, list of participants by name/sex and relevant demographic details.	Partially achieved. 2 trainings with rangers and 1 training with local community members were conducted. The work will be continued during phase two of the project.
4.0	Action-oriented community education and awareness.	4.2	Report on school training program in four schools, including names of schools, curriculum, training materials, demographic details of students, and recommended next steps.	Two trainings were conducted in two schools. It is planned to enhance the training program and continue the work during phase two of the project.
4.0	Action-oriented community education and awareness.	4.3	Report on wilderness camp for 20 children, including curriculum, training materials, demographic	Achieved. Report submitted.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			details of participants, pictures of activities, and pictures of public awareness posters.	
5.0	Stakeholder engagement and UCA capacity	5.1	Report on stakeholder engagement plan	One report is submitted. A detailed report will be submitted during the next reporting period.
5.0	Stakeholder engagement and UCA capacity	5.2	Civil society tracking tool	Updated report submitted.
5.0	Stakeholder engagement and UCA capacity	5.3	Gender tracking tool	Updated report submitted.

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

With the technical support of WCS several administrative documentations were developed for Oxus Holding and ANCOT including SoP and ToR for wildlife guards, Internal policy documents, reporting and project monitoring templates for ANCOT.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1	15 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), covering 600,000 hectares, have improved management	24,000	By 2022, 24,000 hectares of the Baljuvan KBA are under improved management through the implementation of a management plan by Oxus Holding and sustainable grazing by nearby residents.	24,000	

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
5	5 partnerships and networks formed or strengthened among civil society, and with government and communities, to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile	1	Partnership between ANCOT, WCS, Oxus Holdings, Tajik government, communities	1	
6	At least 20 local organizations receiving CEPF grants demonstrate improved organizational capacity	1	ANCOT	1	
1.1	Number of species to which threats are reduced	4	By 2022, threats to urial (<i>Ovis vignei bocharensis</i>) and three globally threatened plant species listed as priority species in CEPF Baljuvan profile (two Pear trees and Hawthorn tree) are reduced through better management of the Baljuvan concession, with r	4	
2.1	Number of hectares of KBA with	24,000	By 2022, 24,000 hectares of the	24,000	

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	improved management		Baljuvan KBA are under improved management through the implementation of a management plan by Oxus Holding and sustainable grazing by nearby residents.		
2.3	Number of KBAs without official protection status with improved management	1	Baljuvan	1	
3.2	Number of local level land use plans that incorporate biodiversity conservation as a management objective	1	Oxus Holdings portion of Baljuvan	1	
4.1	Number of private companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices	1	Oxus Holdings	1	
6.1	Number of local organizations that actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	2	ANCOT, Oxus Holdings	2	
6.2	Number of local civil society organizations receiving grants that	1	ANCOT	1	

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	demonstrate improved organizational capacity				
6.3	Number of local civil society organizations receiving grants that demonstrate improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues	1	ANCOT	1	
4	10 land-use plans or land-use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation	2	Hunting concession area; orchard area	1	Orchard establishment plan was canceled due to prospective negative outcomes.
3	2 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices	1	Oxus	1	
4.3	Number of hectares of forest that fall under certification schemes, eco-labeling programs, or other market-based management methods	0	Placeholder		

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
5.5	Number of KBAs where programs are delivered to primary/secondary learners	1	Baljuvan: 4 school programs, 1 camp	1	We had 3 school programs, not 4 as was expected because there was one school in two villages.

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion
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*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Baljuvan	TAJ21		24,000

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention
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Benefits to Individuals

- Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
60	7	The correct and ecological practice of beekeeping; Preparing bee colonies for winter; Queen bee rearing and bee colony propagation; Training on Responsibilities of wildlife guards in Miron; Good environmental practice in the field and handling of visitors; Caring for, checking and maintaining basic field and camping equipment; Training on sustainable ecosystem management and its importance to humans

- Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
13		Local beekeepers were paid for bee colonies given to new beekeepers.

Benefits to Communities

View the characteristics column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the benefits column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			
Baljuvan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tajikistan	38	4						

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the topics column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

“Other” Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted
Oxus Holding LLC	Develops a management plan to support the survival of urial. Reduces its footprint in the landscape to limit further deterioration, optimizes development of infrastructure to limit impact on key wildlife, funds a team of rangers to deter poachers, control livestock grazing and illegal use of natural recourses, funds in part ecosystem friendly community livelihoods (beekeeping), and supports conservation awareness and education amongst local community and their children.	Tajikistan

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Oxus/Communities/ANC OT collaboration for the sustainable development of Miron concession in Baljuvan	2020	Tajikistan	Yes	A collaboration for the sustainable development and conservation of natural resources in Miron concession in Baljuvan

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
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Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Ovis	vignei	Urial	VU	Protection and monitoring	Increasing
Pyrus	korshinskyi		CR	Protection, monitoring and preparing restoration	Stable
Pyrus	tadshikistanica		CR	Protection, monitoring and restoration	Stable
Malus	sieversii		VU	Protection	Increasing

LESSONS LEARNED

To be reported at the end of phase two of the project

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

To be reported at the end of phase two of the project

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	
Breakdown of Additional Funding	

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

ANCOT, info@tajwildlife.com