

**Process Framework
for restrictions on access to natural resources**

17 March 2023

CEPF Grant 113800

Youth Ecological Center

Sustainable Energy Use to Reduce Threats to Tigrovaya Balka Reserve

Tajikistan

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization.** Youth Ecological Center
2. **Project title.** Sustainable Energy Use to Reduce Threats to Tigrovaya Balka Reserve
3. **Grant number.** 113800
4. **Grant amount (US dollars).** Approximately \$130,000
5. **Proposed dates of grant.** May 2023 – February 2025
6. **Countries where activities will be undertaken.** Tajikistan
7. **Date of preparation of this document.** 17 March 2023
8. **Summary of the project [copy and paste Project Rationale and Project Approach from proposal].**

Project Rationale

"Tigrovaya Balka" is a state Nature Reserve (nature reserve) in Tajikistan, located on the territory of three districts – Dusti (Jaihun), Jilikul and Kubodiyon of the Khatlon region. It received the status of a state reserve in 1938. The area of the reserve is about 62 thousand hectares. The 460 square kilometers of the Tigrovaya Balka nature reserve is described by WWF as the most important nature reserve in Central Asia, due to its large size and biodiversity. The reserve "Tigrovaya Balka" belongs to the State Institution of Specially Protected Territories of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The reserve "Tigrovaya Balka" is the only corner on Earth where the desert-tugai complex is preserved, composed of moisture- and heat-loving summer-green salt-resistant tree species and shrubs: turanga - gray poplar (*Populus pruinosa*), jigda - narrow-leaved oleaster (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), multi-branched tamarix (*Tamarix ramosissima*). Tugai occupy a significant territory of the reserve - more than 24 thousand hectares.

About 160 species of birds have been recorded on the territory of the reserve, of which about 70 species are nesting. Tigrovaya Balka is notable for its population of the Tajik black-and-gold pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus bianchii*), the rare Yellow-eyed Pigeon (***Columba eversmanni***)[1]. Here live (but do not nest) the Beauty bustard (*Chlamydotis undulate*), Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*), little bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*), Egyptian Vulture (***Neophron percnopterus***), Marbled Duck (*Marmaronetta angusirostris*), Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*), Red-nosed pochard (***Netta rufina***), Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*), White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga*), Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*), Harrier (*Circus macrourus*), Steppe Kestrel (***Falco naumani***), Turkestan Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug coasti*), Roller (*Coracias garrulus*).

28 species of mammals are registered in the reserve, among them Goitered gazelle, Goitered gaselle, Bokharan (Tugai) deer (*Cervus elaphus bactrianus*), Striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena* Linnaeus), Jungle cat (*Felis chaus oxiana*) (included in the IUCN Red List). The area was one of the last strongholds of the Turanian tiger (*Panthera tigris virgata*), traces of which were last seen in the reserve in 1953. Of the 30 species of reptiles, there are gray monitor lizard (*Varanus griseus* Daudin), Skink gecko (*Teratoscincus scincus*), Cobra (*Naja oxiana* Eichward), Viper (*Macrovipera lebetina turanica*), Central Asian efa (*Echis multisquamatus*), out of 20 species of fish - on the verge of extinction the Amudarya pseudoshovelnose (***Pseudoscaphirhynchus hermanni***), the endangered Bald asp (***Aspiolucius esocinus***), as well as the Aral longhorn beetle (*Barbus brachycephalus*) and the Turkestan longhorn beetle (*Barbus capito conocephalus*), the Turkestan catfish (*Glyptosternum reticulatum*) and others.

The main threat to the existence of the reserve is the massive development of lands adjacent to its border, poaching, illegal logging, systematic forest fires, and illegal grazing. The reserve has a Management Plan which prohibits economic activity on its territory. But illegal harvesting of firewood, illegal felling of trees and shrubs by the local population remains the main factor of anxiety and significantly affects the population of nesting birds in the reserve.

The reserve has practically no buffer zone and there are farms and 5 villages on the line of contact- Yakodin, Balkhi, Buston, Karodum and Zamini Nav with a population of over 9,500. These are mostly poor highly agriculture-dependent rural communities in which there was not enough activity of state and non-governmental organizations for their development. The territory of the reserve is not fenced, not marked with signs in all places, and therefore members of the communities often pass through the territory of the reserve, especially in search of firewood. Basically, the population of the villages adjacent to the reserve are aware about the ban on the collection of firewood and grazing, but the facts of violations are recorded by the reserve constantly.

According to the specialists of the Institute of Zoology and Parasitology of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, the anxiety factor from the villages adjacent to the reserve (especially from firewood collectors) has a significant impact on the landscape-seasonal placement of the birds of the reserve, negatively affects the resettlement and nesting of the Tajik Red Book pheasant, Yellow-eyed Pigeon and rare waterfowl (Red-nosed pochard, Common Pochard, White-headed duck etc.) Species and ecological status data, carried out by specialists of the Institute of Zoology, show a decrease in bird populations, a refusal to nest in the reserve of a number of species.

Despite the improvement in energy supply in recent years, population growth and frequent interruptions in electricity supply keep the demand for fuel wood in the surrounding villages high. In conditions of high cost of energy resources, illegal felling of trees and shrubs in the floodplain of the Vakhsh River on the borders, and sometimes on the territory of the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve, is increasing. The annual increase in wood users in Tajikistan, according to the Forestry Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan, is increasing by 10%. The current assessment of local Jamoats shows that more than 50% of the population of the surrounding villages uses wood for energy and heating.

Although over the past 20 years, significant investments have already been attracted to conservation activities in and around the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve, it must be stated that the relationship between the energy problems of local communities and the conservation of biodiversity in the reserve has not been sufficiently assessed. The energy poverty of local communities continues to negatively affect the Tigrovaya Balka tugai complex and creates direct and indirect threats to priority species, especially birds. Due to the growing anxiety associated with the collection of firewood and fuelwood harvesting, threats to waterfowl, nesting birds remain. Species with small populations, such as the Tajik black-and-gold pheasant, Yellow-eyed Pigeon, Houbara bustard, White-headed duck, Egyptian Vulture, Sea-eagle, Cinereous Vulture, Imperial eagle, Steppe harrier, Turkestan Saker Falcon and others are susceptible to an increased risk due to disturbance of their habitat.

If actions are not taken to reduce the load on KBA "Tigrovaya Balka" by reducing wood consumption in the surrounding villages, developing energy efficient technologies using renewable energy sources, planting fast-growing plantations for energy needs, providing other technologies and alternatives to solve energy poverty problems, then the degradation biodiversity of the tugai complex and the threats of loss priority species will become even more obvious.

Of course, the introduction of sustainable energy technologies alone will not improve the situation, it is necessary to improve KBA management, develop community management of energy resources, increase the level of awareness and environmental education of natural resources users, community based organizations and youth. The current assessment of public awareness of the reserve by the local public organization "Kokhi Munir" (Dusti village) shows weakness of public awareness in connection with the lack of relevant practical easy-reading information and that many awareness campaigns fail to change behavior since not oriented to needs of target groups. The current situation also shows that the Management Plan of the Reserve does not sufficiently consider the role of communities in conservation.

To solve these problems, the Youth Ecological Center proposes a project that will involve 5 rural communities located on the northeastern border of the nature reserve (the villages of Yakodin, Balkhi, Buston from Jamoat Yakodin and Karodum, Zamini Nav from Jamoat Pyanj), and also the administration of the «Tigrovaya Balka» nature reserve.

The proposed project will make efforts to improve nature management by introducing new approaches to energy management in conjunction with the conservation of biodiversity in «Tigrovaya Balka». The project will involve communities, including the private sector, in the process of improving the use of cultural landscapes and the use of available practical energy solutions around the «Tigrovaya Balka» nature reserve. The project will improve communication and mutual understanding between the local communities and the Reserve.

The Youth Ecological Center has extensive experience in working with communities to improve nature resource management, conservation, implement affordable SLM and energy solutions. The organization maintains working contacts with the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Academy of Science, has contacts with local CBOs, communities and the management of the reserve. To obtain data on the impact of the project on the KBA, the Youth Ecological Center, together with KBA and scientists from the Institute of Zoology Academy of Science, will conduct the necessary baseline and progress assessments. Together with the communities, using the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) approach[2], YEC will assess the energy needs of the communities and help develop community-based solution and Community Conservation Action Plans. To support solutions at the local level, the YEC will sign agreements with communities\beneficiaries to provide energy equipment (like energy-saving stoves, PV stations, etc) in exchange for a promise to stop collecting firewood in the reserve. The successful implementation of the proposed project will be supported by the previous YEC experience of working with communities on creation of community-based nurseries and introduction of energy-efficient cook stoves received under the CEPF Small Grant "Involving Communities in Reduction Pressures on Tajikistan's Khojamumin Key Biodiversity Area" (Grant 112388), which was implemented in 2021 -2022.

The nurseries proposed in this project, as well as on the previous YEC projects, will be based partially on a commercial, i.e. sustainable basis in order to initiate a self-propelled dissemination process beyond the project lifecycle. The proposed stoves, unlike traditional stoves, use 50% less wood and have become a useful technical tool to reduce deforestation and protect biodiversity in Hojamumin and other locations. YEC has practical experience with the widespread adoption of energy-saving stoves in the framework of climate adaptation projects supported by the Canadian Local Initiatives Fund, GEF and uses successful models of other groups like GERES[3] that have done such work in Tajikistan. Thanks to CEPF grant #112388, the YEC has strengthened own technical capacity, improved community engagement tools, participatory planning and assessment skills, which will help to successfully implement the new project in Tigrovaya Balka. Meetings with local

communities and authorities during the process of development new project, showed its relevance to local needs and the support of appropriate parties, which is important for the success of the proposed project (2 letters of interest are attached).

The proposed project will make efforts for environmental education of youth around «Tigrovaya Balka» nature reserve, focusing on the relationship between livelihoods, energy and biodiversity conservation. To work with school "green patrols", training modules for trainers based on interactive forms of facilitation and informational posters will be developed. In the work on environmental education, the YEC has good experience and in 2022 was awarded by the Government of RT with the award "The best NGO for working with youth"

Project Approach:

The following approach will be taken to decrease the burden on KBA and reduce the energy poverty of local communities:

- Together with the nature reserve sauff and project Biologist (PhD from Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of RT), an ecological monitoring will be carried out of the reserve border areas to assess the negative impact on biodiversity associated with the collection of firewood and felling trees by local communities. To measure impact of project interventions on changes and improvement of the situation (presence, or wildlife behavior, the health of plant communities), an inception environmental assessment will be carried out and baseline data will be obtained. At the end of the project, a second assessment of the ecosystem will be conducted to determine the impact of YEC project measures to reduce the gathering of fuelwood from the nature reserve. The assessment and ecological monitoring system methodology will be developed by the project biologist and discussed with stakeholders. To assess biodiversity, among other things, the project biologist will use species monitoring methods such as: i) route accounting - to assess the density and number of birds on study area. ii) studying the ecology of reproduction and the dynamics of the number of birds in the species habitat.

- A joint (with the mahalla committees and local community based organizations (CBOs), nature reserve representative) energy needs assessment will be carried out of bordering villages to the Tigrovaya Balka nature reserve, focusing on the relationship between livelihoods, energy and biodiversity conservation in the Reserve. The Field coordinator, together with local community mobilizers, will conduct two-day assessment meetings in the 5 villages. The assessment will use the PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal approach and tools such as community mapping, creation of a seasonal calendar, identification of risks, development of community-based solutions and options to mitigate risks and negative impacts on the reserve. As a result of the assessment, Community Conservation Action Plans will be developed in 5 villages to mitigate risks and stop collecting firewood in the nature reserve through the implementing of renewable energy technologies (RE), energy efficiency (EE) and sustainable land management practices (SLM). Conservation planning will help landowners, communities and nature reserve work together to identify their resources and accomplish objectives that are best for people and nature.

- Management effectiveness of Nature Reserve will improved by establish local community engagement mechanism as 5 Village Committees involved a local self-government, community members, protected area staff and interest groups with Community Conservation Action Plans. The task of the Committees will be to find and implement energy solutions based on local sources and innovations that contribute to the conservation of

biodiversity and the support of livelihoods. An important task for the Local Committees will be to ensure that the use of the stoves, nursery timbers, other energy solutions and local initiatives actually contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and reduce the gathering of fuel wood from the reserve

As part of the implementation of the Action Plans, the communities initiatives for sustainable nature management will be supported: creation mini nurseries of fast-growing tree species, reduction consumption of wood for cooking and heating, constructing of improved stoves, better manure management, production fuel briquettes from agricultural waste, energy saving (house insulation), implementing of the affordable SLM practices as agroforestry, creation of fuel wood nurseries, soil improvement, implementation of soil and water saving technologies, conservation initiatives. Communities will be involved in improving the management of production landscapes around the Reserve by applying SLM on an area of about 10 ha (outputs will be determined during the development of community plans).

- **Affordable EE and RE technologies\options** will be introduced in 5 bordering villages to reduce the consumption of local wood for heating and cooking. Among them are energy saving stoves that reduce the consumption of firewood by 50%, the production of fuel briquettes from local agricultural waste, as well as the use of solar energy - solar kitchens and PV stations. Together with trained local craftsmen, 50 energy-saving stoves will be built in the villages, 5 PV stations with a total capacity of 10kW will be installed, 5 sites for the production of fuel briquettes will be created, 20 solar kitchens will be installed.

- **The proposed stoves**, unlike traditional stoves, use 50% less wood, which will reduce wood gathering in the area bordering the reserve. Given that wood consumption in 1 household (out of 6 people) per year is about 4 m³ of wood, the proposed energy-saving stove will consume 2 m³. Through the construction of 50 energy-saving stoves during the project, reducing the consumption of local wood (and collecting firewood accordingly) by the inhabitants of the bordering villages will be about 100 m³ per year. That is estimated as 25-30% of the total amount of wood collected by local residents on the border of the reserve per year.

- **Local craftsmen** from the villages bordering the reserve will be trained by energy specialist to work with EE and RE technologies. 30 local craftsmen from 5 villages will be trained to build improved energy efficient stoves from local materials, and 2 teams of craftsmen will be created to work on a commercial basis to disseminate stoves to rural households. To train the local masters, 5 two-days trainings will be conducted by an invited stoves specialist. Trained local craftsmen will be enabled to produce i) locally sourced improved cooking stove with 50% less wood consumption; ii) fuel briquettes press (hand biomass press) for the use of agricultural waste and manure;

- **Trained craftsmen** will build 50 demonstration energy-saving stoves in 5 villages and will accept applications for ovens construction from community members. During the project, 70% of the cost of households applications for the construction of furnaces (purchase of pipes, cauldrons, materials) will be covered. After the end of the project, the trained masters will switch to self-financing. In total, during the project under supervision the project energy specialist, 5 demonstration stoves will be built and 45 stoves built by craftsmen on the orders of households

- **To change behavior** and use energy-saving cook stove rather than firewood from the reserve, the trainings will show the ecological, social and economic benefits of their use. As our experience has shown, these stoves are very popular among women and therefore women will be mainly involved in the training on stoves. Improved energy-saving cook stoves require less wood, which can reduce the workload of women and the time required for food preparation. Women will benefit from this labor-saving technology because it is affordable and can be done by yourself

- **PV Stations**, each with a capacity of 2000 watts, will be installed in 5 villages in social institutions and self-government offices (mahalla committees) to support the energy transition from firewood to renewable energy and mitigate the situation due to winter power outages and energy limits. Implementation of energy technologies, installation of equipment, training of personnel of the reserve and local communities, training of masters in energy-saving stoves, conducting trainings on maintenance and repair of equipment, will be under the supervision of a project Energy specialist. The energy specialist will conduct 2 practical trainings on PV station(use and maintenance), EE and RE technologies on which 20 craftsmen will be trained.

- **In the administrative complex** and scientific station of the nature reserve, a 3 kW PV system will also be installed for lighting and operation of electrical equipment during the period of seasonal energy supply limits. The mobile solar lighting Kits for 10 rangers of the reserve (the kit includes a flashlight, charger for the phone, radio) powered by a mobile solar panel with a capacity of 20 watts. The staff will be trained to operate the equipment. Solar equipment will help improve the security regime and improve the work of the scientific station and the administrative complex of the reserve.

- **2 nurseries** per 6000 seedlings for breeding a local fast-growing species - Turkestan poplar as a source of energy and fuel timber will be created on the basis of local farms in the villages of Yakadin and Balkhi located on the border with the reserve. The seedlings will be grown inside fenced areas mainly for energy purposes and will not be used for afforestation beyond the nurseries. Turkestan poplar - grows well in low-salinity soils in rural settlements to the north of Tigrovaya Balka, especially where salt has already been washed out of the soil due to agricultural irrigation. In two years poplar cultivation in nurseries and poplar planting in the households of border villages will provide the necessary amount (about 1500 m³) of fuel and construction wood for local needs. For sustainability, part of the nurseries activities will be income-generating and run on a commercial basis, a mechanism for sustainable self-financing and planting renewal will be developed. To train the care of seedlings and the work of the nursery, 2 trainings will be held and 20 people will be trained. The leading specialist from Tajik Forest Institute, previously collaborated with the YEC on nursery projects, will be involved to conduct trainings and consultations.

- **Gender issues**. Due to the fact that the labor migration in Tajikistan are increasingly feminized and women play an increasingly important role in the use of energy in the countryside, women housewives and women farmers will be actively involved to the process, development of Community Action Plans and to the Village Committee decision-making. The Gender analysis and recommendations will develop by gender expert for implementation of community action plans. Two workshops "Gender and energy" and «Gender and conservation» will be conducted by YEC gender expert for 30 leaders among rural women from pilot villages.

- **Local businesses** and farms will be encouraged to include wildlife protection mechanisms in their activities, through consultations and trainings on the implementation of SLM, EE\RE and conservation practices. For this, 15 trainings and 5 field consultation will be conducted by SLM consultant (in interaction with project energy specialist and biologist) for 300 participants (with the participation of women at least 30%). The aims -to equip participants with a better understanding of the interlink ages between livelihoods, energy, SLM and biodiversity conservation. Participants will get an overview of SLM technologies, best energy saving and nature conservation practices and discuss what can work well in the project areas. It is expected that after the workshops, the participants will be able to work as local advisers, and will be able to apply and disseminate knowledge among their neighbors.

- For establishing **awareness** of baselines for the future, assessments of learning effectiveness will use data from local CBOs «Mohi Munir», data from the education department, and a survey of participants.

- **The livelihoods** of 5 local communities bordering the reserve with a population of over 9,500. will be improved by use of income-generating SLM activities, business solutions as

using energy technologies, provision of services to the population (stoves craftsman services, commercial nurseries) will be about \$10,000 per year (after 2 years) It is expected that the income from the sale of seedlings in a successful nursery can be up to 6000 dollars per year, the ovens\RE\EE craftsmen services \$1000 and, economic benefits from the introduction of SLM practices through increased agricultural productivity up to \$3000 per year

- Considering that the main gatherers of firewood, besides women, are **young people**, the project will make efforts for environmental education of youth around Tigrovaya Balka, focusing on the relationship between livelihoods, energy and biodiversity conservation. For this, the previously existing "green patrols" will be activated in 5 rural schools, will conducted the 5 TOTs for 100 school students on the topic "Conservation and Practical Energy Solutions for the Environment", 2 awareness actions to support biodiversity conservation in KBA area will be held, easy-to-read posters on biodiversity conservation and affordable energy and SLM solutions will be developed and published. To work with school green patrols, training modules for trainers based on interactive forms of facilitation will be developed.

The project will improve communication, mutual understanding between the reserve, local communities, interested organizations and public:

- The project **Information Campaign** will improve mutual understanding between the local population, the Reserve, state forestry and environmental protection authorities. The Campaign in the project area will include activities for rural communities and youth with the involvement of specialists from the reserve. Videos about the activities of the beneficiaries will be shown, competitions and demonstrations of available energy technologies will be held.

- Information about the progress of the project and best practices will be posted on national and regional platforms (as SLM Tj[2] and CACIP[3]) by the Project Information coordinator and disseminated through social and thematic networks.

- During the project, will conduct the 2 round tables. The first , will discuss the obtained environmental monitoring data, discuss approaches to reduce illegal logging, reduce the use of local timber, preserve the tugai complex and priority species. The second round table, to discuss the project impact to improving the environmental situation, the best practices of farmers, nature users, SMEs, women's groups and CBOs also will be discussed. The most active participants will be involved in the SLM Tj network activities for the improvement of exchange of knowledge and practices of environmentally sustainable land use, community forestry, biodiversity conservation and sustainable energy consumption.

- Existing SLM Network will strengthened by Knowledge sharing, dissemination and joint discussing a short participatory videos about biodiversity conservation, best practices and technologies for EE and RE, sustainable management of natural resources in villages where farmers and especially women play a major role. 6 short educational videos will be filmed and discussed in the communities on the 6 village meetings. The video will be posted on social networks and SLM Network platform for discussions.

- **The project team** will be based in Dushanbe and Dusti village near the Tigrovaya Balka nature reserve. Administrative staff (Program Manager and Accountant), as well as Consultants and Trainers will be located in the Dushanbe office of the YEC. They will travel regularly for fieldwork, assessments, trainings, consultations and monitoring. The field project coordinator will be based in Dusti. Community mobilizers will work in 5 villages in 2 Jamoats (Yakaddin and Payndj) on the border with the Tigrovaya Balka Reserve.

9. **Restrictions on access to natural resources:** This section will describe how the project will introduce new or more stringent restrictions on access to natural resources. It should also describe the process by which affected persons participated in the project design.

Strictly speaking, the project will not introduce new restrictions to Tigrovaya Balka. It is already illegal to collect wood or fell trees in the reserve. Rather, the project will educate communities about the negative effects of wood collection from the reserve and build the capacity of reserve personnel. In so doing, reserve personnel may be better able to conduct patrols and enforce existing rules.

10. **Participatory implementation:** This section will establish a process of meaningful consultation whereby affected persons will be involved in identifying adverse impacts and assessing of the significance of any impacts. It will also establish the criteria for eligibility for identifying persons eligible for any mitigation or compensation measures necessary.

YEC has received endorsement for this project design from Jamoat Yakodin (the villages of Yakodin, Balkhi, Buston) and from Jamoat Pyani (the villages of Karodum and Zamini Nav), and also the administration of the Tigrovaya Balka nature reserve.

By design, the project will be based on consultation with the affected people – namely, those who collect fuelwood from inside the reserve. While we have already received formal letters of endorsement, each step of the project involves further engagement with all stakeholders.

11. **Measures to assist affected persons:** This section will describe the mitigation measures to minimize and, where possible, avoid adverse impacts on income and livelihoods. Where needed, measures will be identified to assist affected persons in their efforts to improve their livelihoods or restore them, in real terms, to pre-project levels. This section will also describe methods and procedures by which communities will identify and choose potential mitigation or compensation measures to be provided to persons adversely affected, and the procedures by which adversely affected community members will decide among the options available to them.

Component 2 of the project provides for several measures.

- Consultation with the communities to create Community Conservation Action Plans relating their energy needs to fuelwood collection, allowing people to understand how their needs can be met.
- Distribution of solar stoves and production of energy efficient charcoal briquettes.
- Distribution of photovoltaic lighting equipment.
- Establishment of nurseries with fast-growing timber species.

12. **Timeline and resources:** This section will present an implementation timeline for each measure listed in Section 11, together with an estimate of resource needs.

The project will proceed over the period of May 2023 through February 2025. It is not possible to give precise timing, other than that assessments and planning will begin immediately, with equipment procurement and distribution occurring as early as November 2024.

13. **Monitoring and evaluation:** This section will outline arrangements for participatory monitoring of project activities as they relate to (positive and adverse) impacts on

persons at the project site(s), and for monitoring the effectiveness of the measures listed in Section 11.

The project will have a dedicated Program Manager, a Field Coordinator, an Energy Specialist, and various consultant experts and trainers. The Program Manager will have overall responsibility for ensuring that the safeguards are followed.

14. **Disclosure:** CEPF requires that process frameworks are disclosed to affected local communities and other stakeholders. Please describe your efforts to disclose this plan.

YEC will disclose this safeguard plan as part of the project grievance mechanism.

- YEC will create Grievance mechanism and inform stakeholders about the mechanism through the distribution of a booklet in Tajik language
- YEC will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days.
- YEC will work to ensure that local stakeholders are aware of the work and understand how to voice complaints, if any. We will post contact information in local languages at appropriate locations in Dusti, in the five villages, and at "Mohi Munir" NGO offices in Dusti District.
- We will hold public meetings explaining all our activities. During meetings and in general interactions with the public, YEC will inform local people and other stakeholders that they have the right to raise a grievance at any time with YEC, government representatives, or CEPF about any issue relating to the project.
- YEC will post telephone numbers and e-mails of contact persons at YEC, government authorities, and CEPF. This information and all education materials that will be produced during this project can be accessed on the YEC website www.ecocentre.tj Contact information of the Regional Implementation Team and CEPF will be made publicly available in local languages.
- Contact information for submitting grievances:
 - YEC office In Dushanbe - 13 Shedrin st. YEC Project coordinator, ecoahmad08@gmail.com 992931808301
 - YEC partner office in Dusti – Rudaki st /, house 9, office of NGO "Mohi Munir" mohimunir@mail.ru 992935005840
- Contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team. khisrav@bk.ru
- Regional Implementation Team via <https://www.mca.earth/en/contacts/>
- Conservation International Ethics Hotline: +1-866-294-8674 / secure web portal: <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/10680/index.html>