

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan
Project Title:	Improving the management of protected areas of the Western Tien Shan, Kazakhstan, Phase II
Grant Number:	CEPF-113043
Hotspot:	Mountains of Central Asia
Strategic Direction:	2 Improve management of priority sites with and without official protection status
Grant Amount:	\$112,265.00
Project Dates:	August 01, 2022 - September 30, 2023
Date of Report:	November 15, 2023

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The project partners include:

- Sayram-Ugam State National Natural Park, Aksu-Zhabagly and Karatau Reserves, which have become pilot areas of the project. The State National Natural Park administrations provided support throughout the project (formation of the council's composition and organization of its meetings, organizing and conducting a children's drawing competition, conducting an METT assessment, etc.).
- The Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Republic of Kazakhstan. The committee is the authorized government body responsible for all specially protected natural territories in our country.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Three Kazakh protected areas, each a KBA, are under improved management, including Aksu-Zhabably SNR (131934.3 hectares), Karatau SNR (34300 hectares), and Sairam-Ugam SNNP (149053 hectares), as measured by an increase over a 2021-2022 baseline METT.	All three pilot SPNAs demonstrated significant improvements in their management assessments (Aksu-Zhabagly increased by 19.8% from 67.7% to 87.5%, Sayram-Ugam increased by 14.42% from 64.58% to 79%, Karatau increased by 18.75% from 57.29% to 76.04%). To ensure long-term development and enhance SPNA management, several recommendations and conclusions were made, including the necessity for annual staff training and development, improving the material-

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	technical base, and ensuring adequate funding, among others.
The Western Tien Shan World Heritage Site has two sets of items of formal documents (National Plan(s) for Management and Common Five-Year Framework Management Plan) that lead to the improved management of more than 700 thousand hectares.	The country management plans for the components of the "Western Tien-Shan" MAB were approved with the necessary revisions, and the relevant authorities of the participating countries were recommended to further approve them at the national level.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
Beyond Phase 1 (110706) impact, 150 school children and 50 university students from the Tulkubas, Tolebi, Sairam and Baidibek districts of the Turkestan show increased awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and local protected areas, per pre- and post- project surveys (Phase 1 includes 300 adults, 400 children, 0 university students)	In fact, 167 students and adults, along with 55 students and teachers, participated in the excursions. In total, 222 people, exceeding the planned number by 22, increased their awareness.
A draft amendment and regulations related to the Kazakh national protected area law, increasing participation of civil society on protected area coordination councils, is under review by appropriate agencies and the legislature (partially achieved under Phase 1 and continued under Phase 2)	Three draft government resolutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan and seven draft ministerial orders of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan were developed. The regulations for the Coordination Councils of the three pilot SPNAs were drafted, approved, and adopted. Three legal acts addressing gender issues, the involvement of local population representatives and NGOs in management processes, and an expanded range of topics addressed by the Coordination Council were enacted.
Three local networks have been formed and are functioning in the form of modified and improved Coordination Councils, which meet twice per year, for Aksu-Zhabagly SNR, Karatau SNR and Sairam-Ugam SNNP, each with the participation of at least two representatives of civil society, and each having at least two female members. (Partially achieved under Phase 1 and continued under Phase 2.)	Between 2021 and 2023, each of the three pilot SPNAs conducted four Coordination Council meetings. During these meetings, the Council's regulations, composition, and the annual plan were approved. In compliance with gender policy, 40% of women were included in the committee compositions, along with representatives from NGOs and local communities. Additionally, volunteer groups established within the pilot SPNAs actively participated in these meetings, with project support, including the production of shirts and hats with SPNA logos.
Beyond Phase 1 impact, 15 additional adults have improved capacity to implement farm or household level projects that reduce impact on a CEPF production landscape.	Three seminars were conducted to further enhance the skills for project proposal development, with a planned participation of at least 16 individuals from three local NGOs. In total, 39 people attended the seminars (exceeding the planned 16), including 19 women (48%). Among the participants were representatives from 9 NGOs (exceeding the

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	planned 3). This outcome is attributed to the increasing interest of civil society in project activities related to biodiversity conservation, partly due to the project's efforts.
3 protected area managers have improved managerial abilities in terms of community engagement and promotion of tourism	In order to enhance the qualifications of the staff and managers of the three pilot protected areas, a partnership was established with the IUCN to conduct a seminar-training. The seminar was attended by the leadership and representatives from the eco-tourism, science, and protection departments of the protected areas in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The topics discussed included the development of eco-tourism, combating poaching, and protecting the territory of the protected areas, as well as scientific research activities within the protected areas. A total of 17 employees from the protected areas of the three participating countries participated in the event.
3 community based organizations (one near each protected area) are functioning with official registration and serving as formal liaison to park management	These organizations are part of the Coordination Councils and serve as a bridge between civil society, NGOs and the management of the Protected Areas.
10,000 hectares of pasture (production landscape) adjacent to Karatau Reserve under improved management through adoption of pasture management plan	As part of the project, to reduce the threat to biodiversity in the pastures near the village of Khantagy due to overgrazing, a Pasture Committee was organized. To ensure the sustainable use of pastures, a Pasture Management Plan for Khantagy was developed and adopted in collaboration with local community representatives. Based on the plan approved by the local residents of Khantagy, actions were taken to reduce threats to the biodiversity of the Karatau Reserve. This involved addressing the issue of domestic animals entering the Protected Area in search of water by establishing eight watering points on alternative pastures away from the reserve lands.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

No unexpected or unplanned positive or negative impacts were observed as a result of the project.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

The project's overall results are positive. Here's a summary of each project component:

Component 1: Regional Committee for the Western Tien-Shan Biosphere Reserve

In the first two phases of the project focused on improving management, three Regional Committee meetings were held in cities within the transboundary "Western Tien-Shan" region, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

The first meeting took place in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on July 2, 2021. Due to the pandemic, participants from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as UNESCO and IUCN representatives, joined online, while Kazakhstan attended in person. During this meeting, the Regional Committee was established, and an Action Plan was approved. The proposal to create the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve "Western Tien-Shan" by the Kazakh National Committee of UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" program was accepted.

The second meeting occurred in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on May 27, 2022. It involved sharing region-specific information, discussing a five-year framework, and developing country-specific management plans for the Western Tien-Shan Biosphere Reserve. Each Co-Chair of the Regional Committee nominated experts to create these plans by July 1, 2022. Parties were required to submit country-specific reports to the Committee on Forestry and Wildlife by September 1, 2022. Changes were made to the Regional Committee's composition and the Action Plan.

The third meeting took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on April 25, 2023. During this meeting, country-specific Action Plans for the Western Tien-Shan Biosphere Reserve were reviewed, adjusted, and approved. National authorities were responsible for further approvals. IUCN presented upcoming projects in the Western Tien-Shan region and discussed effective nature conservation using the IUCN Green List for Protected Areas. The potential creation of the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve "Western Tien-Shan" was discussed, with each party agreeing to consider it at the national level. International experts recommended joint scientific research in the protected areas within the transboundary entity. On July 17, "Western Tien-Shan" Biosphere Reserve Day was established to commemorate its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

A fourth meeting in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, is planned to present the Regional Management Plan for the Western Tien-Shan Biosphere Reserve.

Component 2: National Legislation

Under this component, a contract was signed with expert Mukhubaev M.M. on January 27, 2021. Mukhubaev, a former Committee employee with substantial legislative experience, analyzed legal and regulatory acts governing Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNAs). This analysis identified legislative gaps and conflicts in subordinate regulations. Based on this analysis, recommendations for amending legislation and drafts of government resolutions and ministerial orders were developed. Out of the three government resolution projects, two were approved, while one related to the Caspian Sea's reserve zone was postponed due to Iran's pending ratification of the agreement on the Caspian Sea's legal status. Among the seven ministerial orders, five have been approved and registered in the Ministry of Justice.

Component 3: Coordination Councils

In this component, the management effectiveness of three pilot Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNAs) was assessed using the METT methodology. In 2022, Aksu-Zhabagly State Nature Reserve demonstrated substantial improvement, scoring 84 out of 96 points. Similarly, Sayram-Ugam State National Natural Park showed progress, scoring 76 points. Karatau State Nature Reserve also exhibited notable improvement, scoring 73 points in 2022. The assessment highlights the importance of staff experience and continuous training, adequate funding, effective leadership, removing legislative barriers, and establishing a permanent training center for SPNA management.

During the period from 2021 to 2023, four Coordination Council meetings were held in the three pilot SPNAs. During these meetings, the Charters of the Coordination Councils, their composition, and the annual plans were approved. In line with the gender policy, 40% of

women are included in the committee compositions. Additionally, representatives of NGOs and local communities are part of the committees.

Component 4: Public Awareness

Under this component, the project modernized three nature conservation institutions' websites. To prepare for an information campaign within the local communities of the pilot Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNAs), 1000 printed copies of two versions of the "Living Manual" were distributed. These guides detailed rare and endangered regional animal and plant species, invasive species issues, and the importance of conserving invertebrates in both state and Russian languages. They were distributed to schools, universities, journalists, and the local population through various activities.

To enhance public awareness in Component 4, public relations specialists increased the activities of eco-education experts. Additional informational materials were posted on the Facebook and Instagram pages of the three pilot SPNAs. Volunteers and SPNA administrations actively participated in the "Parks March" campaign. A children's drawing competition was held, with around 500 entries. The competition concluded with events to announce the winners and award prizes to the most active SPNA staff who participated in the "Parks March".

Demonstration environmental sites were established on three pilot farms. A contract was signed to organize excursions to these sites, showcasing water-saving technologies and renewable energy sources near the three target SPNAs. The excursions featured various innovations, including solar dryers, solar water heaters, solar ovens, waterless dry toilets, drip irrigation systems, and hydrotarans. These excursions were organized for schoolchildren and students under memorandums of cooperation with educational authorities and universities. The project planned to host at least 200 participants but exceeded expectations by 22 individuals. All participants received "Living Guides" and colorful calendars featuring rare and endangered species.

Within this component, six info tours were organized in 2021-2022 on the pilot territories, involving 15 journalists and bloggers, resulting in ten published articles.

Component 5: Capacity Building for Local NGOs and Communities

Within this component, the project conducted three four-hour training sessions followed by two months of online support. Sixty individuals participated in the seminars, comprising 27 women and 33 men. The participants included 17 representatives from 9 local NGOs, teachers, deputies, school directors and staff, rural residents, as well as guest business representatives and farmers. The participants received consultation support for preparing project proposals and regularly stay informed about grant programs from CEPF, the project management team of WWF Russia, Eurasia Foundation, the Finnish Embassy, the "Ereket" grant program, and other grant programs. As part of the consultancy support, the local LLP "Armada" started producing 150mm diameter hydrotarans. The first hydrotaran was installed at the "Karatau" checkpoint of Karatau Reserve, the second at the "Taldy Bulak" checkpoint of Aksu-Zhabagly Reserve, and the third in the "Ulu Korgan" farm. Three additional hydrotarans were installed in farms in the Aktobe district of the Zhylyoi region. Thanks to the training of NGO representatives in fundraising and subsequent consultancy support, local NGOs, farms, and private individuals have implemented at least 11 projects worth over \$200,000 USD. The effectiveness of the seminars was assessed through interviews. All interviewees provided a high rating for the conducted seminars and expressed a strong interest in the presented technologies.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	The Regional Committee of "Western Tien Shan" WHS	1.1	Report on the 3rd meeting of the Regional Committee of the "Western Tien Shan" WHS in Tashkent, including date, location, agenda, participants (name, position, sex), major points of discussion, and next steps.	The report has been prepared and is attached to this final report, including information about the date, location, agenda, participants, etc.
1.0	The Regional Committee of "Western Tien Shan" WHS	1.2	Report on second Regional Committee meeting, including agenda, participant list (indicating name, sex, country, organization), summary next steps, and annexes with draft national plans and draft Common Five-Year Framework Plan for the world heritage site.	The report has been prepared and is attached to this final report, including information about the date, location, agenda, participants, etc.
2.0	Recommendations to improvements to national legislation and regulations on protected areas and Coordination Councils	2.1	Draft revisions to the 2006 law, "On Specially Protected Natural Areas."	"Amendments and Additions to the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan of November 7, 2006, No. 1063, 'On the Approval of the Rules for Conducting Tourist and Recreational Activities in State National Nature Parks,' have been approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan of September 22, 2021, No. 662.
2.0	Recommendations to improvements to national	2.2	Policy briefs or presentations with recommendations for	In February 2021, a contract was signed with expert Irailina A. for the analysis of existing

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	legislation and regulations on protected areas and Coordination Councils		revisions on regulations on composition and operation of protected area Coordination Councils	and development of new provisions for Coordination Councils in target SPNAs, taking into account gender policies. The expert developed the provisions for the Coordination Councils of three pilot SPNAs, which were discussed by the new Council compositions, approved by the management of the target SPNAs. Three legal acts were adopted, which reflected gender issues, the involvement of local population and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representatives in management processes, and an expansion of the range of issues addressed by the Coordination Councils.
3.0	Coordination Councils	3.1	Reports from Coordination Council meetings in Aksu-Zhabaginsky SNR, Karatau SNR and Sairam-Ugam SNNP, including agenda, participant list (name, sex, organization), and meeting minutes.	
3.0	Coordination Councils	3.2	Baseline and endline METT from Aksu-Zhabaginsky SNR, and at least one METT during the project period from Karatau SNR and Sairam-Ugam SNNP	In 2022, Aksu-Zhabagly State Nature Reserve scored the highest with 84 out of 96 points in management effectiveness using METT, marking a 19.8% improvement from the previous year. Its long history, established in 1926, contributed to this success, but there's room for further improvements, especially in personnel development.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>Sairam-Ugam State National Natural Park also performed well, achieving 76 out of 96 points, a 14.42% increase from 2021. The regulatory differences between reserves and national parks gave Sairam-Ugam an advantage in enhancing its management effectiveness, particularly in tourism.</p> <p>Karatau State Nature Reserve, while in third place, demonstrated good results with a score of 73 out of 96, an 18.75% improvement. To enhance management effectiveness in all SPNAs, ongoing staff training is needed.</p> <p>Key recommendations for improving: Staff experience and potential are crucial for effective SPNA management, necessitating annual qualification improvements;</p> <p>Inadequate material resources and funding are significant barriers to management effectiveness;</p> <p>Effective leadership, sound administrative decisions, and collaboration with local communities, farmers;</p> <p>Address legislative barriers hampering SPNA management;</p> <p>Establish a continuous training center.</p>
3.0	Coordination Councils	3.3	Report on a "best practice / lessons learned" conference	The information is reflected in the summary report (attached to this final report)

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			of three Coordination Councils and relevant CSOs, private sector, and community representatives, including agenda, participant list (name, sex, organization), and meeting summary.	
4.0	Public awareness	4.1	Report summarizing public awareness activities, including venues (tours, excursions, competitions), demographic composition of participants (age, gender), agendas, types and content of materials distributed, flyers, and photographs of key moments.	The information is reflected in the summary report (attached to this final report)
4.0	Public awareness	4.2	Copies of printed educational and informational materials and electronic links to groups on the Internet or social networks	The information is reflected in the summary report (attached to this final report)
4.0	Public awareness	4.3	Awareness assessment report for target groups	The information is reflected in the summary report (attached to this final report)
5.0	Capacity building for CSOs and local communities	5.1	Report summarizing capacity building activities for CSOs/local communities, including training locations, participants by demographic characteristics (age,	The information is reflected in the summary report (attached to this final report)

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
			gender), agendas, types and content of materials distributed, flyers, photographs of key moments	
5.0	Capacity building for CSOs and local communities	5.2	Report on activities of each demonstration site, including activities developed, curricula, materials, lists of participants disaggregated by gender, assessment of performance of trainees in their own farms/households and their work with protected areas.	The information is reflected in the summary report (attached to this final report)
6.0	Stakeholder Engagement, Environmental Impact, and FSBK Capacity	6.1	Report on combined stakeholder engagement plan and environmental impact safeguard	Within the project's implementation, interactions were carried out with government bodies (Majilis of the Parliament, the Committee of Forestry and Wildlife of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan), pilot specially protected natural areas, non-governmental organizations, and peasant farms within the pilot area
6.0	Stakeholder Engagement, Environmental Impact, and FSBK Capacity	6.2	CSTT	The tool has shown a slight positive trend over the course of three years
6.0	Stakeholder Engagement, Environmental Impact, and FSBK Capacity	6.3	GTT	The tool has shown a slight positive trend over the course of three years

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
2.0	Recommendations to improvements to national legislation and regulations on protected areas and Coordination Councils	2.3	Draft national-level management plans for each of the 3 Western Tien Shan countries.	Three experts from three different countries have been hired for the development of national management plans for the Western Tien Shan transboundary biosphere reserve. The national plan projects were reviewed during the 3rd meeting of the Regional Committee.
2.0	Recommendations to improvements to national legislation and regulations on protected areas and Coordination Councils	2.4	Pasture management plan in the area adjacent to Karatau, accounting for biodiversity conservation	Expert, with the participation of local residents, peasants, and farmers, has developed a pasture management plan for the rural district of Khantagi, in the areas adjacent to the Karatau Reserve, taking into account biodiversity preservation issues.
3.0	Coordination Councils	3.4	A partnership will be created between NGOs working with different target PAs of the project from Zhambyl and Turkestan regions.	Three Coordination Councils have been established in targeted SPNAs, and social networks named Batys Tian-Shan (Ugam, Khantagi, Zhualy) have been created in partnership with the NGO 'Mountain Club Jabagly-Manas'
3.0	Coordination Councils	3.5	A regional network will be established to bring together the PAs of the World Heritage site and other interested state and non-state institutions, CSOs and interested persons	All Specially Protected Natural Areas within the Western Tien Shan transboundary biosphere reserve, as well as authorized government bodies from the three participating countries and international organizations (IUCN, CEPF, UNESCO, etc.), have become part of the newly established regional network called the 'Regional Committee'.

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

The project was implemented using existing methodologies, and no new methodologies were resulted

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
5	5 partnerships and networks formed or strengthened among civil society, and with government and communities, to leverage complementary capacities and maximize impact in support of the ecosystem profile	4	1 Regional Committee for the Management of the Western Tien Shan World Heritage Site. 3 local networks: coordination councils for ksu-Zhabagly SNR, Karatau SNR and Sairam-Ugam SNNP	4	
6	At least 20 local organizations receiving CEPF grants demonstrate improved organizational capacity	1	BCFK (FSBK)	3	Non-Governmental Organization "Eco Atameken" Non-Governmental Organization "Ugam" Non-Governmental Organization "Mountain Club "Zhabagly-Manas"
7	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	33	Percent of women engaged in farm management activities	45	33 adult men and 27 adult women (45%) have improved their capacity to implement projects at the level of farms or households that reduce the impact on the CEPF production landscape.

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	no less than 40% the number of men				
5.1	Number of local organizations that demonstrate increased knowledge of international and regional conservation agreements and take steps to engage in action at the local level	1	BCFK (FSBK)	5	The management of natural resources and regulation of nature use by the Turkestan Region akimat, the regional territorial inspection of forestry and wildlife of the Turkestan Region, Aksu-Zhabagly State Nature Reserve, Karatau State Nature Reserve, and Sairam-Ugam National Park.
5.3	Number of new networks or partnerships for conservation that are created and/or strengthened	4	1 Regional Committee for the Management of the Western Tien Shan World Heritage Site. 3 local networks: coordination councils for ksu-Zhabagly SNR, Karatau SNR and Sairam-Ugam SNNP	9	1 Regional Committee for the Management of the World Heritage Site "Western Tien-Shan." 3 local networks: Coordination Councils for the Aksu-Zhabagly State Nature Reserve, Karatau State Nature Reserve, and Sairam-Ugam National Park. Partnership: three universities and two departments of education in Zhambyl and Turkestan regions.
1	15 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), covering 600,000 hectares, have	3	Aksu-Zhabagly, Karatau, and Ugam will all benefit from this project	3	

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
	improved management				
4	10 land-use plans or land-use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation	1	Pasture management plan in the area adjacent to Karatau, accounting for biodiversity conservation	1	
2.1	Number of hectares of KBA with improved management	10,000	10,000 hectares of pasture (production landscape) adjacent to Karatau Reserve under improved management through adoption of pasture management plan	315,287	Management of all three target areas was improved, with a total area of 315,287 hectares
2.2	Number of KBAs with official protection status with improved management	3	Aksu-Zhabagly, Karatau, and Ugam will all benefit from this project	3	
3.2	Number of local level land use plans that incorporate biodiversity conservation as a management objective	1	Pasture management plan in the area adjacent to Karatau, accounting for biodiversity conservation	1	

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

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

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

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

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

Key Biodiversity Area Management

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

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Karatau	KAZ01		34,300
Aksu-Zhabagly	KAZ08		131,934
Ugam	KAZ05		149,053

Production Landscapes

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

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

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

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
33	27	Consultative support was provided for preparing project proposals for various grant programs, including CEPF, WWF Russia's Regional Project Management Team, the Eurasia Foundation, the Finnish Embassy, the 'Ereket' grant program, and other grant opportunities. Information was shared about the possibility of enrolling in online courses on topics such as 'Personal and Subsidiary Farming' and other relevant areas. Additionally, individuals were informed about the opportunity to receive training from the Regional Civil Society Development Association (ARGO) on project development and financial reporting for NGOs. Various training options were offered, including a school for farmers covering beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, greenhouse management, soap making, strawberry cultivation, and more.

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
		Furthermore, participants were made aware of educational opportunities at Denis Ten's 'Eco-Farmer' Educational Center

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits

Benefits to Communities

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

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Type of Benefit									Country	Number of Males Benefitting	Number of Females Benefitting
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i			

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

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

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	Amendments and additions to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding plant life	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	On the Approval of the Rules for Transferring Specially Protected Natural Areas into Reserved Lands	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Approval of Rules for Conducting Tourist and Recreational Activities in State National Natural Parks	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Issuance of a permit for amateur (sports) fishing allowed for the needs of local residents residing within the protected area of the Markakol State Nature Reserve	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Approval of rules for amateur fishing, reclamation fishing, scientific research fishing, and fishing for reproductive purposes in water bodies within PAs with legal entity status	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Amendments and Additions to the Order of the Acting Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated September 1, 2010,	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics															
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
	No. 554 'On Approving the Rules for the Use of Sp																	
7	On the Approval of Rules for the Development of a Conservation Management Plan for a Nature Conservation Organization	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	On the Approval of Rules for Conducting Tourist and Recreational Activities in State National Natural Parks	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	On the Approval of the Procedure for Maintaining the State Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Approval of the List of International and State Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Funds Providing Grants for Biodiversity Conservation and the Development of SPNAs	National	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Kazakhstan	January 02, 2023	<p>In Article 3, the text "and the protection, conservation, restoration, and utilization of plant life" has been added to the legal regime of pastures. In Article 4, Section 1, the text "rational use of pastures" has been supplemented with "while preserving the species composition of vegetation." Therefore, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Pastures" now contains provisions explicitly highlighting the conservation of biodiversity</p>	<p>It has been submitted to the Forestry and Wildlife Committee and handed over to the developers of the draft Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Plant Life" for inclusion in accompanying legislative proposals</p>
2	Kazakhstan	September 03, 2021	<p>The draft resolution includes provisions for returning Specially Protected Natural Area lands back after their removal from the Specially Protected Natural Area status in cases of non-compliance</p>	<p>Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of</p>

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			with their intended use, which will have a positive impact on biodiversity conservation	the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role
3	Kazakhstan	September 22, 2021	The draft resolution clarifies the terminology and, most importantly, reduces the period for granting areas within Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNAs) for tourism activities from 49 years to 25 years, which will contribute to the protection of SPNAs' biodiversity. Additionally, a provision has been included for mandatory discussion of the tender documentation with the members of the coordination council within the national park, allowing the Authorized Body for	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			the Management of SPNAs to make decisions regarding the provision of SPNA areas for tourism development.	
4	Kazakhstan	October 20, 2021	This order allowed the local population living near the Markakol Reserve to engage in amateur fishing for their own needs and grants access for the local population to the natural resources of their region	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role
5	Kazakhstan	December 30, 2020	By the order, the procedure for amateur (sport) fishing, reclamation fishing, scientific research fishing, and fishing for reproductive purposes in water bodies within	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			specially protected natural areas with legal entity status has been specified, which will enhance the protection of natural reserve fund objects and ensure biodiversity conservation	accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role
6	Kazakhstan	November 09, 2022	The order specifies the purposes for the use of natural resources in specially protected natural areas by individuals, depending on the established conservation regime, which will impact the preservation of objects within the natural reserve fund	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role
7	Kazakhstan	October 04, 2022	The order approves the procedure for developing a Conservation Management Plan for	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			a nature conservation organization, which includes all measures for the conservation and restoration of objects within the natural reserve fund, directly impacting the preservation of biodiversity in specially protected natural areas	in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role
8	Kazakhstan	March 09, 2022	The order has defined the mechanism for allocating areas within Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNAs) for the purpose of conducting tourist and recreational activities in state national natural parks, aimed at enhancing the conservation of objects within the natural reserve fund	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role
9	Kazakhstan	February 21, 2022	The project establishes the	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
			procedure for maintaining the State Register of Specially Protected Natural Areas (SPNAs)	with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously been a member of the Majilis played a significant role
10	Kazakhstan	February 22, 2022	The project approves the list of international and state organizations, non-governmental organizations, and funds providing grants for biodiversity conservation and the development of specially protected natural areas	Expert M.M. and Project Manager K.U. worked jointly with the executive authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan during the identification of gaps in legislative acts and regulatory documents. Expert M.M. accompanied the draft resolutions until they were accepted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the session of the Majilis (the Lower House of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Additionally, the fact that Project Manager K.U. had previously

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
				been a member of the Majilis played a significant role

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

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

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

Networks and Partnerships

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

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
Coordination Councils of the three target SPNAs	2021	Kazakhstan	Yes	Engaging Local Communities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Protected Area Management Processes
Regional Committee	2021	Kazakhstan	Yes	A Regional Committee for the Serial Transboundary World Heritage Site "Western Tien-Shan," a UNESCO-recognized natural heritage, was established in 2021 through a series of international consultations. This committee comprises representatives from three participating countries and held three meetings in each respective country. A five-

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose
				<p>year work plan was developed for the Regional Committee. It includes members from the protected areas of the Western Tien-Shan, authorized bodies from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities in the project's target areas.</p> <p>The Regional Committee functions as a regional network, enabling its members to conduct collaborative scientific research, training seminars, conservation initiatives, and knowledge-sharing activities.</p>

Sustainable Financing

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

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

Globally Threatened Species

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

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site

LESSONS LEARNED

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

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

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

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

Biodiversity conservation fund of Kazakhstan - admin@fsbk.kz / fundecology@gmail.com