

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Organization's Legal Name: | Wildlife Conservation Society HQ |
| Project Title: | Supporting private sector and community conservation co-management in Baljuvan KBA |
| Grant Number: | CEPF-110870 |
| 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: | \$33,486.73 |
| Project Dates: | December 01, 2020 - November 30, 2022 |
| Date of Report: | November 22, 2022 |

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan (ANCOT) (civil society): Main grantee and project lead, main facilitator and implementator of conservation actions in the project area, beneficiary from technical support from WCS.

Oxus Holding (private sector): Main project partner, as land leaser and manager of Miron concession, co-funder of conservation actions (rangers, hosting, transportations) and beneficiary from ANCOT/WCS support for conservation actions.

Communities (4 villages) (civil society): Project partner and co-beneficiary of actions (livelihood enhancement, education, local employment) from conservation actions carried out by Oxus Holding with support from ANCOT/WCS.

Committee for Environmental Protection under the Republic of Tajikistan (CEPRT) (governmental): Participant in wildlife monitoring actions carried out by Oxus Holding/ANCOT, validator of impact on urial/ibex populations.

Forestry Department of Baljuvan (governmental): Legal oversight of the project, will endorse management plan when finalized.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) (INGO): Co-grantee, provided mentorship, technical support and quality control to ANCOT for implementing actions and grow internally.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

| Impact Description | Impact Summary |
|--|--|
| Urial population of Baljuvan increases by 30% and the size of all identified wild fruit tree areas remains constant or expands within five years of spring 2022 baseline. | Observed trends are aligned with long term anticipated impact |
| Travel restriction allowing, sustainable hunting and tourism activities implemented by Oxus Holding support more than 75% of the conservation efforts in Baljuvan KBA by the end of the ongoing leasing agreement (2025). | To be checked with Oxus Holding |
| At least 40 households in the four villages adjacent to the project area increase their annual incomes by 30% thanks to bee and wild fruit production within 7 years (the timeline to full fruit production) of the end of project baseline. | Current increase, only thanks to bee-keeping development, has been estimated at 10-15%, although less than 40 households are concerned. The second phase will aim at up-scaling this activity. |
| 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. |
| The landscape-scale co-management model developed in Baljuvan KBA is propagated in at least two other areas in Tajikistan within five years following the end of the project. | Likely to happen if national authorities adopt the approach and model of management planning developed during the project. ANCOT is currently engaged in the development of a management plan for Tigrovaya Balka Strict Nature Reserve. |
| ANCOT becomes a regionally recognized NGO in sustainable livelihood and local conservancy development for ecosystem and species conservation. | In progress |

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 bocharensis</i>) and three of the globally threatened plant species listed as priority species in CEPF Baljuvan profile are reduced through better management of 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. |
| By 2022, 5 hectares of orchard are established and beekeeping is instituted across four | This activity has been cancelled as social safeguarding precautionary measure. |

| Impact Description | Impact Summary |
|---|--|
| villages, allowing for sustainable livelihoods and future increasing income streams. | |
| There is change in attitude of individuals in charge of decision-making toward protection of natural resources and local children. | 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 organizational capacity is strengthened as per the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (baseline: 47 in September 2020). | ANCOT's CSST scored 59.5 in May 2022 (validated by WCS) |
| ANCOT's organizational capacities and processes are enhanced through ongoing mentoring in project delivery, and at least three policies essential for any organization aspiring to international standards of grant implementation are adopted and implemented. | Achieved (5 policy documents adopted) |

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Development of a concise and simple management plan has triggered interest from CEPRT (Govt) and Institute of Zoology. The final document will be shared with them as an example, with possible development of similar approaches and documents in governmental protected areas.

Development of orchards in communities was cancelled because of the possibility of negative impacts (i.e. child labor and de-schooling), instead bee-keeping activities were up-scaled.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

Development of a draft management plan for the concession inclusive of biodiversity conservation objectives.

Positive engagement of Oxus Holding with communities (livelihood support, children's education), resulting in better understanding and acceptance of communities of business operations.

Improved control, enforcement, and wildlife monitoring capabilities of Oxus Holding over the concession.

Better acceptance by all stakeholders of the role of CSO as facilitating and technical partner.

Urial population and associated habitats better protected.

Results for each deliverable:

| Component | | Deliverable | | |
|------------------|--|--------------------|---|--|
| # | Description | # | Description | Results for Deliverable |
| 1.0 | Inception Phase | 1.1 | Written contributions to ANCOT annual work plan and inception activities (ANCOT Deliverable 1.1). | Achieved |
| 5.0 | Strengthen ANCOT's organizational skills and project's monitoring | 5.1 | Report on strengthening of ANCOT's technical delivery ability, including draft written internal monitoring framework, draft reporting template, evaluation of ANCOT's monitoring abilities, and recommended future steps. | Achieved for report templates, and project monitoring guideline and tools. |
| 5.0 | Strengthen ANCOT's organizational skills and project's monitoring | 5.2 | Draft organizational policy documents guiding ANCOT operations. | Achieved |
| 5.0 | Strengthen ANCOT's organizational skills and project's monitoring | 5.3 | Draft financial management documents guiding ANCOT operations. | Achieved |
| 3.0 | Collaborative engagement of a private company with communities for sustainable livelihood and enterprise support | 3.1 | Written contributions to report on beekeeper training, honey production, and orchard establishment (ANCOT Deliverables 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4). | Achieved (not orchard development which was cancelled) |
| 4.0 | Action-oriented community education and awareness | 4.1 | Written contributions to report on local awareness activities (ANCOT Deliverables 4.1 and 4.2). | In progress |

| Component | | Deliverable | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|--|--|
| # | Description | # | Description | Results for Deliverable |
| 4.0 | Action-oriented community education and awareness | 4.2 | Written contributions to report on wilderness camp (ANCOT Deliverables 4.3). | Achieved |
| 2.0 | Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company | 2.1 | Written contributions to ANCOT report on ranger training (ANCOT Deliverable 2.1). | Achieved |
| 2.0 | Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company | 2.2 | Written contributions to ANCOT report on conflict resolution (ANCOT Deliverable 2.2). | No significant conflicts identified during the project phase. A reporting form for rangers in case of conflict has been produced and shared with ANCOT/Oxus |
| 2.0 | Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company | 2.3 | Written contributions to report on urial and ibex monitoring (ANCOT Deliverable 2.3). | Achieved |
| 2.0 | Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company | 2.4 | Written contributions to report on camera trap results (ANCOT Deliverable 2.4). | Camera trap monitoring has been initiated but could not be developed to anticipated scale because of the very low capacity level of rangers. The development of this method/tool will be continued during the second phase of the project. |
| 2.0 | Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company | 2.5 | Written contributions to report on vegetation cover and priority conservation zones (ANCOT Deliverable 2.5). | Achieved |
| 2.0 | Sustainable management of biodiversity in Baljuvan KBA by a private company | 2.6 | Written contributions to 5-year management plan for Baljuvan concession (ANCOT Deliverable 2.7). | Achieved, management plan development is in progress and will be continued during the second phase of the project. |

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

SoP, ToR, violation reporting form, training material for rangers.

Draft management plan for the concession.

Internal policy and monitoring guideline documents for ANCOT.

(All these documents have been uploaded electronically)

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 | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 3 | 2 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 4 | 10 land-use plans or land-use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |

| 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 | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 6 | At least 20 local organizations receiving CEPF grants demonstrate improved organizational capacity | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 1.1 | Number of species to which threats are reduced | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 2.1 | Number of hectares of KBA with improved management | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 2.3 | Number of KBAs without official protection status with improved management | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 3.2 | Number of local level land use plans that incorporate | 0 | This grant is subordinate to | | |

| Portfolio Indicator Number | Portfolio Indicator Description | Expected Numerical Contribution | Expected Contribution Description | Actual Numerical Contribution | Actual Contribution Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| | biodiversity conservation as a management objective | | ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 4.1 | Number of private companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 4.2 | Number of hectares of farming or grazing areas that incorporate biodiversity conservation into operations | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 5.1 | Number of local organizations that demonstrate increased knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 5.3 | Number of new networks or partnerships for conservation that are created and/or strengthened | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 5.5 | Number of KBAs where programs are delivered to | 0 | This grant is subordinate to | | |

| Portfolio Indicator Number | Portfolio Indicator Description | Expected Numerical Contribution | Expected Contribution Description | Actual Numerical Contribution | Actual Contribution Description |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | primary/secondary learners | | ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 6.1 | Number of local organizations that actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 6.2 | Number of local civil society organizations receiving grants that demonstrate improved organizational capacity | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |
| 6.3 | Number of local civil society organizations receiving grants that demonstrate improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues | 0 | This grant is subordinate to ANCOT, 110796. See results from 110796. | | |

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 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|

*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 | | 25,000 |

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 |
|------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|
|------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|

Benefits to Individuals

- Structured Training:**

| Number of Men Trained | Number of Women Trained | Topics of Training |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 60 | 7 | This Impact is subordinate to Grant 110796 awarded to ANCOT, and we therefore copied from their impact assessment. Effective and ecological beekeeping practice, including bee colonies wintering, queen rearing and colony propagation. Training on duties and responsibilities of wildlife guards in Miron concession, including in maintenance of professional equipment, good environmental practices and visitor management. Training of wildlife guards and communities on sustainable ecosystem management and importance to people. |

- Cash Benefits:**

| Number of Men – Cash Benefits | Number of Women – Cash Benefits | Description of Benefits |
|--|--|---|
| 13 | 0 | Local beekeepers were paid for the new bee colonies they produced and that were given to new participants in beekeeping activities. |

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tajikistan | 38 | 4 |

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

- Baljuvan: Rural mixed small landowners

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 Limited Liability Company | 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 resources, funds in part ecosystem friendly community livelihoods (beekeeping), and supports conservation awarness 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? |
|-------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|-------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|

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 preparing restoration | Stable |
| Malus | sieversii | | VU | Protection | Increasing |

LESSONS LEARNED

To be delivered at the end of the second phase.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

To be delivered at the end of the second phase.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

To be delivered at the end of the second phase.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

| | |
|--|---|
| Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD) | \$12,855.00 |
| Breakdown of Additional Funding | Salary: \$10,500; International travel: \$1,705; local transport, food and lodging: \$650 |

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.

Wildlife Conservation Society, www.wcs.org, sostrowski@wcs.org