

Annual Portfolio Overview

Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot

July 2023 – June 2024

1. Introduction

The Mountains of Central Asia Hotspot, covering 860,000 square kilometers centered on the major mountain ranges of the Pamir and the Tien Shan, is remarkable for its relatively large amount of remaining natural habitat, high endemism and charismatic megafauna, particularly the iconic snow leopard. With peaks rising to over 7,000 meters, 20,000 glaciers, and isolated arid environments and valleys fed by snow melt, diverse ecosystems support the wild relatives of many cultivated fruits, nuts and herbaceous plants, and, overall, upwards of 5,000 plant species, of which 1,500 are endemic to the region. The region also includes 144 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), per the IUCN global standard, covering 149,000 square kilometers.

The hotspot includes parts of seven countries: southeastern Kazakhstan; most of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; eastern Uzbekistan; western China; northeastern Afghanistan; and a small montane part of southeastern Turkmenistan. This area of great cultural diversity and dynamic political history is facing dramatic changes that present a threat to its biodiversity. Economic development, driven both from countries to the east and the west, is leading to huge investments in natural resource extraction, and transport and energy infrastructure, while political pressures create the need for more export-oriented agriculture and lead to loss of transparency on issues of land management.

The state of civil society in each of the countries is also varied. The level of capacity ranges from relatively high (e.g., in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) to relatively low (e.g., in Afghanistan) and the legal environment in which groups work is also varied, for example in terms of their ability to receive foreign funds or to engage in management of public lands.

During the year reflected here, there were both expected and unexpected challenges. The expected challenge, continued from the prior year, was, in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, to transition from grant-making to impact, whereas, in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the challenge was still to grow organizational capacity and overcome institutional skepticism about the role of civil society in conservation. The unexpected challenge was the Government of Russia's mandated dissolution of the organizational home of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT), WWF-Russia. While the personnel based in Almaty and the other four Central Asian capitals continued working, they had to reconstitute themselves as a new Kazakh non-government organization (NGO) called the Conservation Fund for Rare Species of Animals and Plants (FRAP). This led to administrative hurdles for the RIT and several small grant recipients, as discussed below.

CEPF grant-making in the region began in November 2019. This Annual Portfolio Overview (APO) comes after the following reports:

1. APO: November 2019 – July 2020
2. APO: July 2020 – June 2021
3. Midterm Assessment: November 2019 – October 2022 (in lieu of an APO for July 2021 – June 2022)
4. APO: July 2022 – June 2023

This portfolio overview is cumulative through the close of the most recent CEPF fiscal year, ending in June 2024.

2. Niche for CEPF Investment

2.1. Overview

The [ecosystem profile](#) for the region was formally approved in August 2017. The five-year investment period began in November 2019 with the commencement of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) grant, led by WWF-Russia in collaboration with ARGO Civil Society Development Association. The total allocation to the region was US\$8,000,000.

Over the period of May 2016 through March 2017, Zoï Environment Network of Geneva, Switzerland, led and prepared the ecosystem profile, with contributions from over 250 stakeholders from civil society, government and donor institutions. The process gathered and synthesized data on biodiversity, socioeconomic and institutional context, climate change, ecosystem services, and ongoing and planned conservation investments in the hotspot countries. The profile identified 68 globally threatened species, 144 KBAs and 26 conservation corridors.

To match the level of funding available from CEPF with a concomitant geographic scope, CEPF and the consulted stakeholders prioritized 33 species, 28 KBAs and five corridors for CEPF investment. The priority sites represent 3.8 million hectares, or 25 percent of the total hectares of KBA, although this is less than 1 percent of the total hotspot area. Criteria used to prioritize these targets included number of globally threatened species, presence of threatened habitat types, resilience to climate change, status of protection, provision of ecosystem services, threats and opportunities for conservation action. To date, the ecosystem profile for the hotspot has been endorsed by the GEF Operational Focal Points of all the countries except for China.

CEPF's niche in the Mountains of Central Asia Hotspot is to make grants that ensure biodiversity conservation supports local and national economic development agendas, complements public sector managers of protected areas, and builds the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage in conservation in the hotspot. This is expressed via six Strategic Directions with an initial allocation of funding as shown in Table 1.

Note that, in June 2023, this allocation was provisionally reduced to \$7,450,000. The RIT remains at \$1,200,000, with appropriate reductions in each Strategic Direction reflected in the final allocations (Table 3). Note further that the program was originally planned for five years, from November 2019 through October 2024. However, given the setback from the COVID-19 pandemic, which arrived soon after the beginning of the investment phase in April 2020, with lingering effects on project pace for over 18 months, in 2022, CEPF extended the RIT grant by six months, through April 2025, with all large grants ending by February 2025.

Table 1. Strategic Directions and Funding Allocation per Ecosystem Profile

No.	Strategic Direction	Funding
1	Address threats to priority species.	\$1,000,000
2	Improve management of priority sites with and without official protection status.	\$2,300,000
3	Support sustainable management and biodiversity conservation within priority corridors.	\$1,500,000
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).	\$1,000,000
5	Enhance civil society capacity for effective conservation action.	\$1,000,000
6	Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of conservation investment through a regional implementation team.	\$1,200,000
Total		\$8,000,000

2.2. Portfolio Status

CEPF grant-making formally began with the RIT grant to WWF-Russia for US\$1,200,000 in November 2019. This grant was for the full amount of Strategic Direction 6. The RIT used the 2023 fiscal year to award small and large grants that complemented the existing portfolio and worked toward overall goals. To date, CEPF and the RIT have released 16 calls for letters of inquiry (LOIs) seeking small and large grants (Table 2).

Table 2. Calls for Letters of Inquiry in the Mountains of Central Asia

No.	Focus	Release Date	Due Date	LOIs Received	
				Large	Small
1	Kyrgyzstan	16 March 2020	20 April 2020	n/a	22
2	Kazakhstan	20 April 2020	20 May 2020	n/a	27
3	Uzbekistan	20 April 2020	20 May 2020	n/a	6
4	Turkmenistan	22 April 2020	22 May 2020	n/a	3
5	Tajikistan	24 April 2020	25 May 2020	n/a	21
6	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	6 May 2020	18 June 2020	46	n/a
7	Uzbekistan	5 October 2020	6 November 2020	n/a	5
8	Turkmenistan	15 December 2020	15 January 2021	n/a	4
9	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	15 December 2020	16 January 2021	23	n/a
10	Kazakhstan	1 May 2021	1 June 2021	n/a	10
11	Kyrgyzstan	1 May 2021	1 June 2021	n/a	16
12	Tajikistan	1 May 2021	1 June 2021	n/a	12
13	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	9 June 2021	1 August 2021	8	n/a
14	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	4 October 2021	21 November 2021	15	n/a
15	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	1 December 2021	15 January 2022	n/a	25
16	All countries	15 November 2022	10 January 2023	26	54
Sub-totals				118	205
Total				323	

As shown in Table 3, 36 of the 118 large grant LOIs have moved forward to full proposals and awards (27 percent), and 59 of the 205 small grant proposals have moved forward to negotiation and award (29 percent); an overall “success rate” that reflects the quality of applications and the work-rate of the RIT to develop appropriate projects. This is comparable with other CEPF portfolios and demonstrates the value of the RIT’s region-specific outreach to applicants prior to the release of calls for LOIs.

Table 3. Awarded Large and Small Grants by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Allocation	Large Grants		Small Grants		Total		Balance
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
1. Species	\$1,835,045	8	\$1,251,527	44	\$603,073	52	\$1,854,600	(\$19,555)
2. KBAs	\$2,106,313	11	\$1,454,637	34	\$627,802	45	\$2,082,439	\$23,874
3. Corridors	\$600,000	4	\$560,636	2	\$38,896	6	\$599,532	\$468
4. Production landscapes	\$640,000	6	\$595,625	4	\$39,972	10	\$635,597	\$4,403
5. Capacity building	\$1,068,642	7	\$1,007,928	3	\$57,627	10	\$1,065,555	\$3,087
6. RIT	\$1,200,000	2	\$1,200,000	0	\$0	2	\$1,200,000	\$0
Total	\$7,450,000	38	\$6,070,353	87	\$1,367,371	125	\$7,437,724	\$12,276

Note from the above that the actual count of 87 small grants is misleading. The reality is that there have been 59 small grant “projects” awarded. As discussed below, 26 of these were split into two separate grants with the transition from WWF-Russia to FRAP.

Although CEPF funding is not allocated by country, where work takes place is of critical importance for many reasons. Table 4 shows awards by country, to date.

Table 4. Awarded (Active and Closed) Large and Small Grants by Country

Country	Large Grants		Small Grants		Total	
	Count	Obligation	Count	Obligation	Count	Obligation
Afghanistan	1	\$2,276	0	\$0	1	\$2,276
Kazakhstan	5	\$798,707	31	\$473,012	36	\$1,271,719
Kyrgyz Republic	9	\$1,258,705	21	\$277,855	30	\$1,536,560
Tajikistan	10	\$1,203,573	13	\$212,279	23	\$1,415,852
Turkmenistan	1	\$150,001	14	\$228,846	15	\$378,847
Uzbekistan	2	\$249,596	8	\$175,378	10	\$424,974
Multi-country	8	\$1,207,496	0	\$0	8	\$1,207,496
RIT	1	\$1,200,000	0	\$0	1	\$1,200,000
Total	38	\$6,070,353	87	\$1,367,370	124	\$7,437,724

The following points are of note.

- There is one large grant working equally in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and one large grant working equally in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. For tabulation purposes, the dollar amounts (obligations) of the grants are split equally between the relevant countries and the “count” shows half-grant amounts. Strictly speaking, Uzbekistan has two large grants and two “half-grants.”
- CEPF grant making has not extended to the portion of the hotspot in China.
- CEPF awarded a \$250,000 grant to Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to work in Afghanistan for the period of December 2020 through November 2022. However, the

political situation in the country required the suspension of the grant in August 2021 with only nominal funds expended. Subsequently, absent required approvals, CEPF formally closed the grant showing the small amount spent in the table above.

2.3. Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

As reflected in previous Annual Portfolio Overviews, the RIT was initially led by WWF-Russia, working in collaboration with ARGO of Almaty as a sub-grantee. WWF-Russia had a long-running Central Asia program with permanent staff based in Almaty and deep experience in the five former Soviet Republics. ARGO's strength is in building the capacity of grassroots NGOs throughout those five countries and Afghanistan, although as planned from RIT inception, the work effort of ARGO concluded in December 2023.

Over the course of 2023, the Russian government dissolved WWF-Russia. At the same time, the field-based team in Central Asia continued to function, albeit with an organizational "home" in Moscow that was effectively unincorporated. This was a huge struggle for the team, obviously, and an unprecedented situation for CEPF. Wanting to minimize the impact on grantees, the solution was for the field-based team to reconstitute itself as a new, Kazakh NGO, called FRAP, with all associated grants being transferred from WWF-Russia to this new entity.

Formally, the RIT grant between CEPF and WWF-Russia came to an end on 31 December 2023, with the balance of that agreement transferred to FRAP for the period of January 2024 to April 2025. Similarly, CEPF maintained a Small Grant Mechanism (SGM) with WWF-Russia, allowing that organization to award small grants of \$50,000 or less to NGOs in the region. As WWF-Russia was dissolved, it had 26 small grants that were active as of 31 December 2024. Formally, WWF-Russia ended these small grants on that date and CEPF ended the SGM with WWF-Russia. Then, CEPF awarded a new SGM to FRAP, and FRAP made 26 small grant awards for the balance of any outstanding amounts.

The staffing structure of the FRAP team is shown below.

Table 5. RIT Staffing Structure as of June 2024

Position	Name	Location
RIT Team Leader	Lizza Protas	Almaty
Small Grants Manager	Anastasiya Mazneva	Almaty
Kazakhstan Country Coordinator	Lina Valdshmit	Almaty
Kyrgyzstan Country Coordinator	Mihail Yakovlev	Bishkek
Tajikistan Country Coordinator	Khirsav Shermatov	Dushanbe
Turkmenistan Country Coordinator	Begench Atamuradov	Ashgabat
Uzbekistan Country Coordinator	Aleksandr Grigoryants	Tashkent
Finance Manager	Dilnara Jalilova	Almaty
Senior Biodiversity Advisor	Olga Pereladova	Moscow
FRAP Executive Director	Grigory Mazmaniants	Almaty

2.4. Performance Assessment

CEPF measures performance from several perspectives, including via the ecosystem profile logical framework, with indicators and targets that aggregate the results of every grantee. This level of assessment is explored further in Sections 3 and 7, below.

However, there are other measures of assessment, including:

- **Engagement of local and national civil society.** Not counting the RIT, 95 grants have been made to 69 unique organizations. Of these, only 13 are international and 56 are local organizations, while over half the available funds have gone to local groups, reflecting CEPF's goal of reaching and building local civil society (Table 6).

Table 6. Large and Small Grants by International vs Local Recipient

Type	Large Grants		Small Grants		Total		Percent of Grant Funds	Unique Recipients
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount		
International	19	\$2,554,743	1	\$18,757	20	\$2,573,501	41	13
Local	17	\$2,315,610	86	\$1,348,613	103	\$3,664,223	59	56
Total	36	\$4,870,353	87	\$1,367,371	123	\$6,237,724	100	69

- **Geographic breadth of awards.** Awards have been made in 56 different KBAs and in every eligible country in the hotspot, including in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which have unique elements that make working there difficult. The roles of the RIT making small grants in Turkmenistan and of international organizations able to work with local sub-grantees in Uzbekistan have been crucial.
- **Working in the context of tumultuous political events.** The year was defined by the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which led to: (1) the dissolution of WWF-Russia, an organization with a 24-year history; (2) tighter restrictions on international wire transfers of funds; and (3) cost increases due to limited supplies from Russia and Ukraine and increased local demand from short-term immigration spikes from Russia and Ukraine.

3. Portfolio Highlights by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction 1 is designed to address threats to priority species, including through improved enforcement and incentives for nature users, improved regulation of hunting and collecting, support for species-specific reserves, reduction of poisoning and trapping, and maintenance of populations of priority species. The high "subscription rate" in this Strategic Direction (eight large grants and 24 small grants) reflects the relevance of the topic and how it resonates with organizations in the region. A highlight is the grant to Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU), which is supporting transboundary conservation of great bustard (*Otis tarda*). This Endangered bird species, characterized by its long lifespan and naturally low reproductive rates, faces significant threats such as illegal hunting and fatalities from collisions with power lines, driving it towards regional extinction. Working with local partners, including the Uzbekistan Society for Protection of Birds (UzSPB) in Uzbekistan and the Biodiversity Research and Conservation Centre (BRCC) in Kazakhstan, this project is engaging with hunters and local communities to raise awareness and reduce threats to the species, whilst building communication between conservation actors along the entire migratory pathway.

Strategic Direction 2 is designed to improve the management of priority sites, including by facilitating collaboration between stakeholders, developing management plans for KBAs outside protected areas and building capacity for management of KBAs. As with Strategic Direction 1, organizations have an intuitive understanding for this topic, with 11 large grants and 28 small grants primarily addressing it. A highlight being the work of the Center

for Large Landscape Conservation to strengthen management of the geographically contiguous Koytendag State Nature Reserve in Turkmenistan and Surkhan State Nature Reserve in Uzbekistan, as well as the surrounding buffer zones and grazing areas. This project continues to build the capacity of nature reserve personnel and improve reserve monitoring systems through SMART training, whilst enhancing transboundary collaboration between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and creating a roadmap for long-term conservation success.

Strategic Direction 3 is designed to support improved management of corridors, including via protocols for connectivity of KBAs, improved development planning and engagement of civil society in review of development plans. While fewer grants have been made specifically under this Strategic Direction, this is only because of overlap with Strategic Directions 2 (on KBAs) and 4 (on production landscapes). An illustrative corridor grant is one to the American University of Central Asia. This grant supports efforts to enhance pasture management in the high valleys of Chychkan and Suusamry, located within the Western Tian Shan corridor. The region faces challenges from overgrazing and unsustainable farming practices, which threaten the native grasslands. The CEPF project is working with the villages of Jany-Jol and Suusamyr, along with their associated pasture management committees, to create grazing plans that allow for the conservation of globally threatened birch and wild fruit species.

Strategic Direction 4 is designed to improve the management of production landscapes by working with the private sector on improved management, including hunting, tourism, mining, livestock, farms and forestry operations. A highlight is the grant to the Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan (ANCOT), which is working with a hunting operator within Baljuvan KBA to strengthen management of a hunting concession. Ranger skills and capacity have been enhanced and a five-year management plan developed, which has been guiding operations since early 2024. Through stricter regulations, and community collaboration, local threats to urial (*Ovis vignei*) and two Critically Endangered wild pear tree species are being effectively mitigated.

Strategic Direction 5 is designed to build the capacity of local civil society, enabling groups to better engage with each other, the private sector and government, and enhancing their capacity to implement projects. A highlight has been the work of the Global Forest Coalition (GFC) to strengthen the capacity of four local CSOs to improve management of Key Biodiversity Areas in Kazakhstan (Narynkol) and Kyrgyzstan (Kassan-Sai). The GFC facilitated networking among participating CSOs as part of its network in Central Asia, promoting the use of the KBA methodology to inform management decisions within Narynkol and Kassan-Sai KBAs. Under the project, the GCF also organized 12 training sessions for NGO members from the region, including the four local CSOs participating in the project, which all demonstrated improved capacity (including improved capacity to manage gender issues) by the close of the project. Local community awareness of the value of biodiversity within Narynkol and Kassan-Sai was also enhanced.

4. Collaboration with CEPF Donors, Other Donors and Local Government

The CEPF Secretariat and WWF-Russia have collaborated directly and indirectly with donors and host country government agencies at multiple levels.

WWF-Russia maintains regular engagement with:

- Relevant national government agencies in the five Central Asian republics, particularly for protected areas, forestry and wildlife.
- The leadership of international conservation organizations, including WCS, Fauna & Flora, IUCN and Panthera, as well as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- The multiple partners of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP).
- The various implementing agents for European Union-funded projects in the Kazakhstan Planet & Partnerships Cluster.
- The partners funded by the German International Climate Initiative (IKI).
- Donors supporting climate change mitigation efforts, particularly with young people, in Kazakhstan.

5. Conclusion

The CEPF grants portfolio in the Mountains of Central Asia continues for another 10 months. In that time, focus will be on the final assessment, ensuring consolidated efforts around closing grants and ensuring that civil society organizations are well-placed to continue work into the future.

6. Summary Figures

Figure 1. Obligation by Strategic Direction

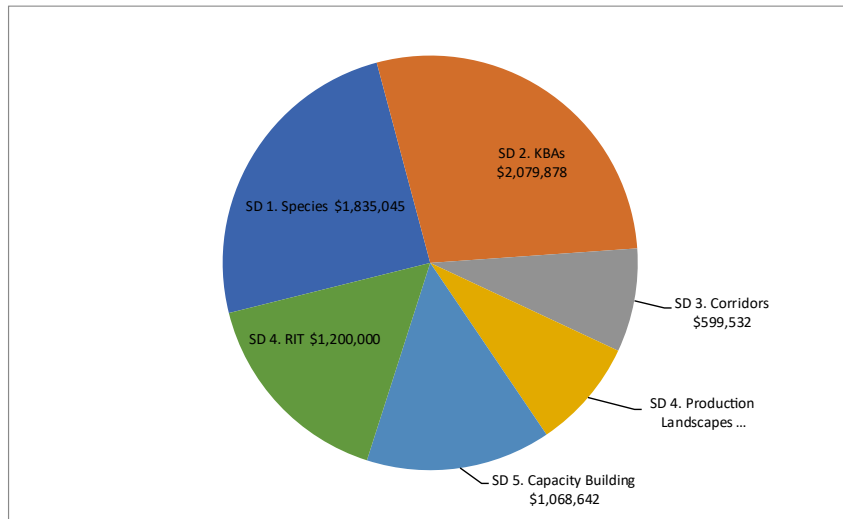


Figure 2. Obligation by Strategic Direction

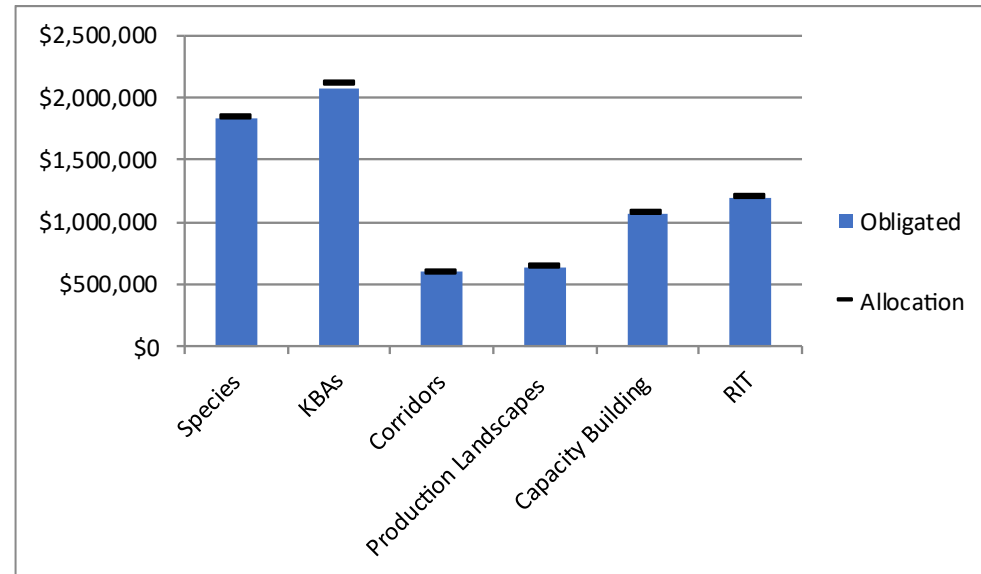
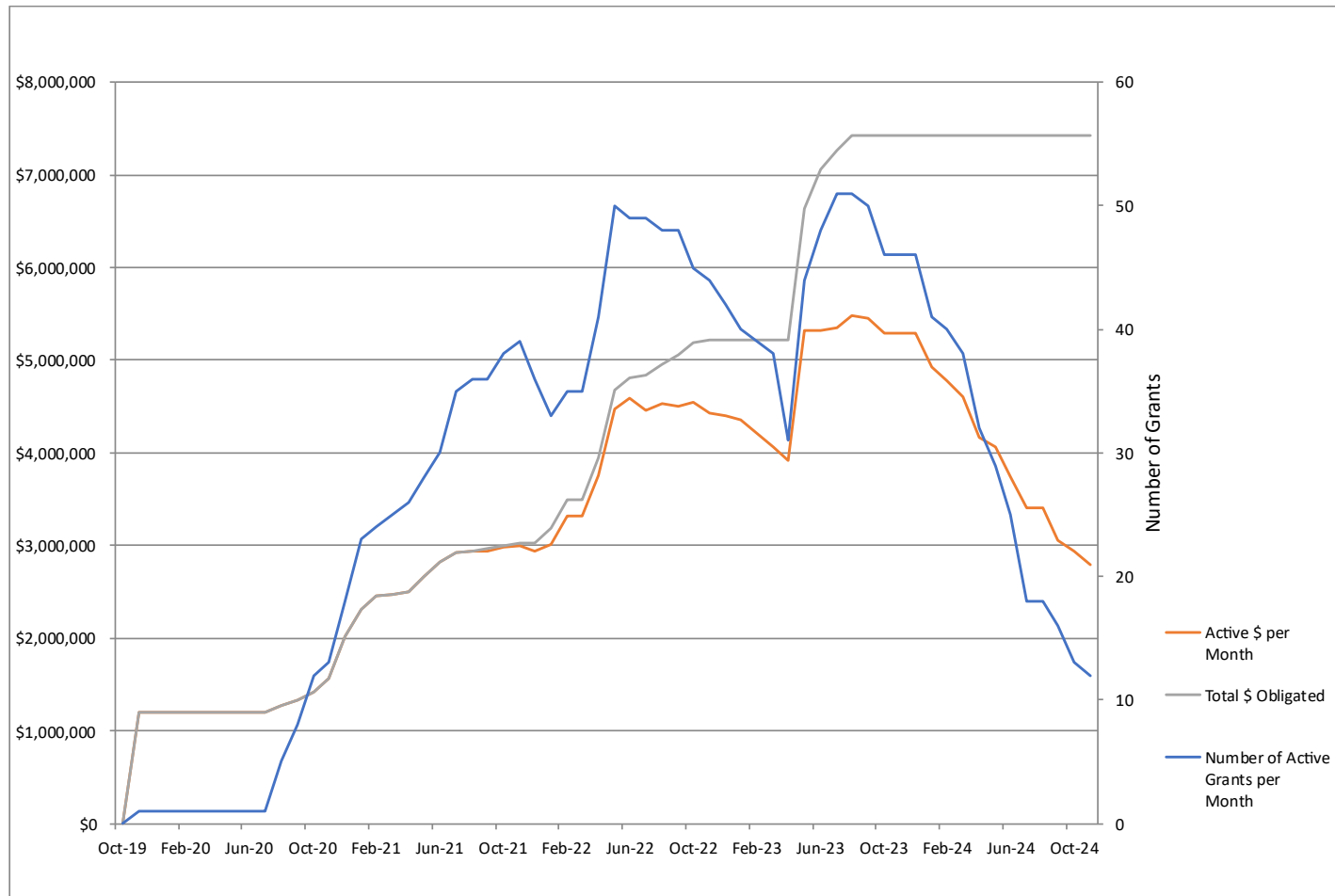


Figure 3. Obligation Trend



7. Update on Progress toward Targets in the Portfolio Logical Framework

Objective	Targets	Results
Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation priorities	15 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), covering 600,000 hectares, have improved management	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: Work is taking place in 56 KBAs, 19 of which are priority sites; of these, at least 15 will meet definitions of improved management
	60,000 hectares of protected areas are created or expanded	Actual to date: 11,000 (Grant 110847/YGPE, Tajikistan at Kairakkum reservoir) Additional expected from existing grants: Up to 5,000 from various small reserves
	2 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: 5 from Oxus hunting (113014/ANCOT, Tajikistan), Uch-Korgon forestry (112672/KAFLU, Kyrgyz), Besh-Aral mining operations (110756/FFI, Kyrgyz), LLC Nomad and LLC Sun Planet agricultural products (110679/UCA, Kyrgyz), Karatau electric utility (112628/EII, Kazakhstan)
	10 land-use plans, or land-use management practices, incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: At least 20 across multiple grants addressing grazing plans, endemic fruit tree replanting, sustainable agriculture, and buffer zone management
	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	Actual to date: 1 (110755/Zoï, regional EIA network) Additional expected from existing grants: At least 3 from 113043/BCKF (Western Tian Shan transboundary), 112650/Photojournalists (Kyrgyz ecotourism), 112419/GFC (KBAs)
	At least 20 local organizations receiving CEPF grants demonstrate improved organizational capacity	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: 30+ from existing grants
	Number of women receiving direct socio-economic benefits through increased income, food security, resource rights, or other measures of human wellbeing from CEPF grants is no less than 40% the number of men	Actual to date: 40% Additional expected from existing grants: Ratio not expected to change; project designs incorporate equitable division of benefits

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
Outcome 1: Address threats to priority species \$1,000,000	Main threats to at least 4 globally threatened species are reduced	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: At least 10 species will see reduced threats locally
	4 globally threatened species benefit from strengthened regulation of extractive uses	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: At least 4 species will benefit, with groups working on marmots (110756/FFI), wild apples and other fruit and nut trees, (112672/KAFLU and 110679/UCA), soaring bird species (112628/EII, Kazakhstan), and snow leopard (multiple grants)
	7 informal species-specific reserves are created	Actual to date: 4 micro-reserves from 110816/LEADER and 113080/Iktidor Additional expected from existing grants: 8 micro-reserves from 110815/GLIP, 110817/Orchun, 114115/NABU, 114103/LEADER
Outcome 2: Improve management of Key Biodiversity Areas with and without official protection status \$2,300,000	600,000 hectares of KBA have improved management	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: At least 600,000 hectares from work in 56 KBAs, including both productive landscapes and protected areas
	5 KBAs with official protection status have improved management	Actual to date: 1 (110847/YGPE, Tajikistan Kairakkum reservoir) Additional expected from existing grants: At least 5 from multiple grants working in multiple PAs, including Wakhan, Besh Aral, Chychkan, Aksu Zabagly, Karatau, Ugam, Sairam-Ugam, Surmatash, Sary-Chelek, Padysah-Ata, Kara Ana, Koytendag, Kuna Ata, Karatal
	10 KBAs without official protection status have improved management	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: Work is taking place in 56 KBAs, 19 of which are priority sites; of these, at least 10 KBAs without official protection status will meet definitions of improved management
Outcome 3: Support sustainable management and biodiversity	Ecological restoration techniques that improve the functioning of forest ecosystems demonstrated in at least two priority corridors	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: Grants working in Dzungaria, Western Tien Shan, Pamir Alai on restoration goals at a local scale

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
conservation within priority corridors \$1,500,000	5 local level land use plans incorporate biodiversity conservation as a management objective.	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: At least 20 across multiple grants addressing grazing plans, endemic fruit tree replanting, sustainable agriculture, and buffer zone management
	1 major development project, sub-national plan, or national plan incorporates biodiversity conservation as a management objective	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: 2 (Besh-Aral mining operations (110756/FFI, Kyrgyz), Karatau electric utility (112628/EII, Kazakhstan))
Outcome 4: Engage communities of interest and economic sectors – including the private sector – in improved management of production landscapes; that is, priority KBAs and corridors that are not formally protected \$1,000,000	3 private companies adopt biodiversity-friendly practices	Actual to date: 1 (Turanga Group concession in Ilyalatau National Park, 110820/Wildlife Without Borders) Additional expected from existing grants: 5 from Oxus hunting (113014/ANCOT, Tajikistan), Uch-Korgon forestry (112672/KAFLU, Kyrgyz), Besh-Aral mining operations (110756/FFI, Kyrgyz), LLC Nomad and LLC Sun Planet agricultural products (110679/UCA, Kyrgyz), Karatau electric utility (112628/EII, Kazakhstan)
	Farming or grazing areas, covering at least 50,000 hectares, incorporate biodiversity conservation into operations	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: 50,000 hectares from 112606/AUCA Suusamyrl Valley, 111692/CLLC Koytendag buffer zone, 112375/Ak-Dobe and 113057/Society of Soldiers
	10,000 hectares of forest fall under certification schemes, eco-labeling programs, or other market-based management methods	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: 0 per discussion in midterm assessment
	Site safeguard requirements are incorporated into development projects in or around five KBAs or landscapes	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: 2-4, including Besh-Aral mining operations (110756/FFI, Kyrgyz), Karatau electric utility (112628/EII, Kazakhstan), and possibly roads in Kyrgyz Alai Valley and infrastructure in Zeravshan Reserve (UZB28)
	At least five conservation issues of concern to civil society are the subject of public debate	Actual to date: At least 5 (110755/Zoi in multiple contexts with partners on EIA issues) Additional expected from existing grants: 5 including snow leopard conservation outside Almaty (112383/WWB), Chyckan Gorge development in Kyrgyz (112481/RDF), power generation in Kazakhstan (112628/EII, Kazakhstan) and grazing in multiple locations

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
Outcome 5: Enhance civil society capacity for effective conservation action \$1,000,000	At least 10 local organizations demonstrate increased knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level	Actual to date: At least 10 from 110755/Zoï Additional expected from existing grants: At least 3 from 113043/BCFK
	At least 5 regional thematic experience sharing events allow for informal and formal networking in the hotspot	Actual to date: 4 from 110755/Zoï and 110706/BCFK Additional expected from existing grants: 3 from 112628/EII, 112419/GFC and 112650/Photojournalists
	5 new networks or partnerships for conservation are created and/or strengthened	Actual to date: 1 (110755/Zoi, regional EIA network) Additional expected from existing grants: At least 3 from 113043/BCKF (Western Tian Shan transboundary), 112650/Photojournalists (Kyrgyz ecotourism), 112419/GFC (KBAs)
	Information on at least 5 funding opportunities for civil society disseminated to relevant organizations, resulting in at least 5 successful funding proposals for continuation or extension of CEPF-funded work	Actual to date: 0; multiple opportunities disseminated but no successful proposals to date Additional expected from existing grants: Multiple projects have already successfully leveraged funds; expectation that at least 2 proposals might meet this definition
	Programs delivered to primary/secondary learners in at least 3 priority KBAs	Actual to date: 1 (TAJ21) Additional expected from existing grants: Programs ongoing in at least 8 KBAs (KAZ8, KAZ12, KAZ13, KAZ16, KAZ18, KYR10, UZB 24, UZB30)
	10 advanced degree students receive structured training in applied biodiversity science and/or support for research that leads directly to Intermediate Outcomes 1, 2 or 3	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: 20 from 112588/YGPE, 111971/Succow Foundation, 110779/ACBK and 114115/NABU
Outcome 6: Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team \$1,200,000	At least 25 local organizations actively participate in conservation actions guided by the ecosystem profile	Actual to date: 45 Additional expected from existing grants: 10
	At least 20 local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate improved organizational capacity	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: At least 30
	At least 10 local civil society organizations receiving grants demonstrate improved understanding of and commitment to gender issues	Actual to date: 0 Additional expected from existing grants: Up to 56

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
	At least 2 participatory assessments undertaken, documenting lessons learned and best practices from the hotspot	Actual to date: 1 (midterm assessment) Additional expected from existing grants: 1 (final assessment in RIT workplan)
	Performance of the RIT assessed as satisfactory during the midterm and final assessments	Actual to date: Satisfactory Additional expected from existing grants: Satisfactory

8. All Awarded Grants, by Country, Organization and Start Date

Large grants are in **bold text**, small grants are in regular text.

Ct.	Grant ID	Organization	Summary Information	SD	Start	End	Amount
Regional Implementation Team							
1	110214	WWF-Russia	Regional Implementation Team	6	Nov-19	Apr-25	\$1,200,000
Afghanistan							
2	110808	Wildlife Conservation Society	Wakhan National Park	2	Dec-20	Nov-22	\$2,276
Kazakhstan							
3	110818	Jabagly-Manas	Environmental education in Zhulay	5	Sep-20	Aug-21	\$19,160
4	110820	Wildlife Without Borders	Snow leopard conservation effectiveness evaluation	1	Sep-20	Mar-22	\$19,832
5	110819	Biogen	Aksuzhabagli environmental education	5	Oct-20	Sep-22	\$19,757
6	110706	Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan	Western Tien Shan World Heritage Site	2	Dec-20	Aug-22	\$149,488
7	110779	Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan	Dzungaria salamanders and minks	1	Feb-21	Jan-23	\$149,254
8	111970	Socio-Ecological Fund	Ecotourism promotion	2	Apr-21	May-22	\$19,970
9	112384	Zhassyl Azyk	Sairam-Ugam State pasture management	2	Jun-21	Dec-22	\$19,995
10	112385	Ugam	Western Tien Shan ecotourism	2	Jun-21	Jul-22	\$19,849
11	112383	Wildlife Without Borders	Snow leopard population connectivity	2	Jan-22	Dec-22	\$20,000
12	112609	Tabigat Assn of Hunting Communities and Farms	Dzungaria corridor sustainable tourism	4	Apr-22	Mar-24	\$150,006
13	113058	ECO Atameken	Kentau environmental education	2	Apr-22	Mar-23	\$19,924
14	112628	Earth Island Institute	Endangered raptor conservation	1	May-22	Aug-24	\$249,998
15	113054	Shk Khantagy	Karatau Nature Reserve management	4	May-22	Sep-23	\$19,992
16	113057	Society of Soldiers-Internationalists and Invalids of Tyulkubas Region	Kaiyrshakty pasture restoration	4	May-22	Apr-23	\$19,980
17	113056	Ugam	Western Tien Shan community engagement	2	May-22	Apr-24	\$49,901
18	113055	Jabagly-Manas"	Public Awareness campaign	2	Jul-22	Jun-23	\$19,998
19	113043	Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan	Western Tien Shan World Heritage Site, Phase II	2	Aug-22	Sep-23	\$100,000

Ct.	Grant ID	Organization	Summary Information	SD	Start	End	Amount
20	114227	Biodiversity Research and Conservation Center	Birds of Prey Conservation	1	Apr-23	Mar-24	\$49,954
21	114230	Zhassyl Azyk	Conservation in the Forests of Kakpak, Narynkol	1	Apr-23	Jun-24	\$19,995
22	114224	Wildlife Without Borders	Species conservation in arid mountains of southeast Kazakhstan	1	Apr-23	Jun-24	\$20,000
23	114232	Kolsay	Kolsai Lakes National Park Improved Management	1	May-23	Aug-23	\$20,000
24	114399	Association of Environmental Organizations of Kazakhstan	Sustainable tourism in Almaty region	1	Jul-23	Jun-24	\$49,950
25	114259	Jabagly-Manas	Zhambyl Oblast biodiversity and public awareness	1	Jul-23	Jun-24	\$19,961
Kyrgyzstan							
26	110815	Global and Local Information Partnership	Kulun-Ata and Karatal-Zhapyryk management effectiveness	2	Aug-20	Nov-21	\$19,990
27	110816	LEADER	Saruuy Aiyl Okmoto women and youth	5	Aug-20	Nov-21	\$18,710
28	110817	Orchun	Kara-Kulzhinsky CBNRM	2	Aug-20	Dec-21	\$20,000
29	110756	Fauna & Flora International	Besh Aral management and megafauna	1	Nov-20	Dec-22	\$148,578
30	110812	Panthera	Rural livelihoods and livestock	1	Dec-20	Apr-23	\$150,000
31	110679	University of Central Asia	Wild fruit species conservation	1	Jan-21	Dec-22	\$110,911
32	111815	Wildlife Conservation Society	Introducing SMART in the Khan-Tengri Corridor	3	Jun-21	May-23	\$156,723
33	112374	Issyk-Kul clean	Issyk-Kul Lake fish net removal	2	Jun-21	Sep-22	\$19,523
34	112375	Union of Pasture Users of Ak-Dobe Village	Ak-Dobe Village pasture management	3	Jun-21	Dec-22	\$19,938
35	112386	Kyrgyz Wildlife Conservation Society	Western Issyk-Kul vulture conservation	2	Oct-21	Dec-22	\$19,900
36	112481	Rural Development Fund	Chychkan Gorge management	2	Feb-22	Jan-24	\$151,924
37	113053	Muztor	Sary-Chelek sustainable agriculture	2	Apr-22	Mar-23	\$19,859
38	113050	Lesik-Yug	Kyzyl-Unkur restoration	2	Apr-22	Sep-23	\$19,943
39	112606	American University of Central Asia	Chychkan, Toktogul and Suusamyr pasture management	3	May-22	Jun-24	\$149,913
40	112672	Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users	Isfayram-Shakhimardan apricot and almond conservation	2	May-22	Feb-24	\$150,550
41	113079	Bugu-Enye	Raptor conservation	2	May-22	Apr-23	\$20,000
42	112650	Union of Photojournalists	Promotion of KBAs and tourism	4	Jun-22	May-24	\$133,803
43	113035	Global and Local Information Partnership	Protected area management effectiveness	3	Sep-22	Aug-24	\$104,000

Ct.	Grant ID	Organization	Summary Information	SD	Start	End	Amount
44	114231	Orchun	Pasture Preservation in Tar River and Lake Kulun-Ata, in Kara-Kulja District, Osh Province	1	Apr-23	Jun-24	\$19,995
45	114254	Nurmuhamed	Women's Groups Wild Apple Cultivation	1	Apr-23	Dec-23	\$20,000
46	114063	Wildlife Conservation Society	Upscaling Use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in Kyrgyzstan	2	May-23	Feb-25	\$155,370
47	114295	Harmony Plus	Community engagement for reserve management	1	May-23	May-24	\$19,996
48	114252	AKMENA	Bioremediation of Former Gold Mines in the Floodplain of the Kasan-Say River	1	Jun-23	May-24	\$20,000
49	114294	Green Energy	Biodiversity Restoration in Sumsar Ayil Community, Chatkal District, Jalal-Abad Region	1	Jul-23	Sep-24	\$20,000
Tajikistan							
50	110846	NOOSFERA	Sarihosor Jamot endemic plants	1	Oct-20	Dec-21	\$19,872
51	110847	Youth Group on Protection of Environment	Kairakkum Reservoir conservation	3	Oct-20	Dec-21	\$18,958
52	110796	Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan (ANCOT)	Baljuvan KBA management	4	Dec-20	Oct-22	\$123,550
53	110870	Wildlife Conservation Society	Baljuvan KBA management and ANCOT capacity building	4	Dec-20	Nov-22	\$33,487
54	110848	Nature Protection Team	Baljuvan community engagement	2	Feb-21	May-22	\$19,900
55	112389	Kuhhoi Pomir	Tajikistan wild pear conservation	1	Jul-21	Jul-22	\$19,588
56	112387	Ganji Tabiat	Tajikistan wild fruit tree nursery support	1	Sep-21	Jun-22	\$19,999
57	112388	Youth Ecological Center	Khojamumin KBA threat reudction	2	Oct-21	Oct-22	\$19,918
58	112465	Aga Khan Agency for Habitat	Zorkul Natural Reserve corridor management	3	Feb-22	Jul-23	\$150,000
59	112588	Youth Group on Protection of Environment	Kairakkum Reservoir conservation, Phase II	1	Apr-22	Mar-24	\$149,986
60	113080	Iktidor	Darvaz Hawthorn and Bukhara Almond conservation	2	May-22	Apr-23	\$19,752
61	113061	Olima	Tigrovaya Balka reserve management	2	May-22	Apr-23	\$20,000
62	113081	Dunyoj Mukhabbat	Khojamumin KBA genetic resource conservation	2	Jul-22	Jun-23	\$19,894
63	113014	ANCOT	Baljuvan KBA management, Phase II	4	Oct-22	Nov-24	\$124,779
64	113020	Wildlife Conservation Society	Baljuvan KBA management and ANCOT capacity building, Phase II	4	Nov-22	Apr-24	\$30,000
65	114089	Ganji Tabiat	Rare and Endemic Plant Species Conservation	1	May-23	Feb-25	\$144,452

Ct.	Grant ID	Organization	Summary Information	SD	Start	End	Amount
66	113800	Youth Ecological Centre	Sustainable Energy Use to Reduce Threats to Tigrovaya Balka Reserve	2	May-23	Feb-25	\$125,000
67	114250	NOOSFERA	Restoration in the Sangvor Preserve	1	May-23	Feb-24	\$19,967
68	114253	Agroecology Zarzamin	Preserving Genetic Diversity of Rare Flora Species in Vanj District	1	May-23	Apr-24	\$19,672
69	114017	Plateau Perspectives	Co-Management in Yagnob National Park	2	Jun-23	Feb-25	\$172,326
70	114096	Fauna & Flora International	Building Civil Society Capacity	5	Aug-23	Jan-25	\$149,993
Turkmenistan							
71	110827	Ynanch-Vepa	Koitendag community outreach	2	Aug-20	Dec-21	\$20,000
72	110828	Agzybir Hereket	Tallymergen-Kelif-Zeit flyway management	1	Jan-21	Dec-22	\$20,000
73	111482	Agzybir Hereket	Tallymergen-Kelif-Zeit flyway management (bird monitoring equipment)	1	Jan-21	Apr-21	\$5,000
74	111692	Center for Large Landscape Conservation	Koitendag reserve connectivity	2	May-21	Feb-23	\$150,001
75	112132	Obadeskahyzmat	Koitendag sustainable agriculture	2	Jun-21	May-22	\$0
76	112131	Nature Preserving Society of Turkmenistan	Bukhara deer assessment	1	Jun-21	Jun-22	\$20,000
77	112683	Obadeskahyzmat	Koitendag sustainable agriculture	2	Nov-21	Oct-22	\$20,000
78	113051	Agzybir Hereket	Sustainable hunting in Kelif	2	Apr-22	Mar-23	\$20,000
79	114251	Nature Preserving Society of Turkmenistan	Water conservation in Koytendag Reserve	1	Jul-23	Mar-24	\$20,000
80	114297	Obadeskahyzmat	Conservation and Propagation of Pistachio Woodlands in Koytendag	1	Jul-23	Jun-24	\$49,763
81	114307	Tebigy Kuwwat	Koytendag ecotourism	1	Jul-23	Sep-24	\$49,994
Uzbekistan							
82	110825	Society for the Protection of Birds of Uzbekistan	Talimarzhan Reservoir Sociable Lapwing monitoring	1	Sep-20	Jun-22	\$19,981
83	110826	EKOMAKTAB	Karakum community awareness	2	Oct-20	Nov-21	\$19,997
84	111971	Michael Succow Foundation	Fergana Valley species monitoring	2	Jan-21	Dec-22	\$18,757
85	112089	Jonli Tabiat	Nuratau Range species conservation	2	Apr-21	Jul-22	\$19,700
86	113060	Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan	Nuratau Ridge sustainable land management	2	Apr-22	Mar-24	\$47,227
87	113059	Jonli Tabiat	Gissar Reserve buffer zone management	2	Apr-22	Mar-24	\$49,717
88	114116	ACTED	Capacity Building of Civil Society Organizations	5	May-23	Oct-24	\$150,000

Ct.	Grant ID	Organization	Summary Information	SD	Start	End	Amount
89	113952	Stichting BirdLife Europe	Building capacity of lead local partner	5	May-23	Feb-25	\$99,596
Multi-Country							
90	110755	Zoï Environment Network	CSO engagement in environmental safeguards	5	Jan-21	Jun-22	\$142,496
91	112419	Global Forest Coalition	Tri-country CSO strengthening and KBA management	5	Jan-22	Dec-23	\$150,600
92	114115	Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU)	Transboundary Conservation of the Great Bustard in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan	1	May-23	Feb-25	\$149,926
93	114082	Zoi Environment Network	Enhance Civil Society Contributions to Priority-setting in the Mountains of Central Asia	5	May-23	May-24	\$149,880
94	114098	Rivers Without Boundaries Coalition	Incorporating Biodiversity Safeguards in Water Infrastructure Development in Central Asia	5	May-23	Dec-24	\$168,450
95	114103	LEADER	Expanding the Micro-Reserve Concept in Kyrgyzstan and the Region	2	May-23	Feb-25	\$151,100
96	114071	Center for Large Landscape Conservation	Improving Capacity and Connectivity Between Reserves in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	2	Jun-23	Feb-25	\$148,131