

## **Annual Portfolio Overview**

### **Mountains of Central Asia Biodiversity Hotspot**

July 2022 – June 2023

#### **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.

In this, the fourth year of the program, the challenge 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. Also, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine had real impacts on CEPF and its grantees in the region: the suspension of Russian banks from the SWIFT banking system made it difficult for many grantees to receive timely payments from CEPF; technical equipment, typically sourced from Russia, became unavailable (e.g., camera traps, binoculars); and in the influx of Russian and Ukrainian emigres into major cities caused price increases for rent, travel and common goods.

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

- APO: November 2019 – July 2020
- APO: July 2020 – June 2021
- Midterm Assessment: November 2019 – October 2022 (in lieu of an APO for July 2021 – June 2022)

This portfolio overview is cumulative through the close of the most recent CEPF fiscal year, ending in June 2023.

## **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 is US\$8,000,000.

Over the period of May 2016 through March 2017, Zoë 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 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,000,000</b>

**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. MCA Calls for Letters of Inquiry**

No.	Focus	Release Date	Due Date	LOIs Received	
				Large	Small
1	Kyrgyzstan	16 Mar 2020	20 Apr 2020	n/a	22
2	Kazakhstan	20 Apr 2020	20 May 2020	n/a	27
3	Uzbekistan	20 Apr 2020	20 May 2020	n/a	6
4	Turkmenistan	22 Apr 2020	22 May 2020	n/a	3
5	Tajikistan	24 Apr 2020	25 May 2020	n/a	21
6	Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	6 May 2020	18 Jun 2020	47	n/a
7	Uzbekistan	5 Oct 2020	6 Nov 2020	n/a	5
8	Turkmenistan	15 Dec 2020	15 Jan 2021	n/a	4
9	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	15 Dec 2020	16 Jan 2021	23	n/a
10	Kazakhstan	1 May 2021	1 Jun 2021	n/a	10
11	Kyrgyzstan	1 May 2021	1 Jun 2021	n/a	16
12	Tajikistan	1 May 2021	1 Jun 2021	n/a	12
13	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	9 Jun 2021	1 Aug 2021	8	n/a
14	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	4 Oct 2021	21 Nov 2021	15	n/a
15	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	1 Dec 2021	15 Jan 2022	n/a	25
16	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	15 Nov 2022	10 Jan 2023	39	54
<b>Sub-totals</b>				<b>132</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>337</b>	

As shown in Table 3, 36 of the 132 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	24	\$583,518	32	\$1,835,045	\$0
2. KBAs	\$2,106,313	11	\$1,456,166	28	\$623,712	39	\$2,079,878	\$26,435
3. Corridors	\$600,000	4	\$560,636	2	\$38,896	6	\$599,532	\$468
4. Production landscapes	\$640,000	6	\$595,625	2	\$39,972	8	\$635,597	\$4,403
5. Capacity building	\$1,068,642	7	\$1,011,015	3	\$57,627	10	\$1,068,642	\$0
6. RIT	\$1,200,000	1	\$1,200,000	n/a	n/a	1	\$1,200,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,450,000</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$6,074,970</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$1,343,725</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>\$7,418,694</b>	<b>\$31,306</b>

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
China	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Kazakhstan	5.5	\$873,670	18	\$448,217	23.5	\$1,321,887
Kyrgyz Republic	10	\$1,410,233	14	\$277,855	24	\$1,688,088
Tajikistan	10	\$1,203,573	11	\$217,519	21	\$1,421,093
Turkmenistan	1.5	\$224,066	10	\$224,756	11.5	\$448,822
Uzbekistan	3	\$398,625	6	\$175,378	9	\$574,002
Multi-country	5	\$762,526	0	\$0	5	\$762,526
RIT	1	\$1,200,000	0	\$0	1	\$1,200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$6,074,970</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$1,343,725</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>\$7,418,694</b>

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 does not have GEF Operational Focal Point approval to work 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

The RIT consists of WWF-Russia as the lead organization, working in collaboration with ARGO of Almaty as a sub-grantee. WWF-Russia is headquartered in Moscow but, as of 2023, became fully registered as an organizational entity in Kazakhstan. WWF-Russia has a long-running Central Asia program with permanent staff based in Almaty and has deep experience in the five former Soviet Republics. Meanwhile, ARGO's strength is in building the capacity of grassroots NGOs throughout those five countries and Afghanistan. The RIT headquarters is in Almaty, with staff posted as per Table 5.

**Table 5. RIT Staffing Structure as of June 2023**

Position	Name	Location
Team Leader	Lizza Protas	Almaty
Small Grants Manager	Tatyana Reznikova	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
Senior Administrator	Alla Voskoboynik	Moscow
Finance Manager	Dilnara Jalilova	Almaty
Senior Biodiversity Advisor	Olga Pereladova	Moscow
WWF-Russia Regional Advisor	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:

- **Speed of award process and collaborative design.** Thirty-nine groups submitted proposals for large grants on 10 January 2023. CEPF invited 12 of these to develop full proposals, including participation in a “master class” in Almaty in late February that allowed peer-to-peer support for project design. By 1 May, within four months of receipt of the LOIs, nine of those were active, with the remainder were contracted between June and August.
- **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	\$2,557,831	1	\$18,757	20	\$2,576,588	41	13
Local	117	\$2,317,138	58	\$1,324,968	75	\$3,642,106	59	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>\$4,874,969</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$1,343,725</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>\$6,218,694</b>		<b>69</b>

- **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.** During the year, the RIT and grantees faced challenges from political events. These included in Afghanistan, where the Taliban government's restrictions on the engagement of women made granting almost impossible. In at least one hotspot country, the government placed unusual scrutiny on local CSOs, and in another, regulations on receipt of foreign funds led to limited interest in applying. Most significantly, the events in Russia and Ukraine changed the dynamic in multiple ways, including for the RIT, which by 2024, will perhaps see a much smaller presence in Moscow. Nonetheless, the portfolio moved forward and continued to work toward conservation goals.

### 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 on 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 from year is the work of the Earth Island Institute, a United States-based organization working with a Kazakh partner, the Biodiversity Research and Conservation Centre (BRCC), and several consultants from the region. CEPF's grant allows Earth Island to build on its long-standing presence in the Altai region, specifically addressing the threat posed by electric power infrastructure to endangered raptors. Earth Island and BRCC are engaging with policymakers and utility managers to promote adaptations to power lines and wind turbines to reduce accidental death of eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) and Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*).

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 from the year is the work of the Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU), which is working in the Isfayram-Shakhimardan region of the country. KAFLU has engaged the locally operating state forestry company to ensure better management of the 220,000-hectare KBA, focusing on Surmatash State Nature Reserve, which occupies about 20 percent of the area, and forestry practices that affect wild almond (*Amygdalus bucharica*) and wild apricot (*Armeniaca vulgaris*).

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 to this Strategic Direction, this is only because of overlap between this Strategic Direction (on corridors) and Strategic Directions 2 (on KBAs) and 4 (on production landscapes). An illustrative corridor grant is the one to the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat in Tajikistan, which is looking at the ungulate migration routes between Tajik National Park and Zorkul Natural Reserve.

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 Tabigat Republican Association of Hunting Communities and Farms in Kazakhstan, which is training community members to serve as horseback tourism guides in the open hunting areas between three state-managed protected areas in the Dzungaria region.

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. Highlights are two newly awarded grants to ACTED, a French NGO, and Fauna & Flora, an international NGO, working in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, respectively. Each group is working with five local CSOs on fundamental issues of registration, operational and financial management, and government and community engagement, while also providing training to implement small-scale conservation projects.

#### **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:

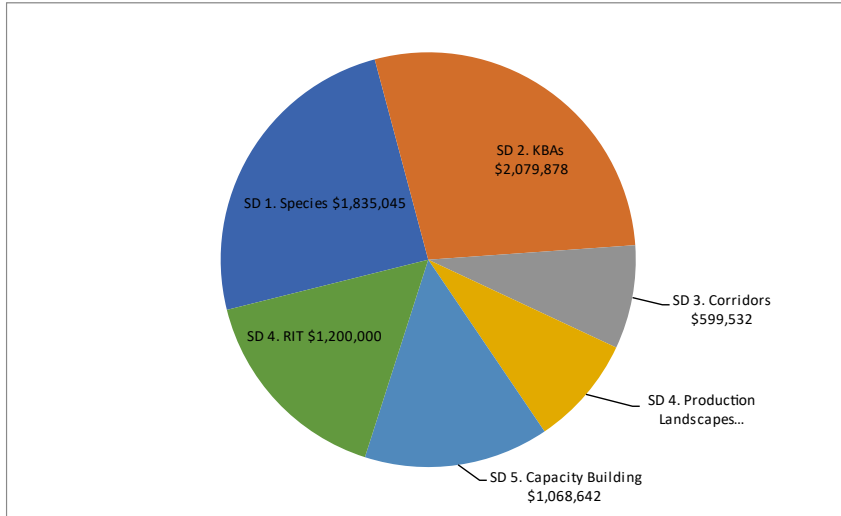
- Relevant national government agencies in the five Central Asian republics, particularly for protected areas, forestry and wildlife.
- The leadership of international conservation organizations, including WCS, Fauna & Flora, IUCN and Panthera, as well as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory 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**

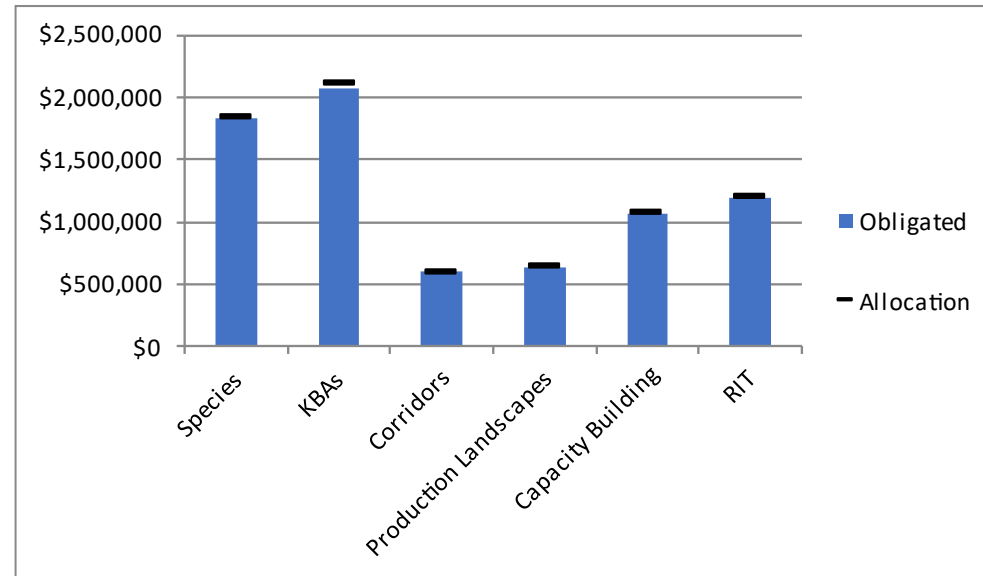
The CEPF grants portfolio in the Mountains of Central Asia continues for another 22 months. In that time, focus will be on: engagement at the CMS conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in February 2024; civil society capacity building in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan; engagement with protected area authorities in Kyrgyzstan to promulgate a standard approach to management; and ensuring the sustainability of interventions in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. In particular, the RIT and Secretariat will define and gather evidence to validate that hectares within KBAs are under improved management.

## 6. Summary Figures

### Figure 1. Obligation by Strategic Direction

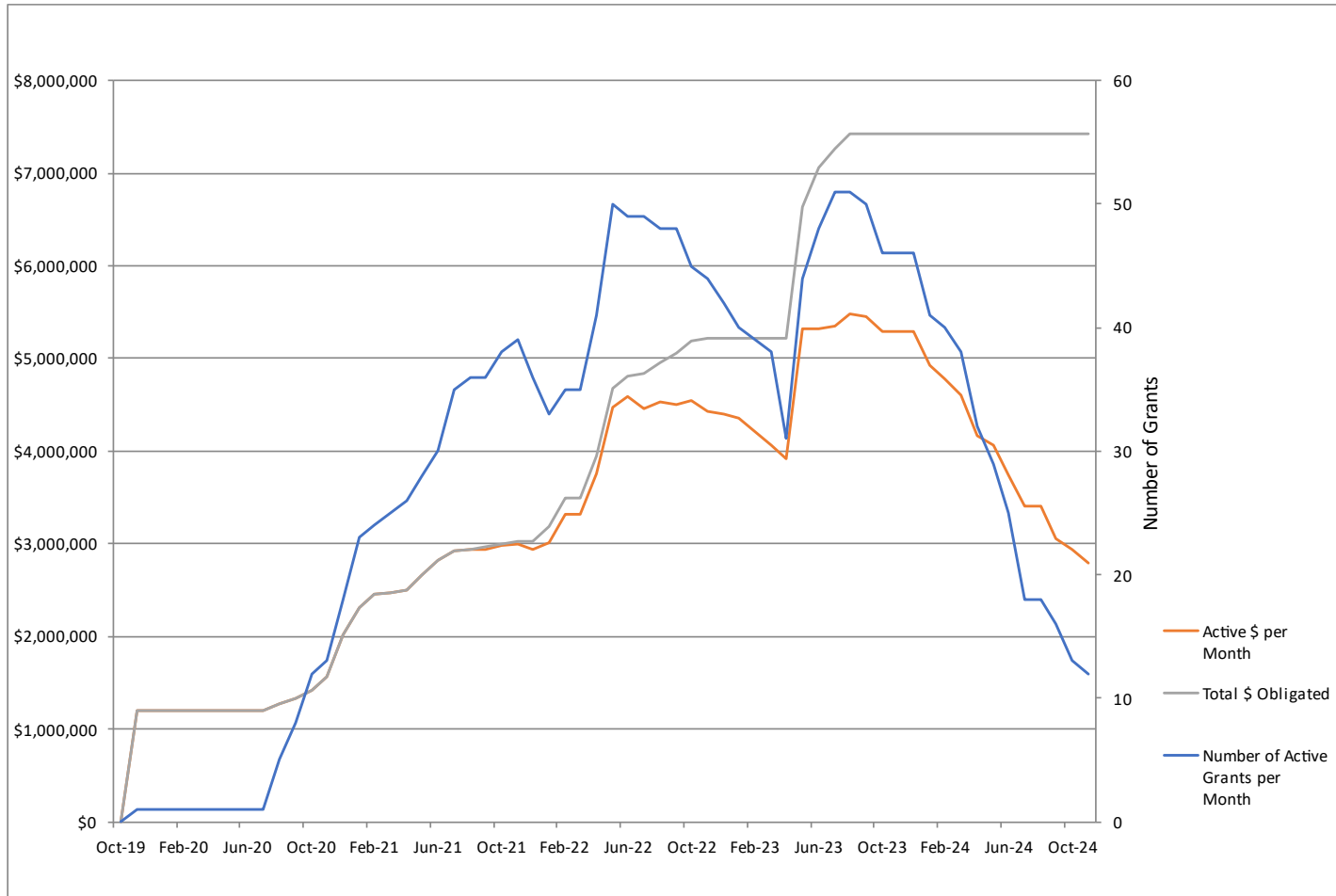


### Figure 2. Pipeline and Obligation by Strategic Direction





**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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 11,000 (Grant 110847/YGPE, Tajikistan at Kairakkum reservoir) <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> Up to 5,000 from various small reserves
	2 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 1 (110755/Zoï, regional EIA network) <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 40% <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> Ratio not expected to change; project designs incorporate equitable division of benefits

Intermediate Outcomes	Intermediate Indicators	Results
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Address threats to priority species</p> <p>\$1,000,000</p>	Main threats to at least 4 globally threatened species are reduced	<p><b>Actual to date:</b> 0  <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> At least 10 species will see reduced threats locally</p>
	4 globally threatened species benefit from strengthened regulation of extractive uses	<p><b>Actual to date:</b> 0  <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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)</p>
	7 informal species-specific reserves are created	<p><b>Actual to date:</b> 4 micro-reserves from 110816/LEADER and 113080/Iktidor  <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 8 micro-reserves from 110815/GLIP, 110817/Orchun, 114115/NABU, 114103/LEADER</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Improve management of Key Biodiversity Areas with and without official protection status</p> <p>\$2,300,000</p>	600,000 hectares of KBA have improved management	<p><b>Actual to date:</b> 0  <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> At least 600,000 from work in 56 KBAs, including both productive landscapes and protected areas</p>
	5 KBAs with official protection status have improved management	<p><b>Actual to date:</b> 1 (110847/YGPE, Tajikistan Kairakkum reservoir)  <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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</p>
	10 KBAs without official protection status have improved management	<p><b>Actual to date:</b> 0  <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Support sustainable management and biodiversity</p>	Ecological restoration techniques that improve the functioning of forest ecosystems demonstrated in at least two priority corridors	<p><b>Actual to date:</b> 0  <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> Challenge of scale; grants working in Dzungaria, Western Tien Shan, Pamir Alai with restoration goals on a local, but not corridor, scale</p>

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.	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 2 (Besh-Aral mining operations (110756/FFI, Kyrgyz), Karatau electric utility (112628/EII, Kazakhstan))
<b>Outcome 4:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 1 (Turanga Group concession in Ilyalatau National Park, 110820/Wildlife Without Borders) <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 50,000 from 112606/AUCA Suusamyр 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 0 per discussion in midterm assessment
	Site safeguard requirements are incorporated into development projects in or around five KBAs or landscapes	<b>Actual to date:</b> 0 <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 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	<b>Actual to date:</b> At least 5 (110755/Zoi in multiple contexts with partners on EIA issues) <b>Additional expected from existing grants:</b> 5 including snow leopard conservation outside Almaty (112383/WWB), Chychkan Gorge development in Kyrgyz (112481/RDF), power generation in Kazakhstan (112628/EII, Kazakhstan) and grazing in multiple locations

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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