Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Extra

Project reference	IWTEX002
Project title	Empowering communities and rangers for protection of Asia's mountain wildlife
Country/ies	Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Mongolia
Lead Partner	The International Snow Leopard Trust
Project partner(s)	Snow Leopard Foundation – Kyrgyzstan, Snow Leopard Foundation – Pakistan, Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation (Mongolia)
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Project Leader name	Charudutt Mishra
Project website/blog/social media	www.snowleopard.org
Report author(s) and date	Dylan Hannafious, April 30, 2024

Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

• IWT Challenge Fund (IWTCF) Project Information

1. Project summary

The project is designed to ensure that rangers will have the training, support and social recognition to disrupt poaching and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) of snow leopards and their prey, and additionally, IWT affected communities will have access to conservation-linked livelihood enhancement and conflict management. Snow leopards are currently listed as "Vulnerable" in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and they are threatened by poaching/IWT and loss of habitat due to climate change and human development in their range.

A key intervention toward the overarching goal is the development of new Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Programs (CRWPPs) in Pakistan and Mongolia, as well as expansion of the existing, successful CRWPP in Kyrgyzstan. Through the development of a sustainable trust fund for the benefit of the program from the outset of the project, CRWPP is designed to provide incentive and awards for rangers involved in disrupting or booking IWT cases or cases of conflict with snow leopards in their respective areas of patrol. Our partner organizations in each of the target countries have successfully incorporated relevant local institutions to support the program and together, both internally and through external media channels, spread awareness about the program nationwide.

The CRWPPs in each of the three countries described (Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, and Mongolia) are being deployed alongside a ranger training program designed to establish a sustainable corps of trained rangers as well as future trainers in each country. The goal is to train 150 total rangers (50 in each country) during the course of the project.

Further, in each of the three target countries, our local partner organizations are working with IWT affected local communities, living in snow leopard habitats, to protect existing livelihoods through conservation-conflict management and develop new economic opportunities which do not threaten snow leopards or allow for IWT. In Mongolia, these communities are Ulziit, Khoolt and Dol; in Kyrgyzstan, Kyzyl-Dobo, Koshoi and Temir Kanat; and in Pakistan Gurez, Ghamot and Bagrote Valley.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

SLT is undertaking this project in close collaboration with our long-term partner organizations in Pakistan (Snow Leopard Foundation - Pakistan), Mongolia (Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation), and Kyrgyzstan (Snow Leopard Foundation - Kyrgyzstan). . SLT has a long history with each organization, including extensive collaboration beyond the scope of the IWTCF project. These relationships provide a basis of trust and inter-reliability that strengthens the means of implementation and legitimizes the aim and benefits of the project.

We undertake long-term strategic planning and annual planning exercises with our partners, and also conduct regular meetings (at least semi-monthly, but often more frequent). There is constant communication to track and evaluate progress, plan upcoming initiatives and troubleshoot issues as they arise.

In addition to their current work (both within and beyond the scope of the IWTCF), our partners have built relationships with communities in their respective countries. These relationships have long been founded on many of the same principles and objectives pursued under IWTCF: community-based conservation providing economic alternatives to IWT and ecology-intensive subsistence practices, spreading awareness around snow leopard conservation, and – crucially – training and empowerment of wildlife rangers and protected area management.

By working directly with local communities who 1) are often those most directly affected by IWT, 2) have the most to offer in terms of expertise with and access to the remote landscapes snow leopards inhabit. This project seeks to empower such communities to remove conditions that allow for poaching and IWT, and through economic initiatives, support communities with stronger financial livelihoods that do not threaten snow leopards, their prey or their habitat.

The Citizen Ranger Wildlife Protection Programs (CRWPPs) and wildlife ranger training initiatives in each country are undertaken in close collaboration with the relevant governmental institutions of each country, including creation of norms, and designation of oversight committees that that identify and award wildlife rangers for their distinguished work each year. Such authorities are also crucial partners in communication about CRWPP and in strengthening wildlife ranger capacity nationwide. We are proud to say that the respective governments in all three countries formally supports the CRWPP and acknowledge its importance. Ranger rewards ceremonies were held successfully in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, and were attended by and featured speeches from the respective British ambassador in each country. The ceremony in Pakistan is scheduled in May 2024.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

1.1 Develop resource material (through pamphlets, social media, mass media and targeted outreach to Government and non-government agencies) regarding CRWPP in regional languages and disseminate through various communication channels.

Mongolia

In Mongolia, an informational brochure describing the CRWPP program was developed in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MET), 540 copies of which were distributed across 28 protected area administrations and 10 aimag (provincial) environmental offices. This brochure was also posted on the SLCF and MET Facebook pages.

An informational video about the IWTCF program (including the CRWPP) was produced, which was posted on the SLCF Facebook page. (See Attachment 1.1M).

Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, the CRWPP program has been in operations for several years. During the reporting period, efforts were undertaken to broaden and update awareness of the program through distribution of 500 informational brochures in collaboration with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas of the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Ecology, Natural Resources and Technical Supervision) to all Protected Area administrations in the country. Further, at the Ranger Awards Ceremony conducted in March, an additional 500 brochures were provided to attending rangers for dissemination to and through their professional and community contacts. (See attachment 1.1K).

Pakistan

Informational material on CRWPP was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Government of Pakistan, and distributed through SLFP's social media accounts, namely Facebook and Twitter/X. Physical brochures will be produced and distributed as the project continues.

1.2. Develop CRWPP Committees in Pakistan and Mongolia, based on the model in Kyrgyzstan, to guide annual Ranger Rewards Ceremonies.

<u>Mongolia</u>

CRWPP committee for Mongolia was developed in collaboration with the MET (Mongolian Government) by empanelling key stakeholders to guide the committee's review of ranger award nominations and selection of awardees. The committee members are: G Erdenechimeg (head of the MET Protected Area Department), A. Bayarjargal (Regional Program Manager of SLT and Honorary Executive Director of Snow Leopard Network), L. Purevjav (Executive Director, SLCF), S. Bayarkhuu (Executive Director, Mongolian Rangers Association), J. Tmorsukh (Head of Ulaantaiga Strictly Protected Area), and B. Usukhbayar (Chief of the Mongolia Ecology Police Department). The committee met four times to determine the basis of selecting awardees and to plan and organize the first Ranger Award Ceremony in Mongolia. (See Attachment 1.2M)

Pakistan

In Pakistan, the CRWPP committee was formally established in collaboration with the Federal Government. In addition to a representative from SLFP, it included Syed Ghulam Qadir Shah (Inspector General (Forests) Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MOCCEC)); Muhammad Samar Hussain Khan (Conservator Wildlife MOCCEC); Naeem Iftikhar Dar (Director Wildlife and Fisheries of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK)); Muhammad Hussain (Conservator Wildlife, Wildlife Department of Khyber Pkhtunkhwa (KPK)); Dr. Jibran Haider (Director of Forestry Operations; Forests, Parks and Wildlife Department of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)); and Ashiq Ahmad Khan (Wildlife Expert, The Ev-K2-CNR Chartered Association). The three regional government representatives (from AJK, KPK, and GB) notably represent all of the snow leopard range administrative regions of Pakistan. (See Attachment 1.2P).

1.3. Strengthen relationships with the provincial wildlife departments to spread awareness about CRWPP to all stakeholders.

Mongolia

In Mongolia, official communication seeking engagement for CRWPP was sent to ten provincial authorities (South Gobi, Gobi-Altai, Uvs, Ovorkhangai, Khovd, Bayan-Ulgii, Bayankhongor, Zavkhan, Khovsgol, Arkhangai) through the Natural Resources Policy Department, and reached another 28 protected area administrations through the Protected Area Department of the MET. The information was also shared on Facebook both through SLCF's and the MET pages. (See Attachment 1.3M).

Kyrgyzstan

As described under Activity 1.1. above, SLFK worked closely with the national Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas to disseminate information about the CRWPP through relevant provincial authorities on a nationwide basis.

Pakistan

In addition to the meeting described above in Activity 1.2, SLFP met with the AJK wildlife department on to discuss progress on CRWPP nominations, as well as other projects under the IWTCF project. As part of that discussion, the AJK representatives committed to working with its rangers to spread awareness of the CRWPP program and provide nominations for the upcoming CRWPP ranger rewards ceremony. Similar outreach will be conducted with the other two regional governments as the project continues. (See Attachment 1.3P).

1.4. Arrange Ranger Rewards Ceremony, starting 2023, to reward rangers in the presence of the Ministers, heads of local NGOs and ambassadors of at least one international consulate, and create event reports.

Although work was well under way in establishing CRWPP committees and planning the Ranger Awards Ceremonies in each country in 2023, it was not practicable to establish the committee and host the Ceremonies earlier than spring 2024. Ceremonies were held in each country, honoring the work undertaken by wildlife rangers in 2023.

Mongolia

A successful Ranger Awards Ceremony was conducted on April 22, 2024 (Earth Day) in Ulaanbaatar that included 66 guests, including Fiona Blyth (British Ambassador to Mongolia; who also have a speech at the ceremony), Sebastien Surun (French Ambassador to Mongolia), Ts. Uranchimeg (Natural Resource Policy and Coordination Department of MET), Koustubh Sharma (Science and Conservation Director of SLT) as well as each of the CRWPP committee members. Unfortunately, although we had expected the Minister to participate, that wasn't possible, perhaps due to the schedule of the upcoming elections in Mongolia. Overall, nineteen rangers were felicitated for their work, and Boldbaatar Baljinnyam of Khuvsgul Ulain taiga was given the "Best Ranger – 2024" for his work in the prior year. An additional 4 rangers from Khuvsgul aimag, 1 from Uvs aimag, 2 from Bayan-Ulgii, 6 from Khovd, 1 from Gobi-altai, 1 from Arkhangai aimag, 1 from Uvurkhangai aimag, 1 from Bayankhongor aimag, and 2 from Ulaanbaatar city were recognized and rewarded for their contributions to IWT disruption and protected area enforcement. The Ceremony also included presentations from SLCF and SLT staff and an ensemble performance of folk songs. After the Ceremony, the British Embassy to Mongolia publicized the ceremony and their participation therein through its social media channels (See Attachments 1.4M).

Kyrgyzstan

The 10th annual ranger rewards ceremony in Kyrgyzstan was held on March 1, 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Distinguished attendees included Mr. Melis Turgunbaev, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision; Mr. Balbak Tulobaev, Deputy of the *Jogorku Kenesh* (Kyrgyz Parliament); Mr. Nicholas Bowler, British Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Arun Kumar Chatterjee, the Ambassador of India to the Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Hasan Ali Zaigham, the Ambassador of Pakistan; Mr. Andres Müller, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Swiss Embassy in Kyrgyzstan; as well as representatives of various other local and international organizations. Mr. Bowler, Mr. Turgunbaev, Mr. Tulobaev and SLT Science Director Koustubh Sharma gave speeches at the event, musicians provided a performance of traditional Kyrgyz folk songs, and the meeting was concluded with the screening of BBC Earth production "Snow Leopards: Ghosts in the Snow". (See Attachments 1.4K)

Pakistan

The CRWPP ranger awards program in Pakistan is scheduled for for May 22, 2024, coinciding with the International Day for Biodiversity.

1.5 Trust Fund established and managed by SLT for CRWPP in Mongolia and Pakistan

£200,000 was invested by SLT into the trust fund established for the benefit of the national CRWPPs. The trust fund is arranged such that £13,000 can be drawn on an annual basis from the fund without drawing the corpus of the fund. Originally established to support the CRWPP of the Kyrgyzstan, the trust fund now operates for the benefit of all three country CRWPPs (See Attachments 1.5).

2.1. Work with the Environment Ministry and protected area administration of each country to identify a set of rangers, ensuring they are representative from different divisions and protected areas/protected landscapes of the 3 countries.

<u>Mongolia</u>

Nine specialists were identified by SLCF in collaboration with the Mongolian Ecological Police Department, the University of Internal Affairs (national police academy), Strictly Protection Area specialists, the Khovd provincial department inspector, and the Uvs provincial Environmental Department. These 9 specialists are from protected areas, provincial environment departments, and the Ecological Police, and will receive training to become trainers. The 9 specialists are from the provinces of Uvs, Gobi-Altai, Khovd and Ulaanbaatar aimags; they range in age from 25-60; and they all have at least 3 years of experience working in the environmental field. Similar representative selection of ranger trainees will be used to select the larger group of trainees under Activity 2.2.

Kyrgyzstan

SLFK, in collaboration with environmental ministries at the local, provincial and national levels, identified 7 candidates from across the country who will receive training to becometrainers under the IWTCF project design. Two candidates are from the Naryn province (one working at the Naryn reserve, the other at the Provincial Department of the national Ministry of Ecology). Two candidates represent the Issik-Kul province (one from the Khan-Tengry National Park, the other from the provincial department of the Ministry of Ecology). One candidate is from the Central Department of Ministry of Ecology in the Department of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation. One candidate is a ranger from the Ak-Suu Sanctuary. The last candidate is from Osh province where is a representative of the provincial department of the Ministry of Ecology. Similar representative selection of ranger trainees will be used to select the larger group of trainees under Activity 2.2.

Pakistan

In collaboration with the three regional authorities of the provinces of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit Baltistan, SLFP established criteria for ranger trainees and successfully received nominations for 6 rangers (2 from each region) who will become future trainers. Similar representative selection of ranger trainees will be used to select the larger group of trainees under Activity 2.2.

All selected individuals across the three countries will receive training to become trainers in IWT disruption. The IWT wildlife crime scene investigation related trainings will be conducted by our project consultant and Specialist Brian Petrar. Other trainings will be provided by other partners.

2.2 Arrange and carry out hands-on training to rangers on the disruption of poaching, wildlife crime scene investigation, and first aid (50 rangers in each country; total of 150 rangers).

In each country, these trainings will occur following the initial "training of trainers" described in Activity 2.5, as the trainees from Activity 2.5 will themselves conduct these trainings. The Activity 2.5 trainings are taking place in April and May of 2024.

2.3 Conduct ranger trainee-led evaluation with participants and training facilitators in each country.

Similar to Activity 2.2, this activity will take place later in the project lifecycle once the training programs are fully established and the data become available. We will conduct pre-training feedback surveys in each country, which will be used to compare against downstream, post-training feedback surveys.

2.4 Equip 50 rangers in each country (Total 150 rangers) with necessary field gear and communication devices.

Mongolia

We have acquired training equipment for Mr. Petrar's training, as well as ranger trainings in general. This includes 50 first aid kits, 50 Konika cameras, 50 magnifying glasses, 20 audio recorders for investigative interviews, 10 coolers and 20 re-useable ice packs (for preserving evidence), and 6 Garmin GPS devices.

Kyrgyzstan

We have acquired 8 handheld transceivers for Mr. Petrar's training, and 2 aerial drones on which rangers will be trained to extend their effective patrolling range. e Ranger equipment for the larger cadre of trainings will be procured in future as the downstream trainings are conducted.

Pakistan

We have acquired 50 each of Aculon 16x50 binoculars, Nikon Coolpix P-1000 cameras, and wildlife crime scene investigation kits.

2.5 Five officials/personnel are trained and established in each country (total 15) to train the rangers further using an annual sustained training and training booster program.

SLT has engaged internationally-recognized wildlife ranger training specialist Brian Petrar to provide initial in-person trainings, follow-up consultations and refresher trainings supporting the IWTCF ranger training initiatives. Crucially, Mr. Petrar will be on-site in each country to train the initial cadre of rangers (the "trained-trainers") on how to train other rangers in poaching crime-scene investigation and investigative interviewing skills. Following the initial trainings, Mr. Petrar will be available on a remote basis to support the trained-trainers in training additional rangers in each of their countries. This will also include provision of two refresher trainings for the trainees (in-person if the stakeholders deem necessary), conducting evaluations of the training and trainees' performance, and facilitation of "booster" trainings to fill any gaps in curriculum based on trainee feedback after returning to the field. (See Attachment 2.5).

<u>Mongolia</u>

The initial trainings with Mr. Petrar in Mongolia will be conducted from May 29-31, 2024 with the 9 candidates described in Activity 2.1. SLCF has translated the training plan and information materials into Mongolian, and in addition to Mr. Petrar's training, the team has arranged for a lecturer from the University of Internal Affairs in Mongolia to complement the training with instructions with respect to the scope of the rangers' legal authority (as well as other locally relevant legal dynamics for wildlife rangers). (See Attachment 2.5M).

Kyrgyzstan

For the Kyrgyz team, Mr. Petrar held his training from April 22-24, 2024. Initial reports from the training were very positive according to both Mr. Petrar and our partner staff. More comprehensive reports of the training will be available shortly and can be supplemented to this report. (See Attachment XX).

SLFK also plans to supplement Mr. Petrar's training with additional training for some rangers on the use of aerial drones to expand the effective range of their patrol routes.

Pakistan

Mr. Petrar was in Pakistan to conduct his training from April 17-19, 2024. Similar to the Kyrgyzstan training, Mr. Petrar and the partner staff report positive feedback about the training. The closing ceremony of the training featured a speech by Mr. Samar Hussain Khan from the federal government. More formal reporting from the training will become available for review shortly, but SLFP also shared some videos and posts about the training on their YouTube and Facebook pages (including Mr. Samar's speech). (See Attachment 2.5P).

2.6 Support the five trained officials/personnel to conduct 1 annual training booster program in each country.

Similar to Activities 2.2 and 2.3, the annual booster trainings will occur later in the project lifecycle.

3.1. Two meetings/consultations per country with relevant government agencies (Ministry of environment and protected area administration) to present CRWPP progress.

<u>Mongolia</u>

The SLCF first met with relevant government agencies about the CRWPP program (and the IWTCF project generally) on September 8, 2023. Attendees included representatives from the MET, as well as private-sector organizations contributing to anti-IWT projects in Mongolia. After introducing the IWTCF initiatives, the group also discussed news and updates related to wildlife rangers in Mongolia generally. Purevjav Lkhagvajav and Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, of SLCF and SLT respectively, met with Ms. Uranchimeg Tserendorj, Director of Natural Resources Policy and Coordination Department of the MET, on December 20, 2023 to further discuss the CRWPP program and successfully achieved buy-in from her and her department. A similar meeting was held with Director N. Baatartsogt, Director of Policy and Regulation of Specially Protected Areas of the MET on November 16, 2023, where the department also approved the program. Formal approval was ratified via letter thereafter. Ms. Lkhagvajav and Enkhtuvshin Gongor of SLCF met again with Ms. Uranchimeg on January 20, 2024 to seek guidance on selection of CRWPP committee members (her recommendations were used in empanelling the committee), as well as begin the planning of the ranger rewards ceremony. (See Attachment 3.1M).

Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, SLFK works closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNR), with a spike in collaboration in the months leading up to the ranger rewards ceremony every year.

<u>Pakistan</u>

As described in part above, SLFP met with regional and national leaders on November 23, 2023 to formalize the CRWPP and discuss progress towards its implementation. They also met with the representatives from AJK on January 19, 2024. At a PARTNERS principles training SLFP held in January 4, 2024, attendees included the Inspector General of Forestry and Wildlife Conservators from the MOCCEC, and the groups discussion includes updates on CRWPP planning.

3.2. Press releases (focusing on the CRWPP ceremony and key stories showcasing rangers) prepared and shared with in-country media contacts, ensuring that 2 media outlets publish CRWPP stories per country.

Mongolia

The SLCF team published press releases celebrating the CRWPP rewards ceremony on April 22, 2024. They worked with media members and MET communications representatives to ensure ample publication of the event.

Kyrgyzstan

SLFK worked with government and media outlets to publish articles reporting on the rewards ceremony, these outlets include the MNR media channels, as well as articles in Vechernyi Bishkek News, Evening Bishkek and Ecology AKIpress. (See Attachment Attachment 3.2K).

Pakistan

SLFP expects to publish press releases and articles covering the rewards ceremony closer to and following the date of the ceremony (May 22, 2024).

3.3 Work with the Environment Ministry and protected area administration of each country to develop context specific education/communication materials (i.e. pamphlets, videos) about CRWPP and distribute it to all protected areas and ranger teams across the snow leopard range of each country.

Mongolia

As described in Activity 1.1 above, SLCF distributed physical brochures through 28 protected areas and 10 aimag offices. These materials were also published through the SLCF Facebook page and the MET's official contact groups. (See Attachment 3.3M).

Kyrgyzstan

The SLFK team updated its informational flyer this year with input from DNR ministers and protected area administrations. These flyers are distributed through the DNR to all protected area administrations. (See Attachment 3.3K).

Pakistan

Through it contacts with the MOCCEC and the regional governments of AJK, KPK and GB, SLFP has established channels for disseminating information on its conservation programs (including under the IWTCF project). The content and design of the CRWPP brochure is in the process of being finalized, after which it will be disseminated through relevant and appropriate channels.

3.4 Conduct key informant consultations with government stakeholder and survey of a random sample of rangers from the three countries to assess CRWPP outreach coverage and support.

These surveys will occur in Year 3 of the project.

4.1 Initial consultation/meeting with community leaders and representatives of the nine IWT-affected communities (3 in each country).

Mongolia

A cadre of SCLF staff members, including Lkhagvajav Purevjav, Gongor Enkhtuvshin, Nyam Enkhburen, D. Khishigtsogt and U. Temuulen, first visited the target communities for this project between June 12 and 21, 2023. This meeting identified Dol, Bayan-bor and Ulziit, each community consisted of 10-15 households. These communities identified their community responsible areas (CRA) where they commit to ensuring the prevention of poaching and IWT. Further, each community signed a conservation agreement formalizing their relationship with SLCF. The agreement also included the Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park (GGNP), the soum (county) government as parties, as the communities' CRAs overlapped with the authority of each. (See Attachment 4.1M).

Kyrgyzstan

In the autumn of 2023, SLFK staff visited the communities of Kara-Suu, Koshoi and Temir-Kanat on September 6, 11, and 22, respectively, to discuss the IWTCF project and partnership thereunder. The

communities expressed interest in partnering on the project, and entered conservation agreements with SLFK to formalize the relationship. (See Attachment 4.1K).

<u>Pakistan</u>

The SLFP team visited three communities it had identified for interventions in October 2023. These visits included Gurez on October 10, 2023, Ghamot on October 12, 2023, and Bagrote Valley on October 15, 2023. (See Attachment 4.1P)

4.2 Conduct a situation analysis and SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) with representatives of the 9 targeted communities and agree on the structure and role of decision-making committees in each community.

Mongolia

SLCF conducted situational and SWOT analyses with members of each of the Dol, Ulziit and Bayan-bor communities from September 19-23, 2023. These surveys sought to enhance SLCF's understanding of each community's biodiversity threats, drivers of these threats, challenges, and opportunities faced by diverse sectors and stakeholder groups within each community. (See Attachment 4.2M).

Kyrgyzstan

SLFK administered similar situational SWOT analyses during the initial visits with each community in September 2023. (See Attachment 4.2K).

Pakistan

At each of the initial meetings described in Activity 4.1, SLFP conducted SWOT and situational analyses with each of the three communities they visited in October 2023. (See Attachment 4.2P)

4.3 Establish or build capacities of women-led community-based organisations (CBOs) in each target community (Pakistan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan).

Under the timetable for the project, this initiative is not planned to begin until Year 2.

<u>Pakistan</u>

We were able to get a head start on this initiative in Pakistan via the work of social organizer Raja Samander Khan, who was also supported by local consultants Noor-un-nisa and Abida Bibi in Gurez and Ghamot, respectively. The team visited Ghamot on December 31, 2023 and January 1, 2024 where they established 6 women-led community-based organizations (CBOs), and they visited Gurez on January 11-12, 2024 where 18 women-led CBOs had been established in partnership with SLFP under a previous project. The SLFP team plans to host Community Management Skills training in the summer of 2024, with the long-term goal of empowering these CBOs for effective self-management allowing coordination alone, with relevant government institutions and other NGOs operating in the area toward conservation of snow leopards, their prey and their habitat. (See Attachment 4.3P).

4.4 Support off-season vegetable production as a conservation-linked income generation initiative in at least one community in Pakistan.

Pakistan

Bagrote Valley was selected for off-season vegetable production, due to its history of fruit and vegetable production. SLFP representatives met with Shahada Noor of the Dubani Development Organization in Bagrote Valley to finalize the project details, including selection of farmers who would utilize the greenhouses based on reported need. SLFP contracted with a local construction company who constructed 40ftx20ftx9ft (LxWxH) 5 greenhouses that will see their first use this spring. (See Attachment 4.4P).

4.5 Support apiculture as a conservation-linked income generation initiative in at least one community in Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan

In December 2023, SLFK representatives Benazir Kabaeva and Ulukbek Visid uluu travelled with 4 local community members to Karnataka, India where Black Baza Coffee organized a trip to educate the community members about conservation-friendly enterprise development. The trip included two days with the Soliga tribe, who have a long history of sustainable apiculture. The group learned about honey harvesting, processing and market models for bringing their own apicultural products to market. In addition to the educational trip, SLFK have also purchased 7 tables for processing honey comb and refractometers (for evaluating honey quality). (See Attachment 4.5K).

Pakistan

Gurez Valley was selected for apiculture. The group plans to conduct a 3-day training for between 20-25 people in the community in honey-bee keeping. The training will be accompanied by the provision of beehives and boxes (2 per person), beekeeping kits and guidelines for honey production. Training and installation of the hive boxes was delayed by the availability of bees and hive boxes until after April 2024.

4.6 Arrange training for livestock health workers and conduct biannual livestock vaccination campaigns in 3 target communities in Pakistan.

Pakistan

In coordination with officials from the National Agriculture and Research Center (NARC) SLFP conducted a two-week training for 30 livestock health workers in Islamabad from February 26 to March 9, 2024. The trainees, representative of all three of the AJK, KPK and GB regions, were trained in general principles of animal healthcare, identifying and treating various types of illnesses, husbandry and breeding principles and practices, livestock management, and vaccine administration. (See Attachment 4.6P).

4.7 Arrange hospitality training for community-run guesthouses (cooking, design of guest rooms, sanitation norms) to strengthen or initiate conservation-linked tourism programs in at least one community in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan

We have identified and plans to conduct and coordinate trainings for Temir-Kanat and some of the surrounding communities. Based on community feedback, we will expand our eco-tourism initiatives. We now plan to train community members in partnership with a company called Nature Eye who provides tourism opportunities by allowing remote users anywhere in the world to join a guided drone tour of the landscape. We have purchased mountain bicycles and horse-riding equipment for use by eco-tourists in the communities. The team is also working to schedule financial literacy trainings crucial to operation of eco-tourism initiatives.

4.8 Conduct basic English language and conservation education courses for the women, who run or plan to run questhouses in at least one community in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan

We have also worked to schedule English language trainings for operators of eco-tourism sites in Temir-Kanat and the surrounding communities. These will likely occur within the next few months.

4.9 Support handicraft making as a conservation-linked income generation initiative (i.e. handicraft making groups with bonus system if no reported IWT in community responsible areas) in at least 3 communities.

Mongolia

In addition to continuing their long-established handicraft initiatives throughout the region. In November 2023, SLCF, along with a specialist from the Nooson Zangilaa cooperative, delivered a training to the Ulziit community on production of yarn from camel wool, including use of the necessary equipment provided by SLCF. (See Attachment 4.9M).

Kyrgyzstan

The SLFK team facilitated handicraft production in the villages of Enylcheck, Ak-Shiyrak and Barskon under Conservation Agreements providing for a bonus should no IWT be reported under each community's community responsible area. All three communities earned and received a bonus for a successful 2023.

Based on the results of the SWOT and situational analyses conducted under Activity 4.2, the SLFK also implemented several conservation-linked income initiatives within the scope of Output 4 at the communities newly engaged under the IWTCF project.

In each of Kyzyl-Dobo, Kochkor and Temir-Kanat, SLFK has purchased a bull of a cattle breed with higher dairy production. The provision of the bulls was done under conservation agreements that require the communities to vaccinate all cattle, as well as provide information on the number of all new cattle offspring, as well as milk production of the same.

We have purchased drying cabinets that can be used to preserve fruit, vegetables and qurut (a cheese product) for long-term storage and off-season sale. Trainings for use of the cabinets are planned for summer 2024.

For Kyzyl-Dobo, SLFK has purchased 30 rainwater collection tanks and 1000 meters of piping for drip irrigation systems for 15 households. The tanks will collect rainwater and use it to irrigate the crops of the households with a goal that no additional water will need to be drawn for the community's agricultural needs. The team also plans to extend this initiative to Kochkor and Temi-Kanat.

<u>Pakistan</u>

The SLFP team has completed training in handicraft production with 30 women in Gurez and 15 in Ghamot. They've additionally established a Community Centre for Vocational Training of Women in Bagrote that will train 120 women per year in sewing, embroidery and handicraft production. The center is set to open on May 5, 2024. (See Attachment 4.9P).

4.10 Support planting medicinal herbs (provide seeds) as a conservation-linked income generation initiative in at least one community in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan

SLFK has purchased 375 sea buckthorn seedlings to be planted in each of Kyzyl-Dobo, Kochkor and Temir-Kanat communities. In each community, 125 seedlings will be planted in a .1 hectare area. Sea buckthorn is processed and used in many ways, including as tea, traditional medicine, juice, and lotions. The communities plan to cultivate the sea buckthorn and process it into such products for market.

Based on feedback in their SWOT analyses, Temir-Kanat will receive 350 black currant seedlings for planting in a .33 hectare area. The produce from these plants will be used by the community directly and brought to market.

4.11 Establish livestock insurance programs with at least 3 communities in Mongolia.

Mongolia

In Bayan-bor and Dol, the communities have enrolled 2,949 (1360 in Bayan-bor and 1589 in Dol) sheep and goats and 162 (117 in Bayan-bor and 45 in Dol) horses, camels, yaks and cows in the livestock insurance program. The insurance fund was established with 4,019,00 \mathbb{F} (40%) from the communities and 6,853,500 \mathbb{F} (60%) from SLCF and SLT. (See Attachment 4.11M).

4.12 Conduct a workshop on better livestock protection methods and provide predator proof corrals (5 predator proof corrals per community) in at least 3 communities in Mongolia

Mongolia

Based on community feedback, SLCF delivered materials for 7 predator-proof corrals to Ulziit and Bayan-bor on March 18, 2024. SCLF staff returned in early April to assist with construction of the predator proof corrals and execute agreements for their provision and use, as well as instructions for the same. We plan to undertake similar work with the Dol community in the future. (See Attachment 4.12M).

4.13 Bi-annual meetings with program staff and community representatives to discuss progress and any required shifts in program direction and strategic approaches of conservation initiatives.

These meetings will begin later this year.

4.14 Pre- and post- Socio-economic, attitudinal and behavioural intent surveys conducted with a representative sample of the target community.

These pre-surveys were conducted as part of the interviews that produced the situational and SWOT analyses in Activity 4.2.

4.15 Conservation staff involved in this project from partner organisations (approx 10 staff from Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan, Snow Leopard Foundation Pakistan, Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation Mongolia) receive training in effective and ethical community engagement (PARTNERS Principles).

Mongolia

Training in the PARTNERS principles was conducted for 9 SCLF staff on September 18 and 19, 2023. (See Attachment 4.15M).

Kyrgyzstan

Training in PARTNERS Principles was conducted for 10 SLFK staff ,on September 27, 2023. (See Attachment 4.15K).

<u>Pakistan</u>

Training in PARTNERS Principles was conducted for 8 SLFP staff on January 3 and 4, 2024. (See Attachment 4.15P).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Outputs:

1. The Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Program (CRWPP) is a national program covering all snow leopard regions of Mongolia and Pakistan and is strengthened in Kyrgyzstan.

The CRWPP program has successfully launched in Mongolia and Pakistan. Informational outreach through each country has been successful through engagement with relevant governmental institutions and agencies, as well as NGO partners and direct channels, such as social media. CRWPP committees have been successfully empanelled in all countries, and the reward ceremonies that have already occurred this year include presence and participation from the British ambassador to each country. We were nevertheless disappointed that the Mongolian Minister was not able to participate in the Ranger Awards Ceremony.

2. Across the snow leopard landscapes of Mongolia, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, rangers' capacities built through effective training in supporting law enforcement, crime scene investigation and first aid, and through information resources on CRWPP.

The project is on track to have its initial cadre of 5 trained trainers in each country by 2025, as well as the larger goal of 50 rangers trained in each country. Booster trainings are also planned for later in 2024, or early 2025, to support ranger trainees fill in gaps of knowledge found in their experience as trainers.

3. By 2025, Communication strategy to promote CRWPP carefully developed using local context, and deployed across the three countries.

The initial implementation of communications strategy has been impactful,, as the governments of Pakistan and Mongolia have adopted the CRWPP program, participated in its various aspects, and have helped distribute information about the program and the ranger awards ceremonies through their channels and contacts. Where the CRWPP awards ceremonies have been held so farr, media coverage has met or exceeded the goal.

4. Three IWT-affected local communities in each country (Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Pakistan) have access to contextually appropriate conflict management and livelihood initiatives.

Conservation-based livelihood initiatives as described and evidenced in detail in the Activities section above have been initiated in all three project countries.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The project is on track to achieve its Outcome. Both Mongolia and Pakistan have established CRWPPs, one of which has completed its first ranger rewards ceremony (the other to follow in May). Each country team has also already begun implementation of livelihood enhancement programs in at least three communities, either via direct delivery of the services and information necessary or by the procurement of materials necessary for the same.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

The project's assumptions remain true. As evidenced by their participation in the CRWPP programs as described above, the governments of all three countries support the initiative both via formal endorsement and participation, as well as support in communications strategies about the program.

We did not have an issue hiring Mr. Petrar to provide the initial training, as well as services such as supervising other trainers, implementation of booster and refresher trainings. He has c considerable experience and a strong commitment for disrupting IWT.

The situational and SWOT analyses conducted with local communities in each country indicate that the communities are interested in partnering to combat and disrupt IWT, especially understanding that the partnership also includes conservation-based livelihood initiatives which more directly benefit them.

None of the three countries have experienced political unrest inhibitive of the initiatives of the project.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction

In its application, our project impact was described as: "Reduction in hunting and IWT of snow leopards and their prey in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Pakistan, and empowerment of people in IWT-affected

communities through livelihood enhancement and collaborative conflict management." This impact is reflected in many of SLT's program designs which, in addition to its scientific research and analysis functions, provide the core of its snow leopard conservation strategy. It is still early to comment on project impact. Our project will be training wildlife rangers in the best practices of IWT law enforcement, while addressing specific snow leopard-related IWT issues within snow leopard habitats in remote mountainous regions. Similarly, co-creating with stakeholder communities, economic opportunities in the form of the ecologically-sustainable income streams, will assist them in reducing poverty without negatively impacting snow leopards or their environment. Although the IWTCF project will go a long way in making this impact, we will continue to pursue such impact, including through continuation and establishment of similar interventions, past the term of the project.

4. Thematic focus

The project aligns most directly with two of the themes: the strengthening of law enforcement and developing sustainable livelihoods for the benefit of people directly affected by IWT.

The CRWPP, and the ranger training initiatives generally, aim to provide a sustainable model of training, equipping, and rewarding effective wildlife rangers throughout each of the project countries. The program aims to directly train 50 rangers in each country on crime scene investigation, supporting law enforcement and first aid. The sustainability that comes with the "training-the-trainers" model and the trust fund is designed to ensure that the impact on law enforcement continues beyond the term of the BCF project and is not limited to the scope herein.

Additionally, by engaging with agro-pastoral communities living in snow leopard range, where conflict due to snow leopard depredation of livestock is a fear and a reality for many, the economic initiatives of the project aim to provide clear, sustainable financial benefits through the provision of training and materials for various economic programs (see above for details).

5. Impact on species in focus

The snow leopard populations in each of the project countries will benefit from a stronger, more coherent network of wildlife rangers patrolling snow leopard habitat and providing law enforcement. Further, the project initiatives with local communities do so on the condition of protection against IWT, and such engagements further serve the snow leopard by providing economic opportunities which remove some of the incentive for IWT activities.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

This project aims to address poverty primarily through the conservation-linked income Activities under Output 4 of the logframe. These initiatives, described in greater detail above, seek to reduce poverty by working with local communities to develop economically and ecologically sustainable income streams, as well as protecting existing income streams.

In all three countries, handicraft manufacturing programs utilizing the textile products of existing livestock assets to create various wool and felt products. Communities are then able to bring these products to market both locally and in the U.S. market via partnership with SLT.

In Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, we are working with communities to establish apicultural initiatives, including bee-keeping trainings, and marketing the products. In Pakistan, SLFP is also engaging with communities to provide training for livestock health workers, as well livestock vaccinations which will protect local livestock. In Mongolia, SLCF is training communities on best-practices for livestock protection, as well as the provision of materials and training necessary for installation of predator-proof corrals. SLCF is also extending a livestock insurance program to its communities, another means of providing financial security with respect to livestock, which is often the most crucial economic asset of community members. SLFK is also providing materials and trainings necessary for cultivating new crops for cultivation, namely sea buckthorn and black currant. Support for agriculture will also include provision of and training with drying cabinets, through which fruit and vegetable crops, as well as dairy products

can be dried and sold throughout the year, including the typical offseason. Communities are also receiving training and materials to collect and distribute rainwater as a means of sustainable irrigation for their crops. The SLFK team has also provided a bull cattle from a different cattle breed which will increase the dairy production of the communities' herds. Additionally, SLFK is working with communities to develop eco-tourism programs through which the natural beauty of the region can provide and ecologically sustainable basis of income.

Conservation Agreements crucially underpin each country team's work with local communities by providing a clear basis of expectation and framework for engagement. In addition to the conditioning of interventions on the communities' commitment to avoiding and reporting any IWT activities in their communities, the agreements often provide a financial bonus in communities where IWT does not occur.

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	Within SLT, two of the four senior management level staff responsible for the project are women.
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	Two of SLT's three local partner organizations have majority women in their leadership teams. Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation (Mongolia), was led by a woman, its former Executive Director Bayara Agvaantseren (who continues to work with SLCF, including as Project Manager) who has recently been succeeded by Purevjav Lkhagvajav. Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan project initiatives are led by two women: Abasova Cholpon and Benazir Kabaeva.

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal	

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

Gender equity and the empowerment of women in conservation is a principle SLT builds into its work. In addition to the crucial women's voices in the project leadership identified above, SLT's IWTCF initiatives include a focus on empowering women-led community-based organizations in each of the countries involved in the project, and many of the economic initiatives of the IWTCF project – such as handicraft production and hospitality and eco-tourism hosting – have been shown to directly empower women in prior, similar initiatives by giving them economic power in their communities.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

We are monitoring the project through program records documenting and evidencing activities undertaken by the project. These records include reports, photographs, meeting agendas and other relevant evidentiary documents.

We also base some performance on feedback gleaned through interviews with relevant stakeholders and other channels of self-report (surveys, evaluations, and community meetings). At this time, we have the community preliminary surveys taken at the outset of the project, which we will use to compare against post-surveys taken as the project progresses.

Beginning this year, SLT will engage an independent consultant to evaluate project progress using the SMART monitoring and evaluation framework. Additionally, each of the country teams will hold bi-annual meetings with key stakeholders in the communities we work in to discuss progress and any desired or required changes in approach. SLT staff and the country teams meet much more regularly to ensure the same.

9. Lessons learnt

Overall, the project has progressed well in its first year.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

N/A

11. Risk Management

N/A

12. Sustainability and legacy

This project has already captured the interest and attention of crucial stakeholders. In each country, the relevant government have formally expressed support for the CRWPP committees. The Ranger Awards Ceremonies have included both delegations of governmental officials from both domestic and foreign entities (including two British ambassadors). In Kyrgyzstan, we celebrated the 10th annual Awards Ceremony showing that, through diligent stewardship, the interest in CRWPP will be maintained beyond the newness of the programs in Pakistan and Mongolia.

In addition to the encouraging support of the local and national governments in each country, the CRWPP program has garnered attention and support from other NGOs in their respective areas.

We are also supporting the project's open access plan through development of information materials that will be publicly available (if not already published), including translated training resources, CRWPP reports, etc.

Engaging with communities on a consistent, long-term basis, building meaningful relationships with local communities based on earned trust and mutual benefit lies at the heart of SLT and our partners' work. The initiatives of this project ring with the sound of this emphasis on sustainability. By training trainers, we are empowering the communities to sustain and continue the sharing and refinement of skills with our

guidance and support. The CRWPP trust fund is structured exactly for sustainability, with the investment corpus remaining untouched each year when its proceeds are cultivated to support the program. As is our standard practice, we and our partners plan to continue engagement with the communities working on IWTCF initiatives far beyond the lifecycle of the IWTCF project, ensuring these crucial resources compound into continued benefit for the communities and their interest in disturbing IWT.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

SLT has provided each of its partner organizations with guidance on best practices for use of the IWT Challenge Fund and/or the Darwin Initiative logos for use on public-facing materials produced under the project (best practices as distilled from BCF Guidance on the same).

The UK Government has been recognized not only by the publication of project progress naming the funding source, but it has also publicly participated, through its ambassadors, in the CRWPP rewards ceremony, a crucial facet of the project.

The IWTCF funding is recognized as a distinct project that is constantly discussed as such by SLT and its local partner organizations. The IWTCF program is certainly recognizable to all project staff in each repartner organization, and will likely be recognized by relevant ministers in each country, especially those that have engaged with SLFK, SLFP and SLCF.

14. Safeguarding

receive Safeguarding training.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?		Yes	
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months		No	
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Laura Farnitano		
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes		
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?		Past: 95% [21] Planned: 100% [22 + all new staff]	
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.			
No such issues.			
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.			
Yes, we plan to continue refining our training materials, and we plan to record a short training			

video to supplement live Safeguarding trainings and to reach more people. We plan to provide this video training to all rangers involved with any of the local partner organizations under the IWTCF program. We are also in the process of hiring several relevant positions who will

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.

We have not conducted any community sensitisation in the context of Safeguarding, however, we plan to conduct Safeguarding training with all ranger trainees participating in the IWTCF ranger training initiatives.

In year 2, we will provide Safeguarding to each country team to be translated and distributed as part of their community engagement, including especially at bi-annual meetings discussing project progress, strategy and approaches. Such material will include details about what each community can expect from project staff working with them.

Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.

No such issues.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (April 2023-March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual IWTCF Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				Per BCF's request, SLT is conducting an independent audit of
				the project in the summer of 2024. The audit cost funds included in the budget have been set aside but could not be spent within the Year 1 timeframe and will be spent during the audit in July 2024.

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			SLT; Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A. (BBVA); Chester Zoo; Woodland Park Zoo; UNEP Vanishing Treasures; Melkus Family Foundation; Whitley Fund for Nature; Bioparc Zoo de Doue
			We expect to secure additional match funding from UNDP, but cannot report it as secured at this time.
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring			

outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the		
project (£)		

16. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

In addition to working with each of the newly-engaged communities in Kyrgyzstan, SLFK has also conducted conservation-linked income initiatives (within the scope of the IWTCF project) with additional communities in the country. See Activity 4.9 for additional information.

17. OPTIONAL Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 - March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Reduction in hunting and IWT of snow leopards and their prey in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Pakistan, and empowerment of people in IWT-affected communities through livelihood enhancement and collaborative conflict management.	(Report on any contribution towards positive impact on illegal wildlife trade or positive changes in the conditions of human communities impacted by illegal trade e.g. steps towards alternative and sustainable livelihoods)	
Outcome		
Rangers will have the training, support and social recognition to dis- livelihood enhancement and conflict management.	rupt poaching and IWT, and affected communities will have acce	ss to conservation-linked
Outcome indicator 0.1	It is early in the project to see any measurable impacts in this	We will continue to train, equip
By 2025, the number of cases filed against illegal poaching and IWT in Mongolia, and Pakistan's snow leopard landscapes will increase (Baseline: 18 in Pakistan in 2022 and 81 in Mongolia for 2020 (more recent data was not yet available)) as rangers' capacity to apprehend and file cases against poachers is strengthened.	indicator, as only the initial ranger trainings have begun.	and empower wildlife rangers in each country.
Outcome indicator 0.2		The countries plan to continue holding CRWPP ceremonies on an annual basis
By 2023, systems will be in place in Mongolia and Pakistan for annual Ranger Rewards Ceremonies, which facilitate rangers and citizen-ranger teams who successfully apprehend poachers and file cases against them, with national recognition and cash awards (baseline = 0).	held on April 22, 2024. Pakistan will hold its first such Ceremony on May 22, 2024.	
Outcome indicator 0.3		We were able to gauge
By 2024, three IWT-affected communities in each country (Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan) will start benefiting from new livelihood enhancement and collaborative conflict management programs (baseline = 0).	linked income generation initiatives in at least three communities in each country.	community needs through outreach and SWOT analyses that informed now ongoing initiatives in each country.
Outcome indicator 0.4	Each country saw significant communication initiatives in	All countries will keep their
In Year 1 and Year 3 at least 80% of the 1200 rangers and citizen- rangers in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan indicate their willingness to participate in CRWPP training and support CRWPP	partnership with relevant government institutions to spread awareness about CRWPP and query ranger buy-in. Initial results are encouraging in Mongolia and Pakistan, and	momentum moving forward through additional awareness campaigns about the program.

measures (baseline 100% in Kyrgyzstan, 0% in Mongolia and Pakistan).	Kyrgyzstan has continued the successful operation of the CRWPP program.	
Outcome indicator 0.5 Prey populations remain stable (as long as they are not limited by factors other than poaching) or increase over time (if they are limited by poaching).	Prey population statistics will become available later in the year.	SLT and its partners contribute to prey population assessments through projects outside the scope of the IWTCF project. The data produced from those assessments will be used.
Output 1		
The Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Program (CRWPP) is a n strengthened in Kyrgyzstan.	ational program covering all snow leopard regions of Mong	olia and Pakistan and is
Output indicator 1.1	CRWPP outreach through various channels has begun	These outreach and awareness
By 2025, the coverage area map of outreach regarding CRWPP (through pamphlets, social media, mass media and targeted outreach to Government and non-government agencies) overlaps fully with the snow leopard distribution range in the three countries (Baseline = 33%).	across the snow leopard range of each country.	initiatives will continue and expand through and after the project lifecycle.
Output indicator 1.2	Committees have been established in all three countries.	Each country team will continue
By 2023, committees are in place in each country to receive, review, and select cases annually for Ranger Awards Ceremonies felicitation and cash awards (Baseline = 1).		its engagement with their CRWPP committees to support the program.
Output indicator 1.3	Ranger Awards Ceremonies have been or will be held in all	These ceremonies will continue
The Ranger Rewards Ceremony is organised once a year, starting 2024, to reward rangers in the presence of the Ministers, heads of local NGOs and ambassadors of at least one international	three countries this year. Ambassadors (including the British ambassador) and NGO representatives in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan attended the Award Ceremonies.	on an annual basis with outreach and invitations to the stakeholders described.
consulate, preferably the British consulate.	Pakistan plans to similarly welcome such stakeholder at its ceremony in May.	
Output indicator 1.4	The corpus of the trust fund was grown this year to support	This project committed an
By 2024, trust fund managed by the SLT generates revenues annually to support financial awards and event costs of Ranger Reward Ceremony in Mongolia and Pakistan (baseline = 0).	financial rewards for Mongolia and Pakistan in addition to Kyrgyzstan. The fund supported the awards this year and is expected to do the same moving forward.	additional £200,000.00 to the corpus of the trust fund in 2023.

Output 2.

Across the snow leopard landscapes of Mongolia, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, rangers' capacities built through effective training in supporting law enforcement, crime scene investigation and first aid, and through information resources on CRWPP.

Output indicator 2.1.	This will occur later in the project lifecycle.	These trainings will begin in Year
By 2025, at least 50 rangers in each country with no prior training (total of 150 rangers across the snow leopard range in the three countries. Baseline = 0) receive training in law enforcement, wildlife crime scene investigation and first aid and at least 75% of them report improved knowledge and skills.		2 of the project, beginning in the summer and fall of 2024.
Standard Indicators: IWTCF-B01 IWTCF-A02		
Output indicator 2.2.	Each country has either already completed (or will complete in the next month) this training.	We engaged specialist Brian Petrar to provide the initial
By 2025, a cadre of at least 5 trained officials/personnel is established in each country (total 15) to train the rangers further using a sustained training and annual training booster program (baseline Kyrgyzstan = 0, Mongolia = 0, Pakistan = 0).	in the next month) this training.	training, and he will be available to support annual booster trainings.
Output indicator 2.3.	This will take place this year.	We engaged specialist Brian
By 2025, the 5 trained officials/personnel are supported to conduct at least one booster training for rangers in each country (baseline = 0).		Petrar to provide the initial training, and he will be available to support annual booster trainings.
Standard Indicator: IWTCF-D01		trainingo.
Output 3.		
By 2025, Communication strategy to promote CRWPP carefully	developed using local context, and deployed across the thi	ree countries.
Output indicator 3.1. All relevant Government agencies in Mongolia and Pakistan onboard with the idea of CRWPP and helping promote it through appropriate channels.	In both Mongolia and Pakistan, we were able to obtain formal buy-in and approval for the CRWPP project from government stakeholders. Communication initiatives have begun spreading awareness.	Communication initiatives will continue and grow as the project progresses.
Output indicator 3.2.	In each country, the teams have arranged for media	This communication initiative will
By 2024, reports about the event are published in at least 2 media outlets in the three countries (baseline = 0). IWTCF-C03	publication of reports of the CRWPP Awards Ceremony.	continue throughout the lifecycle of the project through continued engagement with stakeholders sharing effective channels for this purpose.
Output indicator 3.3.	D. A. J. William ODWDD	Communications initiatives will
Output indicator 3.3.	Data describing CRWPP awareness among rangers will not become available until later in the year. However, initial	continue spreading awareness,

Output 4.				
Three IWT-affected local communities in each country (Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Pakistan) have access to contextually appropriate conflict management and livelihood initiatives.				
Output indicator 4.1. By 2025, at least one conflict management and/or livelihood program initiated or strengthened in nine target communities (3 in each country).	Such initiatives have been started in each of the three countries in at least 3 communities each.	These initiatives will continue moving forward, and more communities could be brought into the project if the scope and resources of the project allow.		
Output indicator 4.2. By 2025 the conflict management and livelihood initiative will engage 70 households in Mongolia (baseline = 38), 5,000 in Pakistan (baseline = 4,500), and 250-300 in Kyrgyzstan (baseline = 133).	Although household level feedback data is not yet available, preliminary estimates based on engagement and reports suggest good progress.	These initiatives will continue moving forward, and more communities could be brought into the project if the scope and resources of the project allow.		
Output indicator 4.3. By 2025, 15, 50 and 200 households in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Pakistan respectively have experienced an increase in household income as a result of involvement in the program.	This information will not be collected until near the project end.	We will continue to implement income-generating initiatives in each country, contributing to this result.		
Output indicator 4.4. All conservation staff involved in this project from partner organisations (approx. 10 staff from Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan, Snow Leopard Foundation Pakistan, Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation Mongolia) receive training in effective and ethical community engagement (PARTNERS Principles) (baseline = 5).	Successful PARTNERS Principles trainings were held by each partner organization in Year 1.	PARTNERS Principles trainings are a core piece of SLT's conservation philosophy, so any new staff will be trained as they join the organization.		
Output indicator 4.5.	Our network of conservationists includes experts on			

Team of experienced PARTNERS trainers will remain available

throughout the life of the project to support all conservation staff remotely with any challenges faced through "solve my problem"

sessions.

PARTNERS Principles available for this purpose. Such

experts include Koustubh Sharma (SLT Science Director);
Bayarjargal Agvaantseren (SLN Executive Director; and
Charudutt Mishra (SLT Executive Director).

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Reduction in hunting and IV	WT of snow leopards and their prey ir		, and empowerment of people in
IWT-affected communities through	livelihood enhancement and collabor	rative conflict management.	
	_		
Outcome: Rangers will have the	0.1 By 2025, the number of cases	0.1 The registered number of cases	1. The political environment remains
training, support and social	filed against illegal poaching and	as per government records.	stable.
recognition to disrupt poaching	IWT in Mongolia, and Pakistan's	0.2 The number of cases registered	2. Rangers will be enthusiastic about
and IWT, and affected	snow leopard landscapes will	matches the number of awardees.	receiving training in law enforcement
communities will have access to	increase (Baseline: 18 in Pakistan in	0.3 Socio-economic and attitudinal	and the opportunity for cash rewards
conservation-linked livelihood	2022 and 81 in Mongolia for 2020	surveys in the three communities in	and social recognition.
enhancement and conflict	(more recent data was not yet	each country, conducted towards the	3. Local community members will be
management.	available)) as rangers' capacity to	beginning of 2025	willing to support rangers in efforts to
	apprehend and file cases against	0.4. Survey of a random sample of	curb poaching and disrupt IWT.
	poachers is strengthened.	1200 rangers from the three	4. Local communities will be willing
	0.2 By 2023, systems will be in place	countries to assess attitudes and	to discuss and partner in
	in Mongolia and Pakistan for annual	behavioural intent towards	collaborative conflict management
	Ranger Rewards Ceremonies, which	participating in CRWPP.	and livelihood enhancement efforts.
	facilitate rangers and citizen-ranger	0.5 Annual prey population	
	teams who successfully apprehend	monitoring in the three	
	poachers and file cases against	representative sites in each country.	
	them, with national recognition and		
	cash awards (baseline = 0).		
	0.3 By 2024, three IWT-affected		
	communities in each country		
	(Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan) will start benefiting from new		
	livelihood enhancement and		
	collaborative conflict management		
	programs (baseline = 0).		
	0.4 In Year 1 and Year 3 at least		
	80% of the 1200 rangers and citizen-		
	rangers in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and		
	Pakistan indicate their willingness to		
	participate in CRWPP training and		
	support CRWPP measures (baseline		
	XX in Kyrgyzstan, 0 in Mongolia and		
	Pakistan).		
	0.5 Prey populations remain stable		
	(as long as they are not limited by		
	factors other than poaching) or		

Outputs: 1. The Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Program (CRWPP) is a national program covering all snow leopard regions of Mongolia and Pakistan and is strengthened in Kyrgyzstan.	increase over time (if they are limited by poaching) 1.1 By 2025, the coverage area map of outreach regarding CRWPP (through pamphlets, social media, mass media and targeted outreach to Government and non-government agencies) overlaps fully with the snow leopard distribution range in the three countries (Baseline = 33%). 1.2 By 2023, committees are in place in each country to receive, review, and select cases annually for Ranger Rewards Ceremonies felicitation and cash awards (Baseline = 0). 1.3 The Ranger Rewards Ceremony is organised once a year, starting 2024, to reward rangers in the presence of the Ministers, heads of local NGOs and ambassadors of at least one international consulate, preferably the British consulate. 1.4 By 2024, trust fund managed by the SLT generates revenues annually to support financial awards and event costs of Ranger Reward Ceremony in Mongolia and Pakistan (baseline = 0).	1.1 Outreach map overlay on snow leopard distribution. 1.2 Approved composition of the Ranger Rewards awards committee with agreed members signed and on-boarded. 1.3 Ranger Rewards Ceremony event report. 1.4 Trust fund accounts confirm it generates revenues annually to support financial awards and event costs	1. The program is supported by the Government and relevant agencies. 2. Outreach efforts are well received and supported by society and mass media. 3. Rangers and citizen-ranger teams in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Pakistan feel inspired and honoured to be felicitated at Ranger Rewards Ceremonies. 4. Stakeholders are able to attend Ranger Rewards Ceremonies.
2. Across the snow leopard landscapes of Mongolia, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, rangers' capacities built through effective training in supporting law enforcement, crime scene investigation and first aid, and through information resources on CRWPP.	2.1 By 2025, at least 50 rangers in each country with no prior training (total of 150 rangers across the snow leopard range in the three countries. Baseline = 0) receive training in law enforcement, wildlife crime scene investigation and first aid and at least 75% of them report	2.1 Official data on ranger activity across snow leopard range and post training patrolling activities, and preand post-training self-assessment surveys with rangers and trainer officials/personnel 2.2 Database of local trainers supplemented with details of	Government buy-in. Training materials customised to local legal constraints and opportunities. Local trainers see incentives in disseminating training after the program.

	improved knowledge and skills. IWTCF-B01 IWTCF-A02 2.2 By 2025, a cadre of at least 5 new trained officials/personnel is established in each country (total 15) to train the rangers further using a sustained training and annual training booster program (baseline Kyrgyzstan = 0, Mongolia = 0, Pakistan = 0). 2.3 By 2025, the 5 trained officials/personnel are supported to conduct at least one booster training for rangers in each country (baseline - 0). IWTCF-D01	trainings and booster trainings they have received. 2.3 List of participants and feedback report from the trained officials and the trainee rangers about the booster training	4. Availability of trainers to supervise trainings, booster trainings and implementation.
3. By 2025, Communication strategy to promote CRWPP carefully developed using local context, and deployed across the three countries.	3.1 All relevant Government agencies in Mongolia and Pakistan on-board with the idea of CRWPP and helping promote it through appropriate channels. 3.2 By 2024, reports about the event are published in at least 2 media outlets in the three countries (baseline = 0). IWTCF-C03 3.3 By 2024, 100% (1200 rangers) of the rangers across the snow leopard range in target countries are aware of the CRWPP through targeted awareness outreach (through pamphlets and outreach by government agencies) (Mongolia and Pakistan baseline = 0%; Kyrgyzstan baseline = 100%).	3.1 Key informant consultations with government stakeholder from the three countries to assess government buy-in and support of the program. 3.2 Compilation of mass media reports in national and regional languages of the three countries. 3.3. Survey of a random sample of rangers and national park authorities from the three countries to assess CRWPP outreach coverage.	1. Government buy-in and support for the CRWPP. 2. Outreach efforts are well received and supported by society and mass media. 3. Government agencies (including protected area administration) support CRWPP and ranger outreach efforts.
4. Three IWT-affected local communities in each country (Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Pakistan) have access to contextually appropriate conflict	4.1 By 2025, at least one conflict management and/or livelihood program initiated or strengthened in nine target communities (3 in each country)	4.1 Through program records and bi- annual meetings with program staff and key stakeholders to discuss progress and any required shifts in program direction and strategic	Community leaders and members consent and are willing to participate in dialogues and surveys. Community stakeholders reach a consensus on which conflict

management and livelihood	4.2 By 2025 the conflict	approaches of conservation	management and/or livelihood
nitiatives.	management and livelihood initiative	initiatives.	programs to initiate or strengthen.
	will engage 70 households in	4.2 Situation analysis and SWOT	3. Communities will feel empowered
	Mongolia (baseline = 38), 5,000 in	analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses,	to coexist with snow leopards and
	Pakistan (baseline = 4,500), and	Opportunities, and Threats)	support IWT disruption activities
	250-300 in Kyrgyzstan (baseline =	conducted with partner communities	
	133).	4.3 Pre- and post- Socio-economic, attitudinal and behavioural intent	
	4.3 By 2025, 15, 50 and 200		
	households in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia	surveys. 4.4 Number of conservation staff	
	and Pakistan respectively have	trained in effective and ethical	
	experienced an increase in	community engagement	
	household income as a result of	(PARTNERS Principles)	
	involvement in the program	4.5 Number of online "Solve my	
		problem" sessions.	
	4.5 All conservation staff involved in		
	this project from partner		
	organisations (approx 10 staff from		
	Snow Leopard Foundation		
	Kyrgyzstan, Snow Leopard		
	Foundation Pakistan, Snow Leopard		
	Conservation Foundation Mongolia)		
	receive training in effective and		
	ethical community engagement (PARTNERS Principles) (baseline =		
	5).		
	4.6 Team of experienced		
	PARTNERS trainers will remain		
	available throughout the life of the		
	project to support all conservation		
	staff remotely with any challenges		
	faced through "solve my problem"		

sessions.

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)

Output 1

- 1.1 Develop resource material (through pamphlets, social media, mass media and targeted outreach to Government and non-government agencies) regarding CRWPP in regional languages and disseminate through various communication channels.
- 1.2. Develop CRWPP Committees in Pakistan and Mongolia, based on the model in Kyrgyzstan, to guide annual Ranger Rewards Ceremonies.
- 1.3. Strengthen relationships with the provincial wildlife departments to spread awareness about CRWPP to all stakeholders.
- 1.4. Arrange Ranger Rewards Ceremony, starting 2023, to reward rangers in the presence of the Ministers, heads of local NGOs and ambassadors of at least one international consulate, and create event reports.
- 1.5 Trust Fund established and managed by SLT established for CRWPP in Mongolia and Pakistan

Output 2

- 2.1. Work with the Environment Ministry and protected area administration of each country to identify a set of rangers, ensuring they are representative from different divisions and protected areas/protected landscapes of the 3 countries.
- 2.2 Arrange and carry out hands-on training to rangers on the disruption of poaching, wildlife crime scene investigation, and first aid (50 rangers in each country; total of 150 rangers).
- 2.3 Conduct ranger trainee-led evaluation with participants and training facilitators in each country.
- 2.4 Equip 50 rangers in each country (Total 150 rangers) with necessary field gear and communication devices.
- 2.5 Five officials/personnel are trained and established in each country (total 15) to train the rangers further using an annual sustained training and training booster program.
- 2.6 Support the five trained officials/personnel to conduct 1 annual training booster program in each country.

Output 3

- 3.1. Two meetings/consultations per country with relevant government agencies (Ministry of environment and protected area administration) to present CRWPP progress.
- 3.2. Press releases (focussing on the CRWPP ceremony and key stories showcasing rangers) prepared and shared with in-country media contacts, ensuring that 2 media outlets publish CRWPP stories per country.
- 3.3 Work with the Environment Ministry and protected area administration of each country to develop context specific education/communication materials (i.e. pamphlets, videos) about CRWPP and distribute it to all protected areas and ranger teams across the snow leopard range of each country.
- 3.4 Conduct key informant consultations with government stakeholder and survey of a random sample of rangers from the three countries to assess CRWPP outreach coverage and support.

Output 4

- 4.1 Initial consultation/meeting with community leaders and representatives of the nine IWT-affected communities (3 in each country).
- 4.2 Conduct a situation analysis and SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) with representatives of the 9 targeted communities and agree on the structure and role of decision-making committees in each community.
- 4.3 Establish or build capacities of women-led community-based organisations (CBOs) in each target community (Pakistan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan).
- 4.4 Support off-season vegetable production as a conservation-linked income generation initiative in at least one community in Pakistan.
- 4.5 Support apiculture as a conservation-linked income generation initiative in at least one community in Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- 4.6 Arrange training for livestock health workers and conduct biannual livestock vaccination campaigns in 3 target communities in Pakistan.
- 4.7 Arrange hospitality training for community-run guesthouses (cooking, design of guest rooms, sanitation norms) to strengthen or initiate conservation-linked tourism programs in at least one community in Kyrgyzstan.

- 4.8 Conduct basic English language and conservation education courses for the women, who run or plan to run guesthouses in at least one community in Kyrgyzstan.
- 4.9 Support handicraft making as a conservation-linked income generation initiative (i.e. handicraft making groups with bonus system if no reported IWT in community responsible areas) in at least 3 communities.
- 4.10 Support planting medicinal herbs (provide seeds) as a conservation-linked income generation initiative in at least one community in Kyrgyzstan.
- 4.11 Establish livestock insurance programs with at least 3 communities in Mongolia.
- 4.12 Conduct a workshop on better livestock protection methods and provide predator proof corrals (5 predator proof corrals per community) in at least 3 communities in Mongolia.
- 4.13 Bi-annual meetings with program staff and community representatives to discuss progress and any required shifts in program direction and strategic approaches of conservation initiatives.
- 4.14 Pre- and post- Socio-economic, attitudinal and behavioural intent surveys conducted with a representative sample of the target community.
- 4.15 Conservation staff involved in this project from partner organisations (approx 10 staff from Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan, Snow Leopard Foundation Pakistan, Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation Mongolia) receive training in effective and ethical community engagement (PARTNERS Principles).

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-B01	Number of people trained in law enforcement skills (wildlife ranger trainings)	People	Men and women	0 (trainings occurred after March 31)	75	75	20	150
IWTCF-A02	Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training. (wildlife ranger trainings)	Number	Men and women	0	0	113	0	113
IWTCF-D01	Number of trainers trained reporting to have delivered further training by the end of the project.	Number	New	0	15	15	0	15
IWTCF-C03	Number of communication channels carrying campaign message.	Number	improved	0	6	6	1	6

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Annex 4: Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Substantial supplemental material will be provided along with this report, see accompanying email for details about best practices for sharing volume of materials.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	Х
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	Х
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Х
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Х
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	