

**Important note:** *To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes*

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	<b>XXIWT012</b>
Project title	Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Program (CRWPP) in Kyrgyzstan
Country/ies	Kyrgyzstan
Contract holder Institution	Snow Leopard Trust (SLT)
Partner institution(s)	Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan (SLFK); State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic; INTERPOL
IWT grant value	252530
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2015/31 March 2018
Reporting period (e.g. April 2016-Mar 2017) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	1 April 2016-31 March 2017 Annual Report 2
Project leader name	Dr. Charudutt Mishra
Project website	<a href="http://ranger.snowleopard.kg/about-the-program/">http://ranger.snowleopard.kg/about-the-program/</a> (also news is shared via <a href="http://www.snowleopard.org">www.snowleopard.org</a> —SLT's primary website)
Report author(s) and date	Siri Okamoto, Development Director; Kubanychbek Zhumabai, SLFK, Koustubh Sharma, GSLEP/SLT

#### 1. Project rationale

This project aims to benefit snow leopards and their prey by reducing illegal hunting of both in and around national parks and state nature reserves. In the 1980s, Kyrgyz Republic and neighbouring Tajikistan had an estimated 1200-1400 snow leopards, representing >20% of the global population. This population declined by 50-80% in the 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Union. Today, 4000-6500 snow leopards remain in the wild with c.150-200 mature individuals in Kyrgyz Republic. Kyrgyz Republic's snow leopard population continues to rank among the top 5 of the 12 snow leopard range countries.

Poaching is a 'primary threat' to snow leopards and their prey in Kyrgyz Republic, and some findings indicate poaching and trade in snow leopards could be growing. Environmental Investigation Agency estimates as many as 1000 snow leopards may have been illegally traded in 2000-2011.

In addition to having a high proportion of endangered wildlife, Kyrgyz parks and reserves are also densely bordered by public and private trophy hunting reserves. The crossover or indulgence from legal hunting within the trophy reserves to illegal hunting within protected areas has been regularly observed.

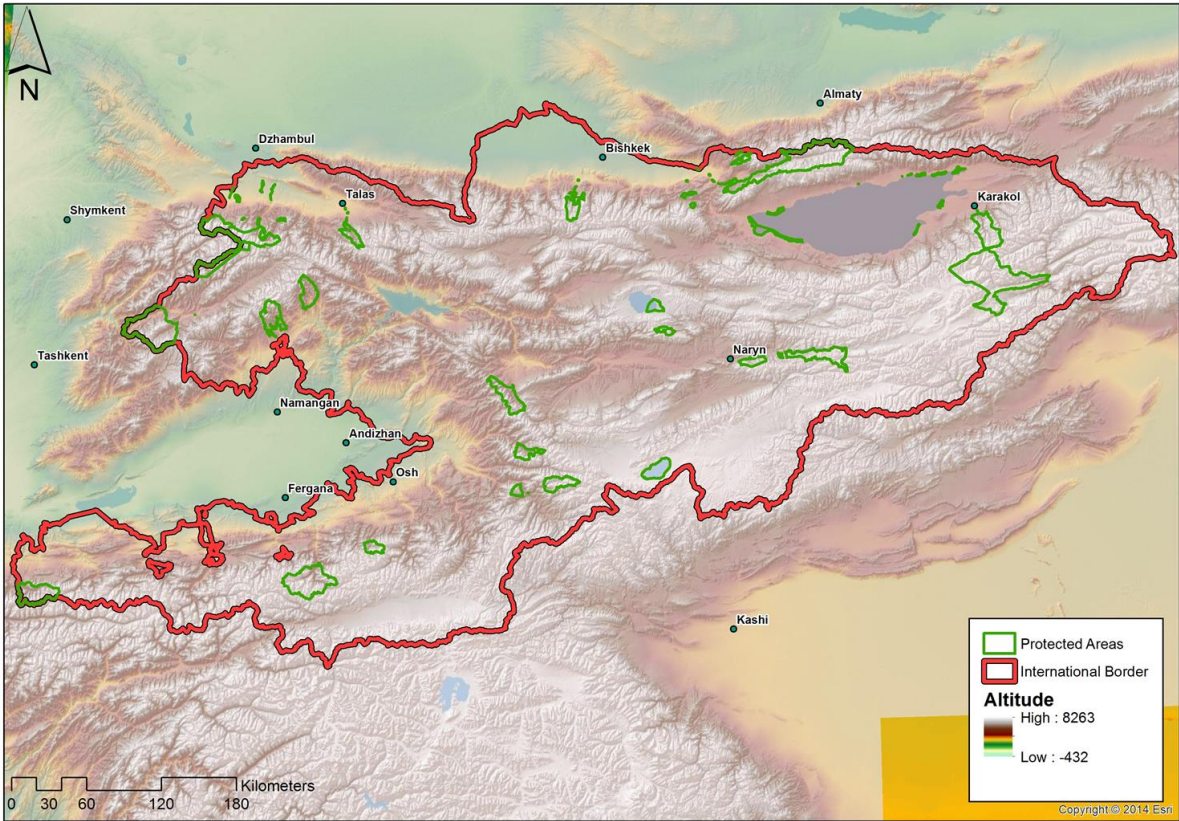
Our interactions with park rangers and local people surrounding parks reveal their inability and frustration in preventing poaching by outsiders. They cite entrenched problems, including an under-resourced and underfunded wildlife conservation sector and a lack of trained personnel and equipment, severely limiting anti-poaching efforts. Driven by low salaries (<£18-30/month) and a lack of respect, there is temptation for rangers to ignore or be complicit in illegal poaching. The result: rangers and local people feel socially and economically disenfranchised to control poaching in and around reserves, and this supports a porous system easily exploited by illegal hunters.

In response, the aim of this project is to launch a new anti-poaching program in Kyrgyz Republic called Citizen-Ranger Wildlife Protection Program (CRWPP). CRWPP publicly recognizes and financially rewards rangers, and ranger-community member combined teams, who successfully apprehend poachers and file cases against them under the criminal justice system. CRWPP strengthens Kyrgyz anti-poaching laws and, through trainings, intends to support best practices in law enforcement.

Through CRWPP, we expect the attitudes of rangers and local community members towards poaching and conservation to improve, and we expect improved ranger-community collaboration. We expect financial rewards to help offset costs incurred apprehending illegal hunters, and/or provide a small bonus to annual income as a means of poverty alleviation. Most importantly, we seek to raise the social regard and skills of largely disenfranchised ‘front-line’ anti-poaching responders. Over the long-term, we expect that reductions in illegal poaching will increase the abundance of charismatic wildlife, like snow leopards and argali, contributing to improved conditions for nature tourism and sustainable livelihoods.

Location:

This project is taking place nationally in Kyrgyzstan, targeting 23 Protected Areas. Below is a map of Kyrgyzstan with PAs marked in green (19 PAs demarcated, new PAs still need to mapped).



## 2. Project partnerships

Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) is the lead institution for this project with partners Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan (SLFK); State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic; and INTERPOL.

During the year, we have continued to develop strong relationships among partners, and all partners have applied their particular expertise to making the project successful. SLT and SLFK have closely monitored the project (timely completion of activities, spending, reaching indicators, etc). SLFK and Interpol worked closely together to host trainings, evaluate feedback, and adjust strategies where needed (Activity 2.2 and 2.3). During the year, Interpol met online with training participants to discuss their queries, and incorporate their ideas and needs into future training (Activity 2.2—online sessions). Multiple senior-level wildlife officials attended trainings to become trainers (Activity 2.2); and the Protected Area Department helped SLFK in arranging training logistics, calling and inviting participants, and providing a venue. Members from two departments under the State Agency were part of the CRWPP Committee for reviewing of poaching cases (Activity 3.2), and the Director of the State Agency presented awards during the CRWPP Award Ceremony (Activity 3.3.).

Dr. Koustubh Sharma, Senior Regional Ecologist for SLT and International Coordinator for the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) provided close connections between this project and GSLEP. The Outcome of this project supports goals under GSLEP, and success of this project will be used to support learning and strategies under GSLEP (See GSLEP website: <http://www.globalsnowleopard.org/who-we-are/>; 'Combating poaching and illegal trade' is one of GSLEP primary themes). Dr. Sharma and four other representatives from GSLEP attended the CRWPP Award Ceremony in March 2017 (Annex 2.6-Award Ceremony 2017-Roster of Attendees, lines 29-31, 50-51). The press release about the ceremony was also featured on the GSLEP website: <http://www.globalsnowleopard.org/blog/2017/03/03/world-wildlife-day-anti-poaching-heroes-honored/>.

We have also been working with wildlife officials in Kyrgyzstan, who have been appraised of and involved in all planning and implementation of trainings, as well as data collection for this project.

## 3. Project progress

### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

**Output 1: CRWPP is a national program model covering all national parks and state nature reserves in Kyrgyz Republic**

Activity 1.4 CRWPP available on SLT/Secretariat websites

SLT created a website specifically for the CRWPP program, hosted on its own independent URL. The website is accessible in English, Kyrgyz, and Russian and provides information about how the program works, who to contact, and related news. There is also a list of rangers who have been honoured with awards to date. SLFK is distributing the link, and has plans to share with rangers and communities.

*-Annex 0: CRWPP website located at <http://ranger.snowleopard.kg/>*

**Output 2: Community members collaborating with rangers, and rangers more able to effectively enforce laws, make arrests and file paperwork/evidence against illegal poachers.**

Activity 2.2--Trainings held and guidebook online

*(The aim of this activity was for Interpol to host training for law enforcement personnel in Kyrgyzstan.)*

During YR1 of IWT Challenge Fund we held our first training for 23 Protected Area personnel to improve wildlife law enforcement. In YR2, 6 months after this first training, we requested 'follow-

up' feedback (Annex 1.0). We found only ~48% (11) of trainees were still at their job or able to respond. Based on rates of attrition, in YR2 we worked with Interpol to redevelop our training approach.

Through discussions with Interpol, it was ultimately decided to focus on 'training trainers' in order to build the sustainability of the project. In line with this plan, Interpol and SLFK held a second major training session between October 5-9, 2016 at the conference hall of the Protected Area Department, Government of Kyrgyzstan. 14 people attended, majority of whom were wildlife managers representing reserves, national parks, regional offices (departments) of the DFEPA (Department of Forest Enterprises and Protected Areas) of the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), and the main office of the DFEPA.

For this October training, we covered Crime Scene Investigation methods, national laws—all from the perspective of building capacity of attendees as trainers. The entire program was overseen and delivered by Interpol and the session on local laws and legal provisions followed a group discussion led by a senior official from the Protected Area Department.

In November 2016, SLFK and Interpol met to review feedback (see below) and finalize the strategy moving forward. It was ultimately decided that our 'trainers' needed:

i) increased engagement from SLFK/Interpol, and ii) another intensive, in-person training sessions to give them a chance to apply knowledge. Therefore, on 21 February and 28 March, two online sessions were held to maintain engagement. The sessions were set-up by SLFK and run remotely by Interpol, with 10 attendees per session. The online trainings were used to review content, refresh people on goals, and prepare content for the April 2017 session. In particular, Interpol had updated trainer guides and schedules, so the online sessions gave everyone a chance to review changes.

The final intensive in-person training, which will complete this YR2 series, is scheduled for April 24-30, 2017 (the only time all parties could meet again). During the first half of the session, we will work with trainers to review learning to date, and review final revisions of training materials in person. During the latter half, we will bring in c. 14 rangers and trainers will practice running ranger trainings on their own—i.e. teaching rangers about investigation, apprehension, and filling cases. At the end, rangers and trainers will then evaluate each other's performance.

*-Annex 1.0 Follow-up feedback-summary of responses*

*-Annex 1.1 Interpol Oct Training-List of Attendees*

*-Annex 1.1a-g Photos from Oct Training*

*-Annex 1.2 Sample content Oct training-Trainers Manual*

*-Annex 1.3 Sample content Oct training-Description of Crime Scene*

*-Annex 1.4 Online training-List of attendees\_21Feb.17*

*-Annex 1.5 Online training-List of attendees\_28Mar.17*

*-Annex 1.6 Sample content Online Feb17-Plan of questions*

*-Annex 1.7. Sample Content Online Mar17-Evaluation Form*

### Activity 2.3 Training feedback collected

During the October 2016 training, trainees and their expectations were evaluated daily and at the end of the activity. Of the 14 trainees, we received 12 feedback forms. Feedback was largely positive: Overall rating for the course was 50% 'Excellent,' 33% 'Very Good,' and 17% 'Good' on a scale of Poor/Fair/Good/Very Good/Excellent. Majority of respondents felt they learned something from the course, 100% said they would be interested in attending further Interpol trainings, and of the 11 people who answered the question 'Do you plan to use the information you used during this course?', 82% (9 respondents) said 'Yes.' One of the two who said 'No' felt only some of the content (those related to Crime Scene Investigation techniques) would be useful, and the other said his local laws were quite different, but that content might be applicable if laws changed. For the question 'Additional subjects or topics you suggest should be included in future training courses,' 4 of 7 (57%) people who responded were interested in learning more about laws/legislation.

Based on feedback from wildlife managers, Interpol trainers have reorganized their training material. They have taken out sections that were redundant or irrelevant to rangers. In 2015, rangers were unable to provide this type of critical review of the course materials; feedback from wildlife managers themselves helped us realize ways in which the training material might not be relevant or targeted effectively. We have now been able to create a more comprehensive and compact training course that is more appropriate for trainers and rangers.

Annex 1.9a,b,c Sample of original feedback forms—in Kyrgyz

Annex 2.0a-L Interpol Training feedback-Oct2016-ENG

Annex 2.1 Oct2016 training feedback summary

### **Output 3: Awards conferred to recognize and compensate rangers and/or ranger-community field teams for their anti-poaching efforts**

#### Activity 3.1 Trust fund established to support awards in perpetuity

Although not officially marked in our timeframe, in regards to our budget, SLT was scheduled to make a final disbursement into the CRWPP Trust Fund. This was completed—on March 20, 2017, we placed £ (\$at time of transfer) from our account at Ameritrade into the Vanguard Balanced Index Fund that houses the CRWPP trust fund. Having completed a £disbursement in YR1 and this final disbursement in YR2, we have met the goal of establishing a £permanent fund. The current value of the Fund is \$.

*Annex 2.2-Trust Fund Bank Transfer*

*Annex 2.2a-Trust Fund Account Balance*

#### Activity 3.2 Cases reviewed by CRWPP committee

From the date of the first ranger reward ceremony on March 3, 2016 to the date of the second ceremony on March 3, 2017, SLFK staff visited the Department of Forest Ecosystems were visited regarding the CRWPP program 4 times (August 25, October 4, November 17, 2016; and February 13, 2017). The Department of Rational Use of Nature Resources was visited 3 times (April 14, November 12, and December 1, 2016). We discussed the program, and they were updated on poaching cases for which we had received information; they also helped to obtain protocols/case filings.

All Protected Areas in Kyrgyzstan have received fliers, clear instructions and periodical communication from the PA Department, which helped to get all the cases filed properly. The final meeting of the CRWPP Committee was held in the SLFK office on February 24, 2017, and minutes were taken. This year, the CRWPP committee was comprised of:

- Baktibek Toichubekov, leading specialist from the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Natural Protected Areas
- Talant Turdumatov, head of the unit under the Department of Rational Use of Nature Resources (former hunting department)
- Kalia Moldogazieva, chair of the “Tree of Life” Public Fund (wasn’t able to join due to other urgent call to the Government but received information online and agreed with decisions made)
- Kubanychbek Jumabai uulu, director of the Snow Leopard Foundation attended at the case reviewing meeting ,
- Altyn Kazakbaeva, community engagement specialist of the Snow Leopard Foundation (she collected all the information from the PAs)

The Committee received 7 cases: 4 protocols were filed on illegal guns/rifles, 2 cases were filed on illegally killed ungulates, and 1 case on killing of snow leopard. The Committee reviewed all the cases carefully and decided that all cases have been filed properly; fines were paid and guns and rifles were confiscated and passed to the police. Based on the collected protocols, the Committee decided that all cases should be rewarded.

-Annex 2.3 Minutes of CRWPP Committee Meeting Feb2017

-Annex 2.4 CRWPP Committee Discussion Topics

-Annex 2.5 a-b Meeting of CRWPP Committee 2017

### Activity 3.3: Award Ceremonies Held

As mentioned above, all 7 registered cases were approved by the CRWPP Committee for awards: 3 cases with killed snow leopard and ungulates received KGS each, and 4 cases with confiscated guns received KGS each, for a total of KGS.

In one case example, a park ranger from Kan-Achuu Nature Park his colleagues had spotted a group of poachers while patrolling the protected area. After following the seven poachers all night, the rangers caught them the next morning with a killed ibex. The poachers tried to hide the evidence, but the rangers were able to secure it and prove the case. The culprits have been sentenced to a fine of Kyrgyz Som (US).

In another case, a local man was caught by police with a dead snow leopard's skin and skull. He claimed that he had accidentally shot the cat during a nighttime wolf hunt. However, officials from the Department of Rational Use of Natural Resources interpreted the fact that he had skinned to dead animal and brought the skin and skull into town as an attempt to sell the remains. The apprehended man has paid a fine of Kyrgyz Som (US\$).

A ranger from Besh-Tash Nature Park was rewarded this year. He said that local young people established a Local Initiative Group called "Saruu Kaganaty". One of the goals of the group is to assist officials in protecting local nature. Four young people from this group helped to apprehend a poacher with gun in the National Park. The poacher paid penalty of KGS and an additional KGS will be paid for the damage caused by the poacher.

A ranger, Abdyshev Kanat, from Issyk-kul Reserve, apprehended an armed poacher when patrolling (Annex 2.8b—CRWPP Award Ceremony 2017 Photos—Mr. Kanat is on the left).

On March 3, 2017 (World Wildlife Day), an award ceremony was held in Bishkek for the 7 awardees. The award ceremony was attended by Mr. Abdykalik Rustamov, the Director of the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, who presented the awards, as well as by the local state bank RSK, and around 40 representatives of various local and international organizations. The awards were presented by Mr. Rustamov to Abdyshev Kanat, Kalchaev Asanbek Rispaevich, Asilbekov Suimonkul Tursunbekovich, Jusupov Makkambai Sarybaevich, Shadikhan uulu Kadir, Kurmankojoev Nurlan Alikadirovich, and Dokonbaev Ulan Ishembaevich. In addition to monetary awards, awardees received certificates, and the ceremony received positive public attention.

-Annex 2.6 CRWPP Ceremony 2017-Roster of attendees

-Annex 2.7 List of Rangers getting rewards-Signed

-Annex 2.8a-d CRWPP Award Ceremony 2017 Photos

-Award Ceremony Press Release: <https://www.snowleopard.org/world-wildlife-day-anti-poaching-heroes-honored/>

-Sample press coverage in Kyrgyzstan: URL

<http://ekois.net/trete-ezhegodnoe-tseremoniya-nagrazhdeniya-egerej-gosudarstvennogo-agentstva-ohrany-okruzhayushhej-sredy-i-lesnogo-hozyajstva-pri-pravitelstve-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki/?src=letter>

### **Addition I**

In YR1, IWT Challenge Fund supported purchase of trap cameras, as part of a pilot to test whether cameras can be used to capture poaching infractions. Five camera traps were installed in Sarychat Reserve in September-October 2016. Since the day of installation, we have not been able to go back collect data due to several reasons, one of which is deep snow. Only one camera trap, which was installed close to the road, has been checked in December 2016. Others will be retrieved in April/May, depending on access to the area.

We have also set up 2 more anti-poacher camera traps in a unique area, call the Shamshy protected area. This is a former hunting concession that SLFK/SLT began co-managing with Government of Kyrgyzstan in 2015 as a non-hunting reserve. Shamshy is 2 hours from Bishkek by car, and easier to reach. We discovered that one camera trap in Shamshy was removed and

images were deleted. We have since recovered the data and found photos of a young person with a gun. We have since started investigating this case. The camera trap was removed a few days after we set it up in the valley. There was no picture of killed animal. The second camera trap in Shamschy has not been retrieved yet. Due to deep snow.

Interestingly, another trap camera—one of SLFK’s regular research cameras (used for snow leopard population monitoring) photographed a herder taking an armed hunter into a nature reserve. The herder was recognized as a member from one of our community-based programs. His community subsequently lost conservation bonus monies for violating conditions of our conservation program (which stipulate no aid to outside hunters). The family of the young man who led the hunter is now responsible for paying the community back for the lost bonus. This is an example of the potential of this new camera pilot for monitoring, reporting, and enforcing against wildlife crimes.

-Annex 2.9 Anti poacher camera trap data-Sarychat

-Annex 3.0 Sample-anti-poaching camera IMG\_0896

—Image from one of the IWT anti-poaching cameras, showing how cameras are able to photograph license plates of moving vehicles (in this case, rangers-Sarychat Reserve).

### 3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

#### **Output 1: CRWPP is a national program model covering all national parks and state nature reserves in Kyrgyz Republic**

Indicator 1: *19 reserves have information about CRWPP.* Note—there are now 23 reserves. Over a Baseline of 2 national parks/state reserves with information about the CRWPP program at project start, all PAs in Kyrgyzstan now have program information. During YR2, we created a website about the program, which we will share with rangers during the April 2017 training. We trained wildlife managers in charge of all the country’s PAs and they will be interacting with rangers from the various national parks and reserves during a training scheduled for April 2017. The project continues to apply to—and accept cases from—all national parks and state nature reserves. For two years in a row, we have held a public award ceremony for eligible cases, with support from state agencies, and in YR2 (as in YR1) we had attendance by national media (Activity 3.3, Annex 2.6). Also, to date, awards have been provided to rangers-community teams from 9 of the 22 PAs in the country (Activity 3.3, and number of PAs listed on the CRWPP website under Annex 0).

Given activities to date, it is highly likely we will reach Output 1 by the end of the project term.

#### **Output 2: Community members collaborating with rangers, and rangers more able to effectively enforce laws, make arrests and file paperwork/evidence against illegal poachers.**

We have completed two large-scale Interpol trainings, one predominantly for line staff (YR1) and one for wildlife managers (YR2), and two online training sessions for managers (YR2)—(see Activity 2.2.). Trainings have focused on crime scene investigation, apprehension, filing cases, and laws and legislations specific to Kyrgyzstan. Rangers found training highly useful, however our follow-up surveys found high attrition rates. We adjusted focus in YR2 on training wildlife managers to be trainers, and we will assess their abilities as such in April 2017. In YR1 we disseminated equipment (binoculars, cameras, and investigation kits) to all PAs and in YR2 set out trap cameras in a sample of PAs to test their effectiveness at photographing poachers. Significant data from camera traps has yet to be collected.

Indicator 1: *1 weeks of INTERPOL training provided to rangers/senior officials in 2016.* We have held 2 weeks of Interpol training, over a baseline at start of project of 0. We measure # of training sessions held (1 in 2015, 3 in 2016), # of training days (5 in 2015, 7 in 2016), and feedback from the training, which has been largely positive (and constructive) in YR1 and YR2. Refer back to Annexes under Activities 2.2 and 2.3. This indicator has been met for YR1 and YR2. We plan to continue training sessions in YR3.

Indicator 2: *train 38 rangers by 2018*. In YR1 we trained 23 PA personnel, over a baseline at project start of 0. We have another training involving rangers planned for April 2017, during which we anticipate up to another 14 PA personnel will be trained (we requested attendance by people not previously trained by this project). We measure # of people trained (and rank/title of those trained) during each training session.

Indicator 3: *30 senior officials will be trained by 2018*. In YR2 we trained 14 officials over a baseline of 0. We measure # of official trained/engaged (and rank/title of those trained) during each training/workshop session. We will hold a special 'NEST' workshop in YR3, which we anticipate will provide training/information to more senior officials. NEST is an Interpol-driven workshop aimed at connecting various law enforcement agencies within the country.

*(NOTE regarding Indicators 2 & 3: What we have found is that the distinction between 'rangers' and 'senior officials' is not always clear or appropriate. For example, we are reaching many mid-level positions (such as vice directors or regional directors) who might be senior within a PA or region, but who are not department heads. Additionally, moving forward, our goal, ultimately, is to continue to develop 'trainers' who can provide training in improved law enforcement; and to support these trainers to train line staff. However the titles and positions of those who are 'trainers' and 'line staff' are often mixed. While we are—and will continue to—train and outreach to various levels of wildlife managers, we feel the distinction between 'rangers' and 'senior officials' might not be the best fit for this project moving forward. We therefore suggest focusing more on the total number of wildlife managers and associated personnel (e.g. police or other related positions) receiving training.)*

Indicator 4: *provide 19 digital cameras, 38 binoculars to rangers by 2016*. Against a baseline situation of c. 80% of protected areas underequipped, in YR1 we distributed Investigation Kits—each containing 1 digital camera, and 1 binoculars. We measured # of kits distributed, which was 23. This Indicator has been fully met.

Indicator 5: *by 2018, 43 cases against illegal poachers annually filed with the Reserve Administration*. We measure number of cases filed for review by the CRWPP committee, which was 8 in YR1 and 7 in YR2. Our baseline was estimated at 36, however we noted that robust baselines were largely lacking, and that our baseline may be inflated. We have since attempted to better understand baselines, and in general take a revised stance towards how we measure this indicator (in general, we suggest not measuring 'against baseline' and instead using CRWPP program to help establish better baseline data). A detailed discussion about baseline data is covered in Section 12 below. Based on this discussion, we suggest revising this indicator to *by 2018, CRWPP committee reviews 7 cases annually*.

Overall, given this progress thus far, and with suggested adjustments, we will meet the Output by YR3.

### **Output 3: Awards conferred to recognize and compensate rangers and/or ranger-community field teams for their anti-poaching efforts**

We have held two award ceremonies, during which we publicly recognized and financially rewarded rangers and ranger-community teams for filing cases related to anti-poaching efforts. Refer to Activity 3.3 and Annexes.

Indicator 1: *By 2018, CRWPP award output to rangers and/or ranger-community field teams £annually*. Over a baseline of 0, we have provided award outputs of KGS/£ (in 2016 and in 2017). We measure the amount of financial awards presented during the CRWPP award ceremony (see Annex 2.7-- List of rangers getting rewards-Signed).

Indicator 2: *By 2018, CRWPP publicly recognizing 43 rangers and/or ranger-community field teams annually for anti-poaching efforts*. We have publicly recognized 17 ranger-community teams, over a baseline was 0. We measure the number of cases approved with the CRWPP Committee (8 in YR1, 7 in YR2) and awards conferred during the award ceremonies (10 awards conferred during the March 2016 ceremony, 7 conferred during the March 2017 ceremony). We also track attendance at the award ceremonies, and have had high attendance and visibility by media, senior government, and NGOs in YR1 and YR2 (see ceremony press release under Activity 3.3:)



Given rate of cases filed in YR1 and YR2, we propose to adjust both indicators and reduce Indicator 1 from £in award output annually to £annually; and Indicator 2 from 43 rangers to 7 rangers-community teams recognized annually.

Given these suggested adjustments, we feel confident we will meet Output 3 by end of project.

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

**Outcome: Park rangers in Kyrgyz Republic will have the resources, training and recognition they need to curb illegal poaching and wildlife trade, and follow through with apprehending and filing cases against poachers. This will raise the profile and income of park rangers and deter illegal hunting of snow leopards and key prey, resulting in their increased abundance and, over the longer term, improve conditions for nature tourism and livelihood options for local communities.**

Indicator 1: By 2018, the number of cases filed against illegal poaching within Kyrgyz Republic state nature reserves and national parks increases 20% from a current rough estimate of 36/yr in 2013 to 43/year by 2018.

See our discussion about baseline data under Section 12, and related annexes. We do not feel it will be possible to measure an increase in number of cases filed, over baseline. Instead, we view our project as in a good position to help establish improved baselines. This Indicator is no longer appropriate for this project. We suggest changing to: *By 2018, CRWPP program maintains centralized system to record poaching cases involving snow leopard, ibex and argali in Kyrgyzstan (over baseline of non-existent).*

Indicator 2: By 2018, attitudes of rangers and community members in sample areas (disaggregated by gender) towards controlling illegal poaching changes from relative 'helpless' to relative empowerment

We will assess attitudes of rangers and community members towards poaching and empowerment in YR3.

Indicator 3: By 2015, ranger-community member field teams who successfully apprehend and file cases against illegal poachers receive awards that increase income by at least 13% over current rural average of £440/year.

Between March 2016-March 2017, 10 people have received awards of 5000 som and 7 people received awards of 15000 som. That means, at current exchange rates, they have increased their income by £, over the rural average.

Indicator 4: By 2018, reduced corruption (increased number of cases filed, improvement of attitudes towards controlling illegal poaching) will increase local people's trust in, and cooperation with, law enforcement agencies (number of community members working with rangers to apprehend poachers, over current baseline of 1), supporting a positive atmosphere for conservation-linked livelihoods.

In YR1, there was one ranger-community team awarded. In YR2, we awarded a ranger from Besh Tash Nature Park who said that local young people established a 'Local Initiative Group' called "Saruu Kaganaty". One of the goals of the group is to assist officials in protecting local nature. Four young people from this group helped to apprehend a poacher who was carrying a gun in the National Park. The poacher paid penalties in total of KGS from wrongdoing and damages.

Indicator 5: By 2018, abundance for snow leopards and their prey in two model CRWPP show 'stable' trends, over current national levels of 'declining' for snow leopards and key species (e.g. argali).

We completed trap camera surveys in one model CRWPP landscape around Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve, in 2014, 2015, and most recently in September 2016. Preliminary analysis of

images from 2015 identified 18 snow leopards. We will conduct surveys again in this same landscape in 2017. Between May-September 2016, we also began trap camera surveys in a new landscape on the southeaster side of Sarychat-Ertash. We also completed trap camera surveys in a region called Shamschy. Baseline ungulate surveys in Shamschy, were completed in December 2016 (246 ibex estimated Shamschy). Trends are not apparent yet, but will be analysed for our final report.

### 3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

#### Outcome Assumptions

Assumption 1: Stable political climate to support this project

Comment: The political climate has remained relatively stable over the past year, and has been supportive of this project. Evidence of this is i) high level of attendance by senior wildlife officials at our October Interpol training (i.e. no issues arising from state agencies regarding participation in the project—roster of attendees is Annex 1.1), and ii) federal-level participation in the CRWPP committee (list and title of committee members under Section 3.1 Activity 3.2), iii) state support of the CRWPP award ceremony (Mr. Abdykalik Rustamov, the Director of the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, conferred awards), and finally iv) President's office has maintained high-level support of SLT and SLFK and hosted directors from both partners during a meeting in November 2017 (see second link below). President Atambayev also remains committed to the Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP), a range-wide snow leopard strategy, which he launched in 2013. In 2017, Kyrgyzstan will be hosting a Presidential Summit for GSLEP (see third link below).

The President remains the same as when the project started.

- Link shows Almazbek Atambayev as President of Kyrgyzstan, same as when this project started: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President\\_of\\_Kyrgyzstan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Kyrgyzstan)
- Link shows President Atambayev with Dr. Charudutt Mishra (Project Leader), Michael Despines (SLT Executive Director) and Kuban Jumabai uulu (SLFK Director) <https://www.snowleopard.org/time-paradigm-shift-conservation/>
- Link to announcement about GSLEP meetings in 2017: <http://www.globalsnowleopard.org/blog/2017/01/11/press-release-gslep-steering-committee-meeting-in-kathmandu/>

Assumption 2: Poaching, which is widely recognized to be a serious threat in Kyrgyz Republic, is currently limiting snow leopard and prey populations.

Comment: This assumption hasn't changed in YR2. Poaching is still widely recognised as a serious threat in Kyrgyz Republic: The status of this threat remains High Priority in the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (SLSS 2014)—in fact poaching of prey and snow leopards have the highest ranking among all threats to snow leopards in Kyrgyzstan.

- SLSS threats ranking matrix here: [http://www.snowleopardsurvival.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Appendix\\_2\\_Threats\\_table\\_compiled\\_as\\_part\\_of\\_GSLEP\\_process.pdf](http://www.snowleopardsurvival.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Appendix_2_Threats_table_compiled_as_part_of_GSLEP_process.pdf)

Assumption 3: Increased numbers of apprehensions and filing of cases helps lead to fewer instances of recorded poaching and helps improve attitudes towards corruption and law enforcement among local people

Comment: This is still a valid assumption, however there is new positive development. The government has increased the amount of fines imposed on poachers who kill snow leopards, ibex, or argali. For example, the fine for killing an ibex prior to the start of this project use to be only KGS, it has since been increased to KGS. The fine for illegal poaching of snow leopard has increased from KGS in 2015 to KGS. The large increase in fines could also deter poachers and cause fewer cases to be filed. At the same time, it could affect rate of apprehension—since rangers receive also an equivalent of % of the fine as 'payment for damages.' We will monitor

how this new change affects our program, and we will still assess how our program in particular affects ranger attitudes using targeted surveys.

Assumption 4: Reductions in illegal poaching support a more favourable atmosphere for supporting local conservation-based livelihoods

Comment: This is still a valid assumption and something we continue to pay attention to. The assumption hasn't changed, but we have made more progress with a case study in a region called Shamschy. Tangential to this project, we have assumed co-management with the Government over a hunting concession called Shamschy; 2016 was our first full year managing Shamschy. In Shamschy, Government of Kyrgyzstan has cancelled hunting licenses and we are helping employ rangers to protect and monitor wildlife populations, including patrolling against illegal poaching. In 2016, we completed baseline wildlife assessments in Shamschy (biodiversity assessment are complete, ungulate surveys—see Outcome indicator 5). We have placed some of the IWT anti-poaching trap cameras in Shamschy. We have met with communities to complete socio-economic baseline surveys. Over the long term, our goal is to support sustainable livelihoods and wildlife populations in Shamschy, and our assumption is that in doing so we will improve tourism/visitor potential of the concession.

Assumption 5: Laws pertaining to illegal poaching remain relatively constant, or do not alter current state of illegal poaching (more drastic penalties could also deter illegal poachers and reduce number of cases filed)

Comment: This is still an important assumption. SLFK continues to monitor changes closely, and in YR2 consulted with legal experts as part of Interpol training sessions. In YR2, there has been an important change to laws pertaining to illegal poaching in Kyrgyzstan: digital images, including those from the internet, are permissible evidence in cases against illegal poaching. This is positive for this project, as it will make it easier for rangers to provide evidence for their cases (we have provided all PAs with digital cameras, and some with trap cameras).

## **Output Assumptions**

Assumption 1 There are no other unforeseen major issues prohibiting or standing in the way of rangers filing cases

Comment: In YR2, there were no major governmental or policy changes affecting filling of cases. However, what we have learned is that there can be high turnover of rangers. Therefore we have changed our training to focus on wildlife managers (see Activity 2.2).

Assumption 2 All state nature reserves and national parks will be interested in CRWPP model

Comment: This is still an important assumption. Two national parks have been added to the state PA system in the past three years. We monitor cases files, and which PAs they originate from. Although early, we have seen cases filed from 8 different PAs. We will continue to monitor. If we anticipate or see issues, we will alert the PA Department and consider adjustments to our methods.

Assumption 3 Market changes could decrease value of Trust Fund or ability to draw down 4% interest while maintaining corpus

Comment: The IWT funds are invested in a Vanguard index fund that consists of 60% stocks and 40% bonds. For 2016, the return was 10.59%.

Assumption 4 There are no other extenuating circumstances that disrupt the possibility of positive collaboration between rangers and communities

Comment: We have not experienced any significant extenuating circumstances disrupting collaboration at a high level (we have close collaboration with PA Department and see no changes to their modus operandi that would affect this). In YR2, one case was filed/supported by community members (Activity 3.3).

Assumption 5 Informal review seems to indicate more gun violations than killed animal violations. In calculating amount needed by CRWPP trust fund for financial awards, we assume

a two-thirds-one-third split in favour of gun violations. Any funds not used will be reinvested to sustain the corpus.

Comment: In 2016, there were 6 awards for gun violations and 4 for killed animal, i.e. a 3:2 ratio. In 2017, there was a 4:3 ratio. However, at the same time, there are fewer cases filed overall than originally anticipated. At the current interest rate on the Trust Fund, the fund should be able to support the award payments.

#### **4. Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty alleviation**

The Impact in our original application form was: A reduction in illegal hunting of snow leopards and their prey and indirect contribution to poverty alleviation in Kyrgyz Republic.

In YR2, Output 2, Indicators 1-4 contributed to stronger internal capacity among wildlife managers (and subsequently rangers) towards enforcing wildlife laws against poaching of snow leopards and wild prey. We assume that better skills mean more cases filed (and more solid/airtight cases filed). Improved tracking of number of cases filed will help with monitoring this (Output 2 Indicator 5). We also assume that better apprehension, along with changes in law (including higher fines for poaching—see Outcome Assumption 3) will together be a deterrent to poachers in the future (fewer cases). Output 3, Indicator 2 contributes to public awareness on a national level that there is government support of anti-poaching efforts. We assume this shift in paradigms will improve attitudes towards corruption and law enforcement among local people. These assumptions are noted in our proposal.

This project has an indirect contribution to poverty alleviation. Total cash awards provided was max som/individual. The project assumes that reduced poaching would provide a more favourable atmosphere for sustainable livelihoods (e.g. tourism, handicrafts). See further discussion in Section 7 below.

#### **5. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declaration and Kasane Statement**

Our project is contributing to the second objective of IWT Challenge Fund, and C7 under the Kasane Statement, “Support the strengthening and, if necessary, the establishment of regional wildlife enforcement networks”. In YR1, the Snow Leopard and Wildlife Enforcement Network (SLAWEN) was created as a result of collaboration with Interpol, and in direct response to the need for a national-level workshop to inform and sensitize top-level managers to issues addressed by CRWPP. SLAWEN’s enforcement strategy was released October 23, 2015. Interpol and Government of Kyrgyzstan are still interested in establishing a National Security Task Force (NEST) in Kyrgyzstan. NEST will bring together law enforcement agencies and their respective areas of expertise around a common mission to fight environmental crime. This will be first NEST in a snow leopard range country. We aim to hold a NEST meeting in YR3.

In YR2, we provided training to senior-level wildlife managers in Kyrgyzstan (Activity 2.2); these managers support the SLAWEN strategy, and are key NEST stakeholders. The expectation is that these managers will then train rangers across Kyrgyzstan’s PA system on methods for investigation and apprehension of illegal poachers.

We strengthened support for anti-poaching enforcement at the national level, by working with the federal government to publicly recognize the efforts of rangers who followed through on filing cases, and we provided financial and social attentions/accolades during a public ceremony on World Wildlife Day. Public announcements of this ceremony make it publicly known that filing of cases is being encouraged by the government.

Finally, in support of D13 of the Kasane Statement, “Support work by countries and intergovernmental organisations, as well as nongovernmental organisations, that seeks to identify the situations where, and the mechanisms by which, actions at the local level, including with community groups, can reduce the illegal wildlife trade”—we have continued to develop

the CRWPP program model as a mechanism for both rangers and community members to apprehend poachers and file cases (see Activity 3.3., paragraph 4 for example).

## **6. Impact on species in focus**

This project aims to benefit snow leopards and their prey by reducing illegal hunting of both in and around PAs. We also expect, over the longer term, to see an increase in the local abundance of snow leopards and their prey, assuming that poaching, which is widely recognized to be a serious threat in Kyrgyz Republic, is currently limiting snow leopard and prey populations. (See confirmation of Outcome Assumption 2 above).

As poaching is decreased, we expect to see stabilization and/or increase in snow leopard and prey populations. Outcome Indicator 5 is: By 2018, abundance for snow leopards and their prey in two model CRWPP show 'stable' trends, over current national levels of 'declining' for snow leopards and key species (e.g. argali). As noted, SLT and SLFK have used trap camera surveys and double-observer prey surveys to establish baseline snow leopard and wild prey populations in 3 separate landscapes (2 in/around Sarychat-Ertash, 1 in Shamshy) and will repeat surveys again in YR3 for comparison.

## **7. Project support to poverty alleviation**

Ranger salaries at the beginning of this project were noted as <£/month (SLT unpublished), with Farrington (2005) reporting that some can earn as low as £. This project has brought increased attention to the role of rangers in enforcing wildlife crime, and to the need for better trained frontline staff. We recently learned that in 2015, rangers received a state salary increase (% increase); and during the March 2017 CRWPP awards ceremony, Mr. Abdykalik Rustamov, the Director of the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, mentioned the importance of increasing ranger salaries.

Also, in YR2, the financial awards provided through CRWPP provided cash KGS (currently equivalent £as of time of this report), depending on the infraction. This cash helps offset costs incurred apprehending illegal hunters, and/or provides a small bonus to annual income as a means of poverty alleviation. This year, we provided 7 people with cash awards—refer to Annex 2.7-list of rangers getting awards).

Since most reserves are remote, the buffer zones are predominantly rural herder/farmer communities. The average annual income in rural Kyrgyz Republic is £ (2013 Kyrgyz Republic National Statistics Committee). Over the long-term, we expect that reductions in illegal poaching will increase the abundance of charismatic wildlife, like snow leopards and argali, contributing to improved conditions for nature tourism and sustainable livelihood options for local communities (such as handicraft programs for women) in snow leopard habitat (refer to section 6 information about monitoring of wildlife populations. As discussed under Outcome Assumption 4, SLT and SLFK are currently co-managing a former hunting concession as a nature reserve; this region, called Shamshy, will help test the impacts of increased wildlife potential on tourism and other positive socio-economic activities (see SLT press release about Shamshy: <https://www.snowleopard.org/from-hunting-reserve-to-wildlife-sanctuary/>). Since 2002, SLT has also been working with local communities in snow leopard habitat to enhance livelihoods through a conservation handicrafts program focused on women (in 2016 this program was active in 3 communities, contributed £per family for the year in sales income, families were focused in buffer zone of Sarychat Ertach Nature Reserve).

## **8. Consideration of gender equality issues**

Indirect impact anticipated is a more favourable environment to support sustainable livelihoods, such as handicrafts. SLT has handicraft programs active in 3 communities surrounding PAs in Kyrgyzstan. Our handicraft programs are 98% women participation. SLFK has taken special effort to share information about CRWPP specifically with women handicraft participants during our regular order/purchase trips to handicraft communities.

## 9. Monitoring and evaluation

Methods employed this year to monitor and evaluate this project included:

- Post-training feedback/surveys
- Attendance rosters and meeting notes/minutes
- Field notes, maps and data logs
- Response of media (i.e. publication, airing, etc)
- Receipts, informal Excel accounting, field reports/notes
- Case data of CRWPP awardees
- Bank account statements

SLT, SLFK, and Interpol have used email and skype on a weekly or monthly basis to review progress, share data, and discuss adjustments.

Changes to our M&E plan, related to better understanding of baselines, is discussed under Section 12 and adjustments to our logical framework suggested in Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

## 10. Lessons learnt

During YR2 we have utilized feedback from trainees as part of our adaptive management process. Under Activity 2.2. we discuss how feedback has been used to alter Interpol trainings moving forward, and in Section 13 we discuss how this will improve long-term sustainability. We will continue to use feedback and lessons learned during our April 2017 training to improve trainings in YR3. YR2 was also our first year testing anti-poaching trap cameras. We have not yet been able to collect a significant amount of data, but will adjust our strategy/methods as necessary.

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

There were five comments made during the review of our YR1 annual report:

1. *Provide an update on the siting/utility of camera traps—update due next annual report*

Partners expected to track siting/utility of camera traps, and were glad to concur with feedback from YR1 annual report. Basic Excel format has been employed for time-being, as there are not many cameras/camera sites to track. Preliminary data shared with this report.

2. *Include feedback from future training events (where translated into English) as an Annex--update due next annual report*

Partners felt this was a reasonable expectation. Extra staff time was devoted in YR2 to translating all trainee feedback, and all feedback received is included with this report.

3. *Submit copy of bank statement as Annex in next AR –update due next annual report*

Bank statement is included with this report.

4. *Consider adding additional indicators under output 1—no response needed*

Reviewers noted: 'However, it is worth considering adding additional indicators under this output as currently the sole indicator does not capture whether reserve staff actively engage with the CRWPP model, only whether or not they have received information on it.

Partners considered and discuss other indicators to measure reserve staff actively engaging with the CRWPP program model—ways that would add value to the project and that could be feasibly tracked. We feel there are three ways reserve staff can actively engage in the program: 1) Learn about it (receive or seek out information), 2) Actively attend trainings (either by Interpol directly or by wildlife managers), 3) File cases and receive rewards. We felt Indicators under Outputs 2 and 3 already explicitly tracked number of rangers trained, and number filing cases and receiving awards. We felt an area for improvement was ensuring ranges could access information about the program, and be encouraged to file cases. We suggest new indicators under *Output 1*:

*Indicator 1.2 All reserves receive link to CRWPP website,*

*Indicator 1.3 All reserves receive encouragements/reminders about filing of cases for consideration by the CRWPP Committee.*

These can both be measured by emails sent by PA Department and/or SLFK to reserves containing the web link and reminders

5. *Provide an updated baseline where appropriate e.g. on annual number of cases filed against poachers—update due next annual report*

Partners agree on the importance of an updated baseline, and SLFK made it a priority for YR2. We have collected historic data from all PAs in Kyrgyzstan, and have revised our baseline.

## 12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Community connections: Anecdotally, SLFK has had several calls from a woman who lives close to the Kemin National Park. First she called to inform about a group of armed people who went to the mountains. SLFK called to the National Park administration and informed them, but they were not able to apprehend anyone. She also called SLFK to inform about a person in her village who had ibex horns at their home. SLFK did not follow up on this case because there was no indication they were recent (e.g. they could be very old horns). What is positive about this woman is that she knows about the program on a community-level, and the award has obviously incentivized her to be proactive. Also, she seems to have no barrier of access in terms of contacting a CRWPP program representative.

Baselines: One of our YR2 goals was to more thoroughly review historic data on number and details of cases filed, to better understand baselines against which to measure our project. Originally, we anticipated collecting data from the newly-formed statistics department, Government of Kyrgyzstan. However, in YR2, we found this department did not have these data. After considering our options, it was decided to contact each PA directly to collect historic data. Since this was labour-intensive, we had to retain extra time from existing staff at SLFK and commit them to this special project. All PAs were contacted and asked about filing of cases for the time period 2007-2016. Collated data is provided in Annex Aa-b- Baseline poaching info from PAs-Kyrgyz and English, and a calculated summary in Annex B- Baseline poaching info from PAs-Summary. The summary document shows there were 26 cases reported from 2007-2016, with 15 cases filed 2007-2014 (prior to launch of this project), 5 filed in 2015, and 6 filed in 2016.

There are multiple challenges in using these data. First, there is discrepancy between number of cases reported vs. actual number of cases taking place (i.e. many poaching cases went unreported). Reasons for non-reporting can range from ranger attrition (as witnessed after our 2015 training session) and lack of institutional knowledge, to poor/incomplete recording, to misunderstanding about how to report, and even changes in recording systems. For example, in 2010, a poacher apprehended by SLFK and a PA Ranger was not recorded (even though it was official and the poacher paid a fine).

Another issue is that cases are filed in many different ways, and the CRWPP Committee receives recommendations from beyond just the PAs. (This is why the number of cases reviewed and awarded by the CRWPP Committee does not match numbers in Annex B). For example, if a poacher is apprehended right outside the PA boundaries, the PA itself will not record the case, and instead it might be processed by police. Similarly, cases can run through the Hunting Department, or other departments that do not necessarily share files with the PA Department. Finally, CRWPP considers cases and provides awards before they are tried in court, which means that if departments have a mandate to wait until cases are closed in court, they may not report them. There has never been a program like CRWPP that draws cases from all government departments—and that will even accept cases directly from community members—and that acts *prior* to court decisions, and there is no one central location where all these data are available. We anticipated that during the course of our project, the Government would have centralized data available. We realize now there is no baseline dataset on snow leopard and wild prey poaching, and that no other entity or agency is collecting adequate or comprehensive baseline data. Despite these challenges, it is however clear that the baseline in our proposal was over-estimated.

While this challenge is important and must be solved, it is outside the capacity of this project in terms of time, cost, and capacity to establish baselines. In the meantime, we believe our project can be useful towards helping to towards tracking of number of cases filed.

- Annex Aa-b- Baseline poaching info from PAs-Kyrgyz and English
- Annex B- Baseline poaching info from PAs-Summary

### 13. Sustainability and legacy

Inherent to this project, a main activity under the grant in YR2 has been to raise the profile of CRWPP within the country, which can be see through collaboration with the PA Department, and attendance at the award ceremony by the Director of the State Agency of Environment Protection and Forestry of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as other senior officials and media and NGOs (Activity 3.3 and Annexes). Towards the open access plan, we have created the CRWPP program website (Annex 0).

Our exit strategy consisted of four main components: 1) maintaining communication and engagement with rangers and communities via SLFK and Interpol “business as usual”; 2) monitoring and replacement of equipment by SLT/SLFK; 3) codification of Interpol training in a materials guidebook; 4) establishment of a permanently restricted trust fund managed through SLT to support the CRWPP financial awards. This strategy remains valid significant progress was accomplished in YR1. In YR2: towards point 1 we have established strong relationships with the PA Department and communities via SLFK and Interpol has supported increased engagement with wildlife managers. Towards point 2, we are monitoring placement and use of trap cameras, and will continue to do so (and replacement other equipment as needed). Towards point 4, we completed contributions into the trust fund (Activity 3.1). And finally towards point 3, we have made significant changes to our training strategy. We realized for the sustainability of our ranger training program, we needed to have a corps of trainers, and have thus revised our materials and methods to ‘institutionalize’ the training program among senior wildlife officials. We have guided a corps of 12 officials to be trainers to they can maintain capacity and skills of rangers towards wildlife crime enforcement. This guards against three variables: i) attrition of rangers—as new rangers come in, there are trainers available to upskill them, ii) availability of Interpol trainers—capacity within country reduces need for constant, and costly, visits by Interpol, and iii) change-over in senior management—having a large number of trainers makes it possible to adjust or reorganize if only one or two leave.

### 14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

We are pleased to have publicized support of IWT Challenge Fund in the following:

- CRWPP Website (Annex 0)
- Logo use during the CRWPP award ceremony (Annex 2.8a-d)—logo visible in all signage
- SLT Press Release:  
<https://www.snowleopard.org/world-wildlife-day-anti-poaching-heroes-honored/>
- Articles in newsletter

### 15. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2016-March 2017)**

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2016/17 Grant (£)	2016/17 Total actual IWT 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)				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

**16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2016-2017

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>A reduction in illegal hunting of snow leopards and their prey and indirect contribution to poverty alleviation in Kyrgyz Republic.</p>		<p>Institutionalized a ranger training program among senior wildlife officials, and developed a corps of officials as 'trainers.'</p> <p>Provided public and government recognition for rangers and rangers-community member that apprehend poachers.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome</b> Park rangers in Kyrgyz Republic will have the resources, training and recognition they need to curb illegal poaching and wildlife trade, and follow through with apprehending and filing cases against poachers. This will raise the profile and income of park rangers and deter illegal hunting of snow leopards and key prey, resulting in their increased abundance and, over the longer term, improve conditions for nature tourism and livelihood options for local communities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2018, the number of cases filed against illegal poaching within Kyrgyz Republic state nature reserves and national parks increases 20% from a current rough estimate of 36/yr in 2013 to 43/year by 2018.</li> <li>By 2018, attitudes of rangers and community members in sample areas (disaggregated by gender) towards controlling illegal poaching changes from relative 'helpless' to relative empowerment</li> <li>By 2015, ranger-community member field teams who successfully apprehend and file cases against illegal poachers receive awards that increase income by at least 13% over current rural average of £440/year.</li> <li>By 2018, reduced corruption (increased number of cases filed, improvement of attitudes towards controlling illegal poaching) will increase local people's trust in, and cooperation with, law enforcement agencies (number of community members working with rangers to apprehend poachers, over current baseline of 1), supporting a positive atmosphere for conservation-linked livelihoods.</li> <li>By 2018, abundance for snow leopards and their prey in two model CRWPP show 'stable' trends, over current national levels of 'declining' for snow leopards and key species</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data collected from PAs; significant lacunae in baseline data identified, new indicator suggested; encouraged filing of cases. 7 cases approved for CRWPP awards.</li> <li>No action yet in YR1</li> <li>Ranger-community member field teams received awards that increased income £57-172, or 12.9-39% over the rural average.</li> <li>Cooperation shown between one ranger-community team</li> <li>Trap camera surveys for snow leopard abundance completed in 3 model CRWPP landscapes; wild prey</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRWPP program continues to monitor/report number of cases filed, in support of better baselines</li> <li>Continue to build capacity of 'trainers' so they can lead ongoing training for rangers in effective wildlife enforcement; collect and analyse attitude data</li> <li>Encourage ranger-community teams to file cases in 2017; continue to hold public award ceremonies and provide financial awards to ranger and ranger-community field teams</li> <li>Continue to recognize and monitor number of ranger-community teams</li> <li>Complete another round of trap camera and ungulate surveys in landscapes, analyse and compare data</li> </ol>

	(e.g. argali).	surveys completed in 1	to previous year
<b>Output 1.</b> CRWPP is a national program model covering all national parks and state nature reserves in Kyrgyz Republic	1. 19 reserves have information about CRWPP by 2016 (baseline=2)	We created a public website for the CRWPP program See Section 3.2 Annex 0. The website provides thorough information for the CRWPP program. We suggest adding two new indicators to track whether rangers receive links to online CRWPP information, and reminders to file cases for review by the CRWPP Committee.	
Activity 1.4 CRWPP available on SLT/Secretariat websites		CRWPP website created, available in English, Russian, Kyrgyz. Link will be shared with rangers. We will also track emails to rangers reminding them to file poaching cases with the CRWPP Committee.	
<b>Output 2.</b> Community members collaborating with rangers, and rangers more able to effectively enforce laws, make arrests and file paperwork/evidence against illegal poachers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One week of INTERPOL training provided to rangers/senior officials in 2015, 2016, 2017 (baseline=0)</li> <li>2. 38 rangers trained by 2018 (baseline=0)</li> <li>3. 30 senior officials trained by 2018 (baseline=0)</li> <li>4. 19 digital cameras, 38 binoculars provided to rangers by 2016 (Around 80% of protected areas are underequipped).</li> <li>5. By 2018, 43 cases against illegal poachers annually filed with the Reserve Administration (available for later prosecution) (Baseline 36-see section 23)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 3 training sessions, total of 7 days, held by Interpol for senior officials in 2016-2017 (Section 3.2 Annex 1.0-1.7)</li> <li>2. 23 PA personnel trained in YR1; April 2017 training being held, anticipate 14 more to be trained as part of YR2</li> <li>3. 14 official trained in YR2 (Annex 1.1)</li> <li>4. Completed in YR1. Initial round of anti-poaching trap cameras deployed in YR2 in 2 landscapes.</li> <li>5. 8 cases filed in YR1, 7 cases filed in YR2 (Annex 2.7)</li> </ol> <p>Suggested change to Indicator 5 to more accurately reflect number of cases being reviewed by CRWPP Committee—see sections 3.3 and discussion on Baselines under Section 12).</p>	
2.2 Trainings held and guidebook online		Interpol trainings held in October 2016, February 2017 and March 2017. Training materials revised to train ‘trainers’ and make program more sustainable. Final training in series being held April 2017 during which trainers will practice training rangers.	
2.3 Training feedback collected		Feedback collected from October 2016 training. Summarized, reviewed by Interpol and SLFK and improvements made to training strategy.	
<b>Output 3.</b> Awards conferred to recognize and compensate rangers and/or ranger-community field teams for their anti-poaching efforts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By 2018, CRWPP award output to rangers and/or ranger-community field teams £4200 annually (baseline = 0)</li> <li>2. By 2018, CRWPP publicly recognizing 43 rangers and/or ranger-community field teams annually for anti-poaching efforts (baseline =0)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 65,000 KGS/£745 in award output to rangers and ranger-community teams; more awards to give out in March 2018 (Annex 2.7)</li> <li>2. 7 people recognized, more awarded in March 2018 (Annex 2.7)</li> </ol> <p>Suggested changes to Indicators 1 and 2 to more accurately reflect number of cases being reviewed—and awards conferred, in relation to change in Indicator 5 under Output 2.</p>	

3.2 Cases reviewed by CRWPP committee	CRWPP reviewed and discussed cases in February 2017 (Annex 2.3 and 2.4)
3.3 Award ceremonies held	Second annual award ceremony held on March 3, 2017 (Annex 2.6-2.9d)

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

*N.B. if your application's logframe is presented in a different format in your application, please transpose into the below template. Please feel free to contact [IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk) if you have any questions regarding this.*

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b> A reduction in illegal hunting of snow leopards and their prey and indirect contribution to poverty alleviation in Kyrgyz Republic.			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Park rangers in Kyrgyz Republic will have the resources, training and recognition they need to curb illegal poaching and wildlife trade, and follow through with apprehending and filing cases against poachers. This will raise the profile and income of park rangers and deter illegal hunting of snow leopards and key prey, resulting in their increased abundance and, over the longer term, improve conditions for nature tourism and livelihood options for local communities.</p>	<p>Indicator 1: By 2018, the number of cases filed against illegal poaching within Kyrgyz Republic state nature reserves and national parks increases 20% from a current rough estimate of 36/yr in 2013 to 43/year by 2018.</p> <p>Indicator 2: By 2018, attitudes of rangers and community members in sample areas (disaggregated by gender) towards controlling illegal poaching changes from relative 'helpless' to relative empowerment</p> <p>Indicator 3: By 2015, ranger-community member field teams who successfully apprehend and file cases against illegal poachers receive awards that increase income by at least 13% over current rural average of £440/year.</p> <p>Indicator 4. By 2018, reduced corruption (increased number of cases filed, improvement of attitudes towards controlling illegal poaching) will increase local people's trust in, and cooperation with, law enforcement agencies (number of community members working with rangers to apprehend poachers, over current baseline of 1), supporting a positive atmosphere for conservation-linked livelihoods.</p> <p>Indicator 5: By 2018, abundance for snow leopards and their prey in two model CRWPP show 'stable' trends, over current national levels</p>	<p>Our primary survey data (disaggregated by gender where appropriate), project notes, and technical reports</p> <p>Project notes, reports and publications from INTERPOL</p> <p>Case data from Reserve Administration/DFEPA including information (number, gender, names, etc) on ranger and community member teams</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stable political climate to support this project. (This project relies on a strong partnership with the Government, which requires a stable political climate. Although the Kyrgyz Republic has seen considerable changes in the government, it is one of the few Central Asian countries with a fledgling democracy. Our relationship with the Government is very strong, and much larger than the proposed project, especially due to our continuing support to the Global Snow Leopard Secretariat being hosted by the Kyrgyz Government. , We are therefore hopeful of the political support this project requires.)</li> <li>2. Poaching, which is widely recognized to be a serious threat in Kyrgyz Republic, is currently limiting snow leopard and prey populations.</li> <li>3. Increased numbers of apprehensions and filing of cases helps leads to fewer instances of recorded poaching and helps improve attitudes towards corruption and law enforcement among local people</li> <li>4. Reductions in illegal poaching support a more favourable atmosphere for supporting local conservation-based</li> </ol>

	of 'declining' for snow leopards and key species (e.g. argali).		livelihoods 5. Laws pertaining to illegal poaching remain relatively constant, or do not alter current state of illegal poaching (more drastic penalties could also deter illegal poachers and reduce number of cases filed)
<b>Output 1</b> CRWPP is a national program model covering all national parks and state nature reserves in Kyrgyz Republic	1.1. 19 reserves have information about CRWPP by 2016 (baseline=2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– SLT/SLFK project notes, and technical reports</li> <li>– Reports from Reserve Administration</li> <li>– Project reports, training feedback and publications/guidebook from INTERPOL</li> <li>– Shipping/customs declarations for shipping equipment</li> <li>– SLT bank statements, investment statements</li> <li>– Press releases, website announcements, photographs of ceremony</li> </ul>	<p>Assumption 1 There are no other unforeseen major issues prohibiting or standing in the way of rangers filing cases</p> <p>Assumption 2 All state nature reserves and national parks will be interested in CRWPP model</p> <p>Assumption 3 Market changes could decrease value of Trust Fund or ability to draw down 4% interest while maintaining corpus</p> <p>Assumption 4 There are no other extenuating circumstances that disrupt the possibility of positive collaboration between rangers and communities</p> <p>Assumption 5 Informal review seems to indicate more gun violations than killed animal violations. In calculating amount needed by CRWPP trust fund for financial awards, we assume a two-thirds-one-third split in favour of gun violations. Any funds not used will be reinvested to sustain the corpus.</p>
<b>Output 2</b> Community members collaborating with rangers, and rangers more able to effectively enforce laws, make arrests and file paperwork/evidence against illegal poachers.	<p>2.1. 1 weeks of INTERPOL training provided to rangers/senior officials in 2015, 2016, 2017 (baseline=0)</p> <p>2.2. 38 rangers trained by 2018 (baseline=0)</p> <p>2.3 30 senior officials trained by 2018 (baseline=0)</p> <p>2.4 30 senior officials trained by 2018 (baseline=0)</p> <p>2.5 By 2018, 43 cases against illegal poachers annually filed with the Reserve Administration (available for later prosecution) (Baseline 36-see section 23)</p>		
<b>Output 3</b> Awards conferred to recognize and compensate rangers and/or ranger-community field teams for their anti-poaching efforts	<p>3.1 By 2018, CRWPP award output to rangers and/or ranger-community field teams £4200 annually (baseline = 0)</p> <p>3.2 By 2018, CRWPP publicly recognizing 43 rangers and/or ranger-community field teams annually for anti-poaching efforts (baseline =0)</p>		
<b>Activities</b>			
Activity 1.1	SLT/SLFK create flyers about CRWPP and disseminate to Reserve Administration		
Activity 1.2	Mass media used to broadcast CRWPP		
Activity 1.3	Community meetings held to announce CRWPP		
Activity 1.4	CRWPP section available on SLT/Secretariat websites for public access to program information		
Activity 2.1	INTERPOL finalizes training module and guidebook		
Activity 2.2	Trainings held and guidebook put online		
Activity 2.3	Training feedback collected		

Activity 2.4	Equipment disseminated
Activity 3.1	Trust fund established to support awards in perpetuity
Activity 3.2	Cases reviewed by CRWPP committee
Activity 3.3	Award ceremonies held

## Annex 3 Standard Measures

NA

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

Annexes submitted with this report as attachments

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk">IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the subject line.	YES
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<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	YES
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	NA
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	YES
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	YES
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	