

CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users
Project Title:	Conservation of wild apricots and almonds in the Isfayram-Shakhimardan Region of Kyrgyzstan
Grant Number:	CEPF-112672
Hotspot:	Mountains of Central Asia
Strategic Direction:	2 Improve management of priority sites with and without official protection status
Grant Amount:	\$149,050.00
Project Dates:	May 01, 2022 - February 29, 2024
Date of Report:	April 17, 2024

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

1. Local population/communities of local self-government bodies (ayil aimaks/rural districts) of Kotormo and Maidan, Kadamzhai district, Batken region. As part of the project they were involved in the following activities:

- were informed: at the beginning about the project, its goals, objectives and activities; in the middle - about the results of activities carried out by project experts; at the end of the project - about the results, results of the project.
- were involved in preparing the soil for sowing wild apricot and almond seeds, collecting and sowing wild apricot and almond seeds, planting their seedlings, fencing plots, creating an artificial glacier, etc.
- discussed issues and conducted a survey regarding the organization of the micro-reserve, and also participated in the development of the draft Management Plan for the reserve.
- participated in training events and received seedlings, the purpose of which is to help reduce the anthropogenic impact on wild almonds and apricots, and on the wild ecosystem in general in the region.

2. Surmatash State Reserve - in order to assist in optimizing management and determining the development prospects of the reserve, a management plan for the reserve has been developed. Booklets about the Surmatash gas processing plant were published, an information iron board was prepared and installed, on which information is posted: a map of the location of the reserve, species of wild animals and Red Book species of animals living in this territory, as well as types of flora, including those listed in the Red Book, and rules of conduct when visits are recorded in the reserve. The areas where wild apricots grow are fenced.

3. Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise - a micro-nursery has been created in which seedlings of wild apricot and almond seeds with a closed root system are grown. An artificial glacier has also been created on the territory of the forestry enterprise. The area where wild apricot grows is fenced.

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
66,194 hectares of the Surmatash State Nature Reserve show further improvement based on increasing METT score periodically assessed after the baseline established in 2023.	An assessment of management effectiveness was carried out using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. The total score was 50 points. The results of the assessment show that such management uses practice rather than planning. The lack of resources does not allow achieving the intended goals, and as a result, the results are poor. The main threats to biodiversity conservation are agriculture and illegal use of natural resources. Transport corridors have a small impact.
Uch-Korgon Forestry Enterprise (111 583 hectares) has improved management for the protection of globally threatened species.	Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise staff actively participated in all project activities to build capacity/awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including wild apricots and almonds in the region. A micro-nursery was created on the territory of the forestry enterprise, in which seedlings of wild apricots and almonds were grown from seeds with a closed root system. Also, an artificial glacier was created on the territory of the forestry enterprise, with the help of the reserve staff, the local population and the forestry enterprise. The area where there is wild apricot is fenced.
220,000 hectares of the Isfairam-Shakhimardan KBA have improved management through the combined efforts of Surmatash, Uch-Korgon, and the residents of Kadamzhai District by 2030.	All implemented project activities were aimed at improving the management of the region
The rural communities of Kotormo and Maidan have adopted land use plans that protect the habitats of vulnerable species by 2026.	Within the framework of the project, work was carried out rural communities of Kotormo and Maidan to increase capacity for sustainable land use.
50 men and 50 women, from 100 households, will have improved income from agroforestry and beekeeping within 4 years of project completion.	Selected 100 households from the vulnerable population received 4 trainings on creating and growing fruit plantations and developing beekeeping for men, and processing and marketing products for women. The seedlings were given to them in order to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the forest ecosystem, including wild apricot and almond, as well as to create alternative sources of income. The donated mim seedlings were planted on their land. Some of them have already begun to receive their first harvest (for example, from raspberries).

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	In the future, when all the donated seedlings begin to bear fruit, these households will have a good increase in income.

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
66,194 hectares of the Surmatash State Nature Reserve have improved management due to adoption of formal management plan by the close of the project.	<p>The Surmatash State Nature Reserve is located on the territory of KRB 20 "Isfayram-Shakhimardan". The area of the reserve is 66,194 hectares. As part of the project, assistance was provided in the development of a management plan for the reserve for the period 2024-2028.</p> <p>The reserve began implementing a management plan starting in 2024. The implementation of the plan will help improve and optimize management, determine the prospects for the development of the reserve, and will allow for the best distribution and management of resources.</p>
7 hectares of the Uch-Korgon forestry estate are better managed for species and biodiversity by 2024.	<p>Artificial glaciers are one example of local adaptation to the process of increasing aridity and degradation of pastures in Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>The artificial glacier on the territory of the Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise helps to improve pasture management on the territory of the forestry enterprise by moistening the soil of approximately 250 hectares to 300 hectares of pastures and providing water for livestock while grazing on these pastures. Not far from the glacier there is a 1-hectare school nursery for growing coniferous trees, which this year will be watered with water from an artificial glacier.</p> <p>In addition, not far from the artificial glacier there are agricultural land plots of local residents of local government (ayil aimak/rural district) Orozbekov, who this year plans to restore 15 hectares of plantation gardens (previously, due to the lack of irrigation water, the gardens dried up) and use pouring water from a glacier.</p>
Two species, wild almond (<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i>) and wild apricot (<i>Armeniaca vulgaris</i>) are protected by strengthened regulation at a national level, by reduced threats at a local level, and by replanting on the forestry estate, by 2024.	<p>Activities were carried out to raise awareness of all stakeholders about the importance of preserving wild apricots and almonds in the region.</p> <p>In order to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the forest ecosystem, including wild apricots and almonds, through the creation of alternative sources of income, 100 households that completed the training (participated in the trainings) were given seedlings of apricot, almond, raspberry and other fruit species.</p> <p>In order to facilitate the natural regeneration and increase of wild apricot, a micro-reserve with an</p>

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	<p>area of 0.29 hectares has been organized on the territory of the ayil aitmak (rural district) of Kotormo. The site is fenced and an information board about the microreserve has been installed. On a land plot of 1 hectare of local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) of Kotormo and on a land plot of 1 hectare of local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) Maidan, seedlings of wild apricot and almonds were planted, and their seeds were also sown in order to preserve and increase the growing area of wild apricot and almond. The plots are fenced.</p> <p>On the territory of the Uch-Korgon forestry, a micro-nursery was created in which seedlings of wild apricots and almonds were grown from seeds with a closed root system.</p>
<p>125 people will have received training in agroforestry, beekeeping, and local ecology by 2024.</p>	<p>In order to assist in reducing the anthropogenic impact on wild almonds and apricots in the Isfayram-Shakhimardan region by creating alternative sources of income near the growth of wild apricots and almonds, training events were conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For men from socially vulnerable segments of the population, a training was organized on the topic: "Creating and growing fruit plantations using agroforestry methods," where representatives of the stronger sex took part (25 men - Kotormo, 33 men - Maidan). - A training was organized for women from socially vulnerable segments of the population on the topic: "Processing of fruit plant products." - The participants were given seedlings (apple, apricot, almond and raspberry).

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

When creating an artificial glacier, the local population, namely elders, realizing the importance of the artificial glacier for the area, showed great interest and offered their help. Subsequently, using the practice of the project in the same region, they created a second glacier with their own resources.

A surprise for us was the adoption of the Procedure for the formation and functioning of micro-reserves and specially protected natural areas of local importance, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic dated October 7, 2022 No. 554, which served as a barrier to the organization of a micro-reserve on the territory of local self-government. Since all the procedures (specified in this order) in which government bodies participate are not necessary, they only complicate the organization of a micro-reserve, protected areas of local importance. To organize a micro-reserve and protected areas of local importance, all decisions must be made by the local government and the local population.

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:

The main achievement of the project is the results achieved in raising awareness of all stakeholders about the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including wild apricots and almonds in the region. A lot of work has been done among the local population of local self-governments (ayil aimaks/rural districts) of Kotormo, Maidan and employees of the Surmatash nature reserve and Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise.

All project activities were implemented taking into account the local population/community of the pilot sites.

A survey was conducted among the local population of the local self-government bodies (ayil aimaks/rural districts) of Kotormo and Maidanof on the organization of a micro-reserve of local significance, in which more than 30% (700) households took part, among the respondents 58.14% (407) were men, 41.86% (293) women. Of these, young age (18-44) 47% (329), middle age (45-59) 33.% (236), old age (60-74) 17.6% (123), old age (75-90) 1.7% (12). Based on the results of the survey, the location of the micro-reserve was determined, and a micro-reserve was organized on the territory of the local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) of Kotormo, Kadamzhai district, Batken region.

Within the framework of the project, vulnerable segments of the population of the local self-government bodies (ayil aimaks/rural districts) of Kotormo and Maidan, living near the natural reserve, whose livelihood depends on forest resources, and who have no alternative sources of income other than forest management, have been identified. 100 households were selected for training and distribution of highly profitable seedlings. In order to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the forest ecosystem, including wild apricots and almonds, seedlings of apricot, almond, raspberry and other fruit species were given to them to create alternative sources of income. 4 trainings were conducted on the creation and cultivation of fruit plantations and the development of beekeeping for men (50 people), and processing and marketing of products for women (50 people) of vulnerable groups of the population. Also, 8 schools and 4 kindergartens of ayil aimaks (rural districts) of Kotormo and Maidan of the Kadamzhay district received green fruit crops of apple, almond and raspberry.

Meetings were held with local and national stakeholders to collect information/data to develop a management plan for the Surmatash State Nature Reserve. Management plan for 2024-2028. designed with all stakeholders in mind.

To improve the microclimate of the forest ecosystem, as well as provide water to the territory during the dry summer period, for the first time on the territory of the State Forest Fund in the Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise, Kadamzhai district of the Batken region, an artificial glacier was created with the involvement of hired laborers (men) from the local population. During the summer months, the ice mountain will provide drinking and irrigation water to the area.

And also an important result of the project is the conduct of field research in this region: the study of the biology and ecology of *A. bucharica* and *A. Vulgaris*, their diseases and pests and the conditions of the soils where wild apricots and almonds grow. Based on field research, recommendations were developed for preserving and increasing the area of wild apricot and almonds, improving the condition of soils in places where they grow, and recommendations for combating their pests and diseases. Materials have also been prepared for the inclusion of wild apricot and wild almond in the Red Book of Kyrgyzstan in accordance with the Regulations on the Red Book of the Kyrgyz Republic approved by Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated April 11, 2016 No. 189.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Legal review and improvements	1.1	Draft legal language that supports the update of the Kyrgyz Red Book to include the legal listing of <i>A. bucharica</i> and <i>A. vulgaris</i>	<p>Materials have been prepared for the inclusion of wild apricot (<i>Armeniaca vulgaris</i>) and wild almond (<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i>) in the Red Book of Kyrgyzstan in accordance with the Regulations on the Red Book of the Kyrgyz Republic approved by Resolution of the GoKR dated April 11, 2016 No. 189.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a scientific justification for the inclusion of these species in the Red Book of the Kyrgyz Republic and determination of status have been prepared; - a mechanism has been developed for including these species in the QC, agreed with the authorized body and the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic; <p>More details can be found in the report (in Russian) of the project legal consultant - Appendix 3.</p>
2.0	Ecological review of the KBA	2.1	Ecological survey of the Isfayram-Shakhimardan KBA showing locations of <i>A. bucharica</i> and <i>A. vulgaris</i> and qualifying threats in these locations	<p>The main number of <i>Armeniaca vulgaris</i> (202 pieces) grow on the territory of the Surmatash State Reserve (more precisely in the tracts of Tegirmech, Oruktu, Koy Kamaldynin oozu, Egin-Zhai, Suyunduk talaa, Suuk jailoo oozu, Lyangar). Single trees were found on the territory of the Uch-Korgon forestry in the amount of 4 pieces. and in the amount of 3 pcs. on the territory of the local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) of Kotormo. <i>Amygdalus bucharica</i> mainly grows</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				in the territory of the Uch-Korgon forestry and is found in small quantities in the territory of the local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) of Kotormo of Kotormo, Kara-Dobo and Maidan. The growth of apricot and almond is negatively affected by drought and anthropogenic factors. Goat grazing on the territory of the reserve prevents the natural regeneration and growth of wild apricot. Goats eat the grass cover along with apricot regrowth, and also eat the lower parts of the crowns up to a height of 2 m, thereby weakening it and reducing fruiting and resistance to pests and diseases. A more detailed report can be found in the reports in the appendices: 4 Ecological survey; 5 Determination of the climatic optimum for growth; 6 Diseases and pests; 7, 8 Condition and quality of soils, recommendations; 9 Determina
3.0	Improved management on large tracts of state land	3.1	Draft management plan for Surmatash State Nature Reserve	One of the main results of the project is the development of a Management Plan for the Surmatash State Nature Reserve for 2024-2028, in order to assist in optimizing management and determining the prospects for the development of the reserve with the participation and taking into account the opinions of interested parties. For this purpose, meetings were organized with a scientific consultant, a local consultant, and with representatives of the Maidan rural

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				<p>district and with employees of the State Natural Reserve, where problems related to the activities of the reserve and ways to solve them were discussed. A roundtable at the national level has also been organized to collect data and information. Representatives of the Department of Protected Natural Areas and Biodiversity of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, Forest Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kyrgyz Republic, science, international and non-governmental organizations took part.</p> <p>Management plan - Appendix 10 and 11 in Kyrgyz language, 12 and 13 in Russian.</p> <p>List of participants and round table program - appendices 14, 15,16,17.</p>
3.0	Improved management on large tracts of state land	3.2	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for Surmatash State Nature Reserve	<p>Date of METT assessment: December 25, 2023. An assessment of management effectiveness was carried out using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. The total score was 50 points. The results of the assessment show that such management uses practice rather than planning. The lack of resources does not allow achieving the intended goals, and as a result, the results are poor. The main threats to biodiversity conservation are agriculture and illegal use of natural resources. Transport corridors have a small impact.</p> <p>The results of the METT are attached - in Excel</p>

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
3.0	Improved management on large tracts of state land	3.3	Report on establishment of nursery and replanting zone in Uch-Korgon	In the fall of 2022, a micro-nursery was created on the "Pum" plots with an area of 0.04 hectares and "Razezd" with an area of 0.05 hectares on the territory of the Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise in which wild apricot and almond seeds were sown in open ground and in special bags (2000 pcs.) for growing seedlings with closed root system, which were planted in the fall of 2023 on an area of 2 hectares in the territories of local self-government bodies (ayil aimaks/rural districts) of Kotormo and Maidan. List of participants in the Campaign for sowing wild apricot and almond seeds in the nursery - Appendix 18.
3.0	Improved management on large tracts of state land	3.4	Report on 4-hectare protection zone and artificial glacier in Uch-Korgon	1. In order to facilitate the natural regeneration and increase of wild apricots, the Kotormo microreserve has been organized, with an area of 0.29 hectares, where 3 pcs. wild apricot in the pasture areas of the local self-government (ayil aitmak/rural district) of Kotormo in the Kadamzhai district of the Batken region. The microreserve is organized in accordance with the regulations of the Kyrgyz Republic and taking into account the opinions of the local population: due to the lack of pastures for grazing livestock, this micro-reserve was created only on an area of 0.29 hectares. The area is fenced and an information board about the microreserve has been installed (size 60x50). Documents on the

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				organization of the micro-reserve are attached: starting from Appendix 19 to 30. 2. To improve the microclimate of the forest ecosystem, as well as provide water to the territory during the dry summer period, in the fall of 2023. For the first time, an artificial glacier was created on the territory of the State Forest Fund in the Uch-Korgon forestry, Kadamzhai district of the Batken region - a pipeline was laid (installed) about 6 km from the springs to the destination, then the end of the pipeline was raised 15 meters above ground level.
4.0	Community engagement in Kotormo and Maidan and with other stakeholders	4.1	Report on community outreach, including dates and locations of meetings, summary of participants (number, sex), materials provided, and issues raised	Report on deliverables on 4.1. uploaded: Appendix 31 (Russian) and 32 (English).
4.0	Community engagement in Kotormo and Maidan and with other stakeholders	4.2	Report with photos of educational and outreach materials and posters	Report on deliverables on 4.2.. uploaded: Appendix 33 (Russian) and 34(English).
4.0	Community engagement in Kotormo and Maidan and with other stakeholders	4.3	Report on agroforestry and beekeeping, including dates and locations of all trainings, names and sex of participants, materials provided, results as of the completion of the project, and next steps	Report on deliverables on 4.3. uploaded: Appendix 35 (Russian) and 36 (English).

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
5.0	Safeguards and KAFLU capacity	5.1	Report on process framework and stakeholder engagement	The implementation of each project activity was agreed upon with stakeholders, starting the time of implementation, place, who will participate, number of participants. At the local level, a local project coordinator worked on this issue. To implement the event plan (organization of meetings, trainings, promotions, etc.) on behalf of KAFLU, the local project consultant organized meetings with representatives of interested parties, jointly compiled a list and telephone numbers of participants, determined the place and time of the event, agreed with the local self-government, Surmatsh state reserves and Uch-Korgon forest enterprises. All activities were implemented taking into account the proposals and requirements of stakeholders. To establish communication with stakeholders, a responsible person was appointed: a public relations and communications specialist, who informed all interested parties about the mechanism for handling complaints during the implementation of various activities. For this, anyone who has complain: 1. call or email kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com; 2. write and put special ballot boxes that are located in the buildings of the local self-government bodies of Kotormo, Maidan, Surmatash State Reserve, Uch-Korgon Forestry Enterprise. But no complaints were received during

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
5.0	Safeguards and KAFLU capacity	5.2	Baseline and final civil society tracking tool	We have submitted the CSTT separately
5.0	Safeguards and KAFLU capacity	5.3	Baseline and final gender tracking tool	We have submitted separately

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

1. Information booklet of 8 sheets, including information about the project, the results of field research work (modern biological wild apricot and almonds; diseases and pests of wild apricot and almonds, measures to combat them; condition/quality and composition of the soil where wild apricot and almonds grow almond; the impact of climate change on wild apricot and almond, as well as on the ecosystem as a whole), the Legislative framework of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as international conventions and agreements on the protection of rare and endangered species, including wild apricot and almond, recommendations and proposals for mechanisms for the inclusion of wild apricots and almonds into the Red Book of the Kyrgyz Republic. This booklet was developed (in Kyrgyz, Russian and English) and distributed to raise awareness/awareness among all stakeholders about the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including wild apricots and almonds in the region. An electronic version of the booklet in English is in Appendix 1.
2. Booklet about the Surmatash State Reserve - includes information on the goals and objectives of the reserve's formation, the flora and fauna of the reserve, including Red Book species, as well as prohibited events/activities on the territory of the reserve. This booklet was developed (in Kyrgyz and Russian) and distributed to raise awareness/awareness among all stakeholders about the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including wild apricots and almonds in the region. An electronic version of the booklet in English is in Appendix 2.
3. Information billboards (size approximately: 320 cm x 200 cm) - prepared and installed at the entrance to the territory of the Surmatash State Reserve, which contains information: a map of the location of the reserve, species of wild animals and Red Book species of animals living in this territory, as well as species flora, including Red Book species, and rules of conduct for visiting the reserve have been written. Goal: reducing negative consequences on the territory of the reserve by increasing awareness of all visitors to the reserve.
4. Management plan of the Surmatash State Reserve - developed to assist in optimizing management and determining the prospects for the development of the reserve and will allow for the effective distribution and management of resources within 5 years.
5. Trainings - Vulnerable segments of the population of the local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) Kotormo and Maidan, living near the natural reserve, whose livelihood depends on forest resources, and who have no alternative sources of income other than forest management, have been identified. 100 households were selected for training and 4 trainings were conducted on the creation and cultivation of fruit plantations and the development of beekeeping for men, and processing and marketing of products for women.
6. Transfer of seedlings - in order to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the forest ecosystem, including wild apricots and almonds, through the creation of alternative sources of income, seedlings of apricot, almond, raspberry and other fruit species

were transferred to households that were trained (participated in trainings). Also, 8 schools and 4 kindergartens of the local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) Kotormo and Maidan of the Kadamzhay district received green fruit crops of apple, almond and raspberry.

7. Artificial glacier - to improve the microclimate of the forest ecosystem, as well as provide water to the territory during the dry summer period, for the first time, an artificial glacier was created on the territory of the State Forest Fund in the Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise, Kadamzhai district of the Batken region.

8. Micro-reserve – in order to facilitate the natural regeneration and increase of wild apricot, a micro-reserve with an area of 0.29 hectares was organized on the territory of the local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district)Kotormo. The area is fenced and an information board about the microreserve has been installed (size 60x50).

9. Planting – wild apricot and almond seedlings were planted on a land plot of 1 hectare of local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) Kotormo and on a land plot of 1 hectare of local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) Maidan, which were grown with a closed root system in the nursery Uch- Korgon forestry, and also sowed their seeds in order to preserve and increase the growing areas of wild apricots and almonds. The plots are fenced.

10. Nursery - on the territory of the Uch-Korgon forestry, a micro-nursery was created in which seedlings of wild apricots and almonds were grown from seeds with a closed root system.

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
1	15 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), covering 600,000 hectares, have improved management	1	Isfairam-Shakhimardan	1	
3	2 initiatives launched with private sector stakeholders resulting in adoption or maintenance of biodiversity-friendly practices	1	Engagement with Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise	1	

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
6	At least 20 local organizations receiving CEPF grants demonstrate improved organizational capacity	1	KAFLU	1	
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 no less than 40% the number of men	50	50 women have improved income from processing and sale of products from fruit trees and beekeeping	50	In March 2023, we received seedlings of apricot, apple, almond, and raspberry trees and planted them all on our own plots. In the summer of 2024 they will be able to get their first raspberry harvest. Apricot, almond and apple tree seedlings will begin to bear fruit in about 3-4 years.
1.2	Number of species benefiting from strengthened regulation on extractive use	2	wild almond (<i>Amygdalus bucharica</i>) and wild apricot (<i>Armeniaca vulgaris</i>)	2	
2.1	Number of hectares of KBA with improved management	177,777	66,194 from Surmatash and 111,583 from Uch-Korgon	66,510	
2.2	Number of KBAs with official protection status with improved management	1	Isfairam-Shakhimardan has protected and unprotected part. Protected part is covered by	1	

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description
			Surmatash State Nature Reserve.		
2.3	Number of KBAs without official protection status with improved management	1	Isfairam-Shakhimardan has protected and unprotected part. Unprotected part is covered by Uch-Korgon Forestry Estate.	1	
4.1	Number of private companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices	1	Uch-Korgon Forestry Estate is a parastatal		Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise state institution
2	60,000 hectares of protected areas are created or expanded			0	A local microreserve "Kotormo" with an area of 0.29 hectares has been organized. Goal: Preservation and increase of wild apricot
4	10 land-use plans or land-use management practices incorporate provisions for biodiversity conservation			1	Management plan of the Surmatash State Nature Reserve
1.1	Number of species to which threats are reduced			2	Wild apricot and almond

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
Kotormo Micro-reserve		71.94221 1	40.039362	Kyrgyzstan	1	0	2023

*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
Isfairam-Shakhimardan	KGZ20		66,510

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
Uch-Korgon Forestry Estate	71.942211	40.039362	300	Artificial glacier ensuring soil moisture for livestock, nursery, and farm plots, alleviating stress on other places

Benefits to Individuals

- Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
53	50	1. Creation and cultivation of fruit plantations using agroforestry methods 2. Processing and marketing of fruit plantation products

- Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
		In March 2023, in order to reduce the anthropogenic impact on the forest ecosystem, including wild apricots and almonds, through the creation of alternative

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
		<p>sources of income, seedlings of apricot, apple trees, almonds, raspberries and other fruit species were transferred to trained (participating in training) households. Also, 8 schools and 4 kindergartens of aiyl aimaks (rural districts) of Kotormo and Maidan of the Kadamzhay district received green fruit crops of apple, almond and raspberry. And at the same time, after receiving the seedlings, they planted everything in their own plots of land. In the summer of 2024, they can receive their first raspberry harvest. Apricot, almond and apple tree seedlings will begin to bear fruit in about 3 or 4 years.</p>

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			
Maidan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kyrgyzstan	668	668
Kotormo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kyrgyzstan	666	666
Orozbekov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kyrgyzstan	666	666

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	Resolution of the local council of Kotormo On the allocation of land plots for the organization of a local microreserve "Kotormo". December 8, 2023 N30/4. Appendix28	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

- Resolution of the local council of Kotormo On the allocation of land plots for the organization of a local microreserve "Kotormo". December 8, 2023 N30/4. Appendix28: This is a very small plot of land set aside to cultivate indigenous tree species for replanting elsewhere.

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment
1	Kyrgyzstan	December 08, 2023	Natural regeneration and increase of wild apricot	Explanatory work was carried out.

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
Uch-Korgon Forestry Enterprise	A micronursery has been created on the territory of the forestry enterprise, in which seedlings of wild apricot and almonds are grown, which can be used to increase wild apricots, almonds and obtain cultivated varieties of these species. An artificial glacier has also been created on the territory of the forestry enterprise, which helps improve the microclimate of the forest ecosystem, pastures, and also provides the territory with drinking and irrigation water during the dry summer period.	Kyrgyzstan

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
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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?
Management Plan for the Surmatash State Reserve	Within the project, a Management Plan for the Surmatash State Reserve	2024	The developed management plan for the Surmatash State Nature Reserve provided for funding from the state budget and	Kyrgyzstan	Created a mechanism	With the help of the project, a plan was developed that

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?
	was developed to assist in optimizing management and determining the prospects for the development of the reserve and will allow for the effective distribution and management of resources within 5 years. This plan includes environmental protection events/actions and a budget for their implementation, with indicating sources of financing within 5 years.		international projects for the implementation of environmental events. Currently, 181,270 KGS (Kyrgyz currency) have been allocated from the state budget for the first quarter of 2024			indicated the financing mechanism.

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
Armeniaca	vulgaris	Wild Apricot	EN	A micro-reserve with an area of 0.29 hectares has been organized. Wild apricot seedlings were planted on 2 hectares. Areas are fenced. Explanatory work was carried out among stakeholders	Increasing
Amygdalus	bucharica	Wild Almond	VU	Wild almond seedlings have been planted. Areas are fenced. Explanatory work was carried out among stakeholders	Increasing

LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learned from this project include the following:

1. High level of interest among the local population in issues of biodiversity conservation. It should be noted that the majority are interested in sustainable management and use of natural resources. Great interest in the participation of resource management, including biodiversity;
2. The creation of protected areas of local importance simplifies making decisions at the local level on issues of preserving this or that type of flora and fauna. The status of individual species is better known at the local level, which makes it possible to regulate the use of a given species so as not to bring the number of the species below the level of self-regeneration ability. The dissemination of this method of biodiversity conservation will improve the situation both in the region, in the country and in the world.
3. Since scientific research requires large funds, it is necessary to create a Database for the study of flora and fauna in each region, preferably in environmental institutions.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The sustainability of the project after completion of the project is ensured through:

- The newly created microreserve will be managed by the local community with technical support from employees of the Surmatash State Nature Reserve.
- The micronursery created on the territory of the Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise for growing wild apricot and wild almond seedlings will be looked after and used by employees of the Uch-Korgon forestry enterprise;
- The donated seedlings for vulnerable families were planted on personal plots, which will ensure safety in the future and differentiate their source of income;
- Representatives of the local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district) of Kotormo and Maidan will manage their land plots where wild apricot and almond seedlings are planted. The plots are fenced. When planting seedlings of wild apricot and almond on a 1-hectare fenced plot of local self-government (ayil aimak/rural district), the alley method of agroforestry was used, i.e. Seedlings were planted along the rows, and pasture grass seeds were sown between the rows to increase pasture grass seeds. In the future, the obtained pasture grass seeds will be sown by the Pasture Committee of this local self-government on degraded pastures. Since livestock cannot enter the fenced area, pasture grasses grow well here and provide a good opportunity for good seed production.
- The artificial glacier helps improve the microclimate of the forest ecosystem, pastures, and also provides the territory with drinking and irrigation water during the dry summer period. This creates conditions for the creation of forest plantations.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

Before submitting the project proposal to CEPF, KAFLU discussed the project idea with all interested parties (with representatives of the Surmatashsky State Reserve, UCH-Korgon Forestry Enterprise, Local Self-Government Administration of Kotormo and Maidan, science, etc.) and received approval from them.

The implementation of each project activity was agreed upon with stakeholders, starting the time of implementation, place, who will participate, number of participants. At the local level, a local project coordinator worked on this issue.

To implement the event plan (organization of meetings, trainings, promotions, etc.) on behalf of KAFLU, the local project consultant organized meetings with representatives of interested parties, jointly compiled a list and telephone numbers of participants, determined the place and time of the event, agreed with the local self-government, Surmatsh state reserves and Uch-Korgon forest enterprises.

All activities were implemented taking into account the proposals and requirements of stakeholders.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

CEPF – as an organization providing grants to civil society for environmental activities, is one of the leading organizations today. The approach to assessing project proposals evaluates results at three levels - globally threatened species listed on the IUCN Red List; natural areas that support these and other species and are of global importance (key biodiversity areas); and conservation corridors necessary to support the ecological and evolutionary processes on which these species and areas depend.

For Kyrgyzstan, solving problems of biodiversity conservation through this Fund is taking on more and more aspects and a wide range of different directions.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	\$2,100.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	Currently, 181,270 KGS (Kyrgyz currency) have been allocated from the state budget for the first quarter of 2024 according to the management plan (for the purchase of equipment: wardrobe - 20,000 KGS, binoculars 4 pcs. - 26,000 KGS, sleeping bags for rangers 4 pcs. - 14,000KGS, chair - 20,000KGS, bed with mattress for a huntsman 2 pieces - 20,000KGS, household goods - 42,770KGS, stationery - 18,500KGS, for legal services - 20,000KGS).

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.

Kyrgyz Association of Forest Users and Land Users (KAFLU), email: kyrgyzaflu@gmail.com