



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin Report” guidance:
(<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report
will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2018

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT037
Project title	Conservation and Community Resilience: IWT Alternatives in Snow Leopard Range
Country/ies	Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan
Contract holder Institution	Panthera
Partner institution(s)	Panthera Foundation Kyrgyzstan, Kyrgyz Customs State Service, State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Hunting Association of Tajikistan, Hunting and Conservation Alliance of Tajikistan (H&CAT), Pamir-Eco Cultural Tourism Association (PECTA), Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Working Dogs For Conservation (WD4C), CITES Secretariat, EcoEnforce
IWT grant value	£ 310,000
Start/end dates of project	1 May 2017 - 31 March 2020
Reporting period (e.g. April 2017- Mar 2018) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1,2,3)	1 May 2017 – 31 March 2018, Annual Report 1
Project leader name	Thomas McCarthy
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Thomas McCarthy, Tanya Rosen, Rana Bayrakcismith, Zairbek Kubanychbekov, Shirin Mukhametkadyr Kyzy, Eric Ventura, Jared Watkins. 27 April 2018

Please note that the text of this report may be posted/shared with the exception of the sections highlighted in red font. Also, please do not share the supporting evidence documents and photos before confirming with us as many documents should be internal to this project. Thank you for this consideration.

1. Project rationale (map of [project sites](#) and [conservancies](#))

In Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, pastoralists kill snow leopards in retaliation for attacks on livestock and poach ungulate prey species for subsistence; both contribute to IWT. Lack of livelihood alternatives, weak land management and enforcement at major trafficking points, and human-carnivore conflict all exacerbate the decline of snow leopards and their prey species. IWT deteriorates the local and national institutions that manage ecosystems by undercutting nature-based livelihoods from tourism and legal hunting—communities' most significant opportunity income generation outside of animal husbandry.

Panthera's conservancy model uses sustainably-managed ungulate hunting to generate local employment and revenues, thereby incentivizing local engagement to combat IWT. Low-volume, high-value ungulate hunting and nature tourism provides significant revenue opportunities for remote communities in snow leopard range. Concurrent work includes eliminating predator-livestock conflict and improving law enforcement capacity to fight IWT. Proceeds from hunts are invested to develop and maintain microfinance programs, healthcare facilities, schools, water infrastructure, and conservation activities.

Additionally, predator-proofing of corrals eliminates household food insecurity and economic vulnerability from carnivore attacks on livestock—loss of a single sheep equates to £64, or five months of cash income. Interventions to predator-proof corrals simultaneously eliminate the incentive for retaliatory killings and reduce snow leopard availability for IWT.

2. Project partnerships

Panthera worked closely with the following partners:

1. [Panthera Foundation Kyrgyzstan \(Panthera Kyrgyzstan\)](#): Panthera and Panthera Kyrgyzstan staff worked throughout planning, implementation, and evaluation of the project. Panthera Kyrgyzstan liaised throughout the first year of the project with all local government and community partners, including the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) and the Kyrgyz Customs Service with the supported community-based conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (Panthera Foundation Kyrgyzstan website). Panthera increased cooperation between Panthera Kyrgyzstan and Panthera Tajikistan staff through capacity building opportunities and field research in both countries ([see photos](#)). Shirin Mukhametkadyr Kyzy, Panthera Kyrgyzstan Snow Leopard Program Manager, coordinates the Tajik Women and Conservation Initiative (TWC) in Tajikistan and tourism development activities promoted through the Hunting and Conservation Alliance of Tajikistan (H&CAT).
2. [Kyrgyz Customs State Service](#): The Kyrgyz Customs State Service renewed its commitment by signing a [new MoU](#) for 2018-2020. An ongoing restructuring occasioned a shortage of handlers for detection dogs. The Customs Service, however, remains committed to the mission and participated in the IWT Conference in Dushanbe in November 2017.
3. [SAEPF](#): SAEPF continues to support Panthera and Panthera Kyrgyzstan in the development of seven community-based conservancies (five under the current IWT grant). Panthera Kyrgyzstan was invited to join the National Committee to develop the new National Action Plan for the Conservation of Snow leopards (2018-2022; [draft](#)).
4. [H&CAT](#): Panthera is pivoting to [H&CAT](#)—an organization we helped establish that is an alliance of the conservancies we support—to expand regional ecotourism. We are using the organization's platform to create new partnerships with hunting and tourism outfitters to promote tourism that treads lightly on the environment. We are seeking to develop H&CAT in the model of NACSO—the Namibian Association of Community-Based Natural Resource Management Organizations Support Organizations. H&CAT purchased a booth at the ITB Tourism Fair in Berlin, Germany, from 7-11 March 2018, staffed by an H&CAT representative and Panthera Kyrgyzstan's Shirin Mukhametkadyr Kyzy. Panthera prepared all of the [materials and maps](#) for this event to promote ecotourism opportunities in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

H&CAT developed an all-inclusive Pamir Mountain tour package for £5000/week. With the dedicated H&CAT tourism vehicle purchased in March 2018, they will save £1400 previously used for vehicle rentals, improving profit for conservancies. The vehicle's primary use is for tourist transport, tourism planning activities, meetings amongst members. H&CAT was awarded the [Peter W. Capstick Award](#) by the Dallas Safari Club for its contribution to legal and sustainable hunting.

5. Pamir-Eco Cultural Tourism Association (PECTA): Collaboration with PECTA and the Kyrgyz Community Based Tourism Association (KCBTA) is not as effective as anticipated with respect to the promotion of community and wildlife-based tourism. PECTA promotes the Silk Road as a go-through, generating motor vehicle traffic, trash, and other disturbance to wildlife. [REDACTED]. Panthera will maintain partnerships with both associations, but work more closely with H&CAT to promote responsible tourism. We now plan to expand H&CAT to the Kyrgyz Republic and develop the Hunting and Conservation Alliance of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (H&CATK).
6. Hunting Association of Tajikistan (HAT): The Association includes all of the private Tajik argali hunting concessions and is the body that distributes argali hunting permits. In 2017, it agreed to give a new permit to the Panthera-supported Burgut Conservancy in Alichur. [REDACTED] In November 2017, HAT joined Panthera and the Committee on Environmental Protection in supporting the organization of the IWT Conference and Training.
7. Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEPRT): CEPRT is the environmental regulatory body and key partner in the implementation of all of our conservation activities in Tajikistan. Panthera supports CEPRT in the implementation of CITES, the GSLEP, the Snow Leopard National Action Plan, and all activities related to combating IWT. CEPRT convened the IWT Conference and training in November 2017.
8. Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C): In 2017, WD4C trainer Aimee Hurt provided weekly technical support for Tanya Rosen to provide both on and off-site refresher training for dogs and handlers (Activities 4.2 & 4.3). In April 2018, Hurt conducted [refresher training](#), evaluated dogs' and trainers' training retention, and trained a new cadre of dogs.
9. CITES Secretariat: CITES develops the regulatory mechanisms that are the backbone of Panthera's work with the community-based conservancies and tools for addressing illegal wildlife trade. We supported the Secretariat through Russian translations, dissemination of key CITES Decisions and Resolutions, and through ongoing organization of a regional workshop on CITES implementation and national law harmonization to be held in Bishkek in May 2018. We also provide counsel on the legality and sustainability of trophy hunting and on the status of Asian Big Cats.
10. EcoEnforce: In November 2017 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, EcoEnforce developed and conducted our IWT enforcement training for customs, border, and environmental officials from Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, held in conjunction with the IWT Conference.
11. Other partners: Our local partners are all of the community-based conservancies we support. At the international level, the IUCN Species Survival Commission Sustainable Use and Cat Specialist Groups provide counsel on the science as well as improving the community-based governance model. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) is also a key partner through the Central Asian Mammals Initiative, with both snow leopards and argali sheep recognized as key species of concern. Finally, the GSLEP Secretariat relies on our work to meet goals for 2020.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activity 1.1 As per change request, we are supporting the establishment of a fifth conservancy, Guldara, in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan. Initial meetings were held in summer of 2017 with follow up meetings in November 2017 ([minutes](#)) and March 2018.

Activity 1.2 Completed in June and July 2017. We conducted [three trainings](#) for 65 rangers from five conservancies (Ming Teke, Bek Tozot, Janay Dar, Chumkar Tor, and Aksu) throughout Chon Kemin, Aksu, and Jar Bashe, Alai Valley. Panthera Kyrgyzstan trainers—with support from National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan and OSI Panthera—introduced the fundamentals of camera trapping, fecal sample collection, GPS techniques, ungulate age-class identification, and information-relay protocols.

Activity 1.3 Completed. During the [trainings](#) in 1.2, we introduced natural resource management principles, specifically livestock grazing impacts on wild ungulate habitat and animal husbandry.

Activity 1.4 Completed. We did not find any snow leopard fecal samples. Surveys were conducted in the fall of 2017 by 65 rangers. Baseline numbers are as follows: Chumkar Tor: no snow leopards, 192 roe deer, 35 ibex, 32 red deer; Aksu: no snow leopards, no ibex; Janay Dar: no snow leopards, 281 ibex; Bek Tozot: no snow leopards, 80 ibex; Ming Teke: no snow leopards, 73 ibex. All ungulate surveys were conducted by conservancy rangers in collaboration with staff from SAEPF (one person) and National Academy of Sciences (one person), and two members of Panthera Kyrgyzstan.

In June 2017, we placed 41 camera traps in the Ming Teke and Bek Tozot conservancies in the Alai Valley with the support of five rangers from each conservancy. We have not yet camera trapped in Janay Dar and will do so in 2018. In May 2017, we placed 20 camera traps in the Chumkar Tor and Aksu conservancies with the support of four rangers in CT and three in Aksu. We collected the cameras in July but photographed no snow leopards ([see photos and tables](#)).

Activity 1.5 Repeat ungulate surveys were completed in the summer and fall of 2017 in Tajikistan in Parcham, Yoquti Darshay, Yuz Palang, and Burgut conservancies, and a baseline survey was conducted in the new conservancy Guldara. All repeat surveys are slated for 2018 in Kyrgyzstan. Repeat ungulate survey results for Tajikistan are as follows: Burgut (conducted by 20 rangers, 2 Panthera Tajikistan staff, 1 Panthera Kyrgyzstan staff, 1 CEPRT staff): 522 argali (from 368 in 2016) and 531 ibex (from 471 in 2016); Ravmed (15 rangers, 2 Panthera Tajikistan, 1 CEPRT): 500 ibex (from 466 in 2016); Yoquti Darshay (10 rangers, 1 Panthera Tajikistan, 1 CEPRT): 512 ibex (from 495 in 2016); and Yuz Palang (5 rangers, 1 Panthera Tajikistan, 1 CEPRT): 400 ibex (from 370 in 2016).

We also placed 33 camera traps for the baseline snow leopard survey for Guldara (7 rangers, 3 Panthera Tajikistan; 1 H&CAT, 2 CEPRT). Four individual snow leopards were photographed as well as the very first recorded presence in the eastern Pamirs of the Asiatic wildcat (*Felis silvestris*). Baseline ungulate surveys counted 38 argali and 150 ibex ([see photos and tables](#)).

Activity 1.6 Moved to Q1 year 2.

Activity 1.7 Completed; [drafts here](#).

Activity 1.8 In Tajikistan, this is ongoing and successful: all four operating conservancies in Tajikistan successfully hosted hunts for a total of 15 ibex hunts and one argali hunt (see [here](#)).

In May 2017, the Kyrgyz Parliament enacted a [staggered moratorium](#) affecting the introduction of hunting in the conservancies we support in Kyrgyz Republic. This will require accelerated effort to enable the three conservancies in the Alai Valley to host hunts before the moratorium comes into effect in 2019 for three years. We will also help them develop ecotourism as an alternative source of income.

Activity 1.9 H&CAT has developed a [website](#) to advertise tours and has developed [packages](#) and [materials](#) (see question #2-5 and [photos](#)).

We are exploring expansion of the H&CAT platform to include the Kyrgyz Republic and new collaborations with different partners. One is [OSI Panthera](#), which charges eco-tourists to

participate in conservation science. We piloted this in the Alai Valley for the [June 2017 camera trap survey](#). Two conservancies (Ming Teke and Chak) earned £[REDACTED] for two weeks. In 2018, we will conduct two trips in the Alai Valley. We are developing a high-end [tourism experience](#) with Edge Expeditions and Abercrombie & Kent. Through the Tajik Women & Conservation (TWC, formerly “Women Rockin’ Pamirs”) Initiative, we anticipate developing a niche tourism targeting women hikers.

The [Book Your Hunt portal](#) generated requests for hunts that the conservancies cannot meet in 2018 and therefore some hunters have already booked for the 2019 hunting season.

Activity 1.10 In August 2017, Panthera staff taught a day-long accounting seminar for four conservancies in Tajikistan. Ten women participated and learned how to help keep track of receipts, make tax payments, and account what income from the guesthouses is contributed to the general account of the conservancies. In October, German consultant Anna Weiss of Marketing Sans Frontières led a five day product development and storytelling seminar benefiting women trained in the TWC program, PECTA, and Panthera Tajikistan staff ([see here](#)). This was not yet completed in Kyrgyz Republic.

Activity 1.11 See Activity 1.9.

Activity 2.1 In progress, but plans need to be more formalized ([see here](#)).

Activity 2.2 All 16 hunts between September 2017 and February 2018 were successful. Gross income for the conservancies was £[REDACTED] per ibex and £[REDACTED] for the argali. Roughly half of the ibex income covers expenses (hunt preparation, permit, local transportation, gas, food, lodging, and taxes). Profits are allocated at 50% to anti-poaching and ranger salaries and 50% to local livelihood projects ([see here](#)).

The SAEPF will issue a quota to harvest one ibex in Fall 2018 in the Alai conservancy Janay Dar. This will be the first hunt for one of our community-based conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic. Given the described staggered moratorium, Chumkar Tor Conservancy in Chui would have been ready to host a hunt in 2018, but will now have to wait until the end of 2019.

Activity 2.4 Deferred to Q1 year 2.

Activity 2.5 Completed. In May 2017, Panthera staff and Burgut and Parcham conservancy leaders held community meetings explaining TWC project goals. Interested participants completed questionnaires and were interviewed by conservancy leaders and Panthera staff. In the more conservative village of Alichur, the conservancy leader sat with families of the most qualified candidates to explain the importance of the program for the professional development of spouses and daughters. Nine participants from each conservancy were vetted and selected by June 2017 ([see here](#)).

Activity 2.6 Completed. Nine women TWC trainees from Alichur and neighbouring village Bash Gumbez, along with nine trainees from Ravmed and neighbouring Khijez, participated in two 10-day training sessions in July and August 2017. Sessions included a theory component (three days), maps and GPS exercises (two days), and a field trek (five days) with conservancy leaders and rangers practicing wildlife observation and camera trap setting. Four of the trainees used their newly acquired skills to accompany tourists on treks, including National Geographic and Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Paul Salopek ([see here](#)).

Activity 3.1 We are on track to reach our goal with 12 predator-proof corrals built: two in Yazgulom, two in Vanj, two in Bartang, two in Murghab, two in Pshart Valley, and two in Rankgul. They are all 10x20 m communal corrals, each benefiting approximately 8,000 sheep and goats and 16 households from 10 villages ([see here](#)).

Activity 3.2 Designated. Where villages overlap with a conservancy, mitigation coordinators are members of the conservancy. For Yazgulom and Vanj, it is Tohir, head of the Vanj Jamoat. For Bartang, it is Gulbek Khojanazorov, leader of Parcham Conservancy; for Murghab and Pshart it is Sang, deputy of the Murghab branch of CEPRT; for Rankgul, it is Alik, guide for the Vostok hunting concession.

Activity 3.3 During the summer of 2018, we launched “Tajik Kittens” to be used as the umbrella children’s programming to introduce youth to wildlife conservation. In Rankgul, we held a day-long nature camp for 15 children, followed by a week-long nature camp in Alichur for

45 children ages 4-15. Children were introduced to wildlife conservation and human-wildlife conflict concepts through games. They learned about binocular, GPS, and camera trap use. The Alichur school maintains a camera trap and there is currently a competition among the Tajik Kittens group in Alichur, conservancy rangers, and the TWC trainees for the best snow leopard pictures. We will develop a formal curriculum for the Kittens in year 2 ([see here](#)).

Activity 4.1 Two dogs are posted at the Bordobo border post between Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. One of the dogs from this post [detected the illegal shipment of four argali and seven ibex trophies from Tajikistan](#) (see question #13). An investigation is underway of consequence to the international hunting community. The other two dogs are currently used for stings based out of Bishkek. One of these will be deployed at the Torugart border with China where we built a new kennel in August 2017 ([see here](#)).

Activity 4.2 A refresher training was provided by Tanya Rosen in August 2017 for all dogs. The four dogs have been [trained to detect saiga horn](#). Aimee Hurt came in April 2018 (Q1 year 2) for [refresher training](#). She trained the four existing detection dogs on live saker falcons, feathers and saiga horn, and reviewed their work with snow leopard, ibex and argali. She was very satisfied with the dogs' performance. Hurt began working with the "J-litter" of year-old pups: Jules, Jerome, Jacques, Jacqueliën and Jeneva. They are still mastering drug contraband detection and the Kyrgyz instructors will introduce them to wildlife products over the summer.

Activity 4.3 This is ongoing through weekly contact between Kyrgyz Customs Service trainers, Rosen, and Aimee Hurt of WD4C. Dog Orion lost his sight due to illness and could not work. WD4C provided veterinary advice, medication, and special goggles, allowing Orion to swiftly return to work.

Activity 4.4 Four community meetings were held over the summer in Vanj, Yazgulom, Murghab, and Rangkul. Two more meetings were held in Shaimak and Tokhtamish, where corrals will be constructed in 2018. Twenty Foxlights were deployed in the interim to deter conflict. [Foxlights](#) are solar-powered, light sensor devices that produce light at random intervals to emulate a moving person carrying a flashlight/torch ([see here](#)).

Activity 4.5 In August 2017, Panthera held one meeting with the two networks and including customs and environmental agency officials from both countries, for a total of 10 participants in Murghab, Tajikistan, to address illegal trophy hunting of argali, the increase in saker falcon poaching, and communication needs. The network was informed of a trapper from the United Arab Emirates targeting saker falcons with local support. The man was unfortunately informed of the search and escaped across the border. It is unclear whether he was successful in leaving the country with saker falcons.

Activity 4.6 We swapped the order of planned meetings because the Tajik government insisted on hosting first. We convened the following events in Dushanbe (in collaboration with CEPRT and HAT) from 20 through 26 November: a one-day conference in Dushanbe at the Serena Hotel with the participation of relevant stakeholders from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (Environmental and Forest Agencies, Academy of Sciences, and Border and Customs Officers), relevant international stakeholders (CITES Secretariat, FAO), and representatives of donor organizations (EU Delegation, US Embassy, and UK Embassy) to discuss Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan's implementation of CITES, use of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit; transboundary and cross-agency collaboration; and the potential development of National Environmental Security Task Forces. The outputs of the meeting were Strategic and Operational Plans to combat IWT. The conference was followed by a four-day intensive training session (Master class) led by EcoEnforce experts for five candidates from Tajikistan and five from Kyrgyzstan from the Committee/Kyrgyz State Agency, border, and customs officers on how to share intelligence and uncover IWT ([see here](#)).

Activity 4.7 This is an ongoing activity where Panthera is cooperating with Snow Leopard Trust, another IWT grantee. The first meeting was held in Fall 2017, and we expect the NEST to be formalized in 2018.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Progress is on track, especially in Tajikistan, where formalizing H&CAT as the umbrella for all conservancies in Tajikistan has further developed the conservancies and created a support network. [REDACTED]

In Kyrgyz Republic, we are faced with more extensive depletion of prey levels and habitat degradation from livestock grazing. This is challenging, especially in the Alai Valley, but support from SAEPF is outstanding. In an official ceremony attended by SAEPF representatives, we presented the new anti-poaching/patrol vehicle to Chumkar Tor (Chon Kemin), purchased with UK Aid funds. The local Kyrgyz bank, RSP Bank, also donated funds to build a banner at the edge of the conservancy [REDACTED]

Since the start of Panthera's support of the Chon Kemin Conservancy in Kyrgyz Republic in 2017, 20 poachers have been apprehended and a percentage of their fines paid back to the rangers responsible for the arrests [REDACTED]

1.1 All five conservancies have control over their land in excess of 3000 km² ([see here](#)). Management plans have been drafted but not yet adopted.

1.2 Progress is on track ([see here](#)). 1.3 Progress is on track ([see here](#)).

Output 2: Progress is on track with increased international promotion of hunting and other tourism and booking of all available hunts for the next season. We may experience delays in Kyrgyz Republic due to moratorium (see question #3.1, Activity 1.7). Based on the survey results from Janay-Dar, the SAEPF is greenlighting issuing a quota to harvest one ibex in the fall of 2018.

2.1 Business plans have been completed in rudimentary format ([see here](#)).

2.2 Progress is on track ([see here](#)).

2.3 Community projects in Alichur were the purchase of school books for children, flour and coal for the community, and construction of three homes for homeless families. In Bartang, they used proceeds to replenish their microfinance program. Projects have not yet been set in Zong and Darshay as the hunting season ended in February 2018 ([see here](#)).

2.4 These surveys will be conducted in year 2.

Output 3: Progress is ahead of schedule with the completion of 12 corrals in year 1, and eight more corrals to construct in year 2. New corrals are functioning well with no livestock lost at night and no retaliatory killing to report.

3.1 To date 12 corrals have been completed (see question #3.1; [photos](#)).

3.2 We do not have documented cases of retaliatory killing where corrals have been predator-proofed. In Alichur, where we conducted two camera trap surveys, we have a positive trend. We have not yet repeated surveys in Bartang, Zong, or Darshay in Tajikistan. Baselines in Kyrgyz Republic are all poor, as expected for the beginning of the project (see question #3.1).

Output 4: Progress is on track with trainings conducted and dogs operating as planned.

4.2 This is happening as scheduled ([see here](#)).

4.3 Two excursions happened with the three conservancies in the Alai, but we do not have photos except from professional photographer Joel Caldwell just prior to the launch of this grant ([see here](#)).

4.4 We have evidence from the seizure made by dog Orion and his handler in April 2017 ([see here](#)).

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

We are confident that we will achieve the Outcome by end of the grant period. Income from trophy hunting in Tajikistan has exceeded expectations. With the stable political situation in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic and recognition of the High Pamirs as one of the most coveted hunting and nature tourism destinations, we hope that income from nature tourism will also begin to play an important role. Predator-proof corrals eliminate conflict in affected areas, and the deployed detection dogs appear to have halted illegal transport of ungulate trophies between Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. With support from international hunting organizations, the hunting outfitter conducting illegal trophy hunting is almost out of business. The dogs also play a key deterrent role in halting the transport of illegally harvested ungulate meat across the border. Finally, we are now predator-proofing corrals belonging to people that used to trap snow leopards for illegal trophy hunts because they have agreed to no longer trap snow leopards. Including women more through the TWC Initiative and our female staff remains a challenge to guarantee a positive difference for their livelihoods.

0.1 We are on track to increase the income of households in four conservancies in Tajikistan, especially through sustainable use, and in one conservancy in Kyrgyzstan through nature tourism. Through surveys, we will quantify how this translates into a precise number of households by year 2.

0.2 We anticipate that by year 2 we can show the presence of snow leopards in at least three of the five conservancies.

0.3 We are on track for two conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and four in Tajikistan.

0.4 We are facing difficulties with this MI given the four conservancies' extreme social conservatism. In these Sunni areas, women are not very visible outside of their households and are not treated as equals by men.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption for overall outcome: The conservancies work constructively and in good faith towards the goal of establishing a hunting program (continued poaching would preclude higher community income from sustainable use)

Comments: In all the Tajik conservancies, poaching is under control and the communities are all on board with the program. In three of the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (two in the Alai and one in Issykul), we are facing some challenges that we are currently addressing: poor leadership in three of the conservancies and the need to recruit younger members. A series of workshops were held in the three Alai Valley conservancies in March 2018 to plan the year's field work and better understand community needs. A new chairman of the Aksu Conservancy, Mukash Maksat Uulu, was elected to increase conservation efforts. The chairman of Bek Tozot Conservancy was also replaced with Djirgalbek Isaev.

Assumption 1: The relevant state authorities assign hunting quotas to the conservancies as agreed and the marketing of hunts is not hampered by factors outside the influence of the conservancies and the project

Comments: After a lengthy political debate regarding hunting management in Kyrgyz Republic and an attempt to introduce a carpet ban on hunting through 2030 in Parliament, the Kyrgyz State Agency on Environmental Protection introduced a staggered hunting ban that will affect the introduction of hunting as an incentive in the five conservancies we support. One conservancy (Chon Kemin) anticipated hosting its first hunt this fall, but now must wait until 2019. We are working on increasing income potential through ecotourism in the meantime. The Alai Valley conservancies may not be affected by the ban until 2020, and we anticipate introduce hunting as a tool before then.

In Tajikistan, for the first time, an argali permit was issued to a community-based conservancy, specifically Burgut in Alichur. We are working with HAT and their false perception that the

community-based approach threatens the survival of their private concessions. We hope the challenges we are facing will be resolved before the next hunting season.

Assumption 2.1: Civil war and natural disasters (earthquakes, mudslides, floods) do not prevent access to the conservancies

Comments: There was not an issue during year 1.

Assumption 2.2: The conservancies comply with their management plans and invest their profits into community projects

Comments: Yes, they are complying (see question #3.2 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nrkzr5glNI4>).

Assumption 2.3: Community projects are implemented by the communities themselves in partnership with local private businesses

Comments: Community projects were implemented by the communities in cooperation with local businesses (such as those selling coal, school and hospital supplies, and flour) for the benefit of local families, schools, and hospitals.

Assumption 2.4: International and national tour operators continue to work in good faith with conservancies

Comments: Through H&CAT and the conservancies, we cooperate with a network of tour operators, including Pamir Guides and the PECTA network.

Assumption 3.1: Local communities want to protect their livestock and thereby reduce conflicts with snow leopards

Comments: In general, all local communities we work with are eager to have their corrals predator-proofed because they do not want conflict or loss of income to predators.

Assumption 3.2: Communities properly utilize and maintain the corrals during and after the project

Comments: Overall, yes, although the coordinators must check routinely on the corrals to make sure that doors are shut properly and don't malfunction.

Assumption 4.1: Villagers are incentivized to report poaching activities due to the development of community-based conservancies, workshop education, and peer pressure

Comments: Yes, local communities like to engage and know that they are part of something bigger. Because snow leopards are an important species, locals like to communicate their views and report observations and problems. Panthera has a Viber community for our network to communicate suspicious activities.

Assumption 4.2: Kyrgyz Customs Service is committed to development, deployment, and maintenance of the dog/handler unit

Comments: Yes, this was demonstrated through the renewal of our MoU now extended through the end of 2019.

Assumption 4.3: Safety of informants ensured by creating separate source register, password protected with access restricted to the informant handler per TRAFFIC protocols

Comments: We have not created a register yet since the informants are not numerous and often the identities are kept protected by the conservancy members themselves acting as conduit for intelligence.

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

Impact: To improve resilience of pastoralist livelihoods through managed ungulate hunting and nature tourism and reduce trafficking of snow leopards and prey species in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

In the remote mountains of Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, pastoralists kill endangered snow leopards in retaliation for attacks on livestock, and their ungulate prey species are also poached for subsistence. Parts of poached species enter the IWT. Lack of livelihood alternatives for local communities; weak land management and enforcement at major trafficking points; and human-predator conflict all exacerbate the decline of snow leopards and their prey species. Participation in IWT deteriorates the local and national institutions that manage ecosystems by undercutting nature-based livelihoods from tourism and legal hunting—communities' most significant income generation opportunity outside of animal husbandry. The 2016 TRAFFIC report indicates that ~400 snow leopards are killed rangewide in retaliation for attacks on livestock, urging scaling of proven techniques addressing livelihood conflict.

Panthera reverses natural resource degradation and IWT by integrating conservation with ecotourism and managed hunting to strengthen local income and reduce dependence on animal husbandry. Our conservancy model uses sustainably-managed ungulate hunting to generate local employment and revenues, incentivizing community engagement. Low-volume, high-value ungulate hunting and nature tourism provide significant revenue opportunities for remote subsistence communities in snow leopard range. Concurrent work includes eliminating predator-livestock conflict and improving law enforcement capacity to combat IWT.

Our project is contributing to a higher-level impact on IWT via (see question #3 for details):

- Stopping wildlife parts from entering the IWT by stopping retaliatory killing of cats who deplete livestock by building predator-proof corrals;
- Stopping IWT in process: wildlife detection dog Orion's contribution to seizure of ungulate parts at the Bordobo border post;
- Preventing retaliatory killing of cats who have killed livestock even in non-project villages thanks to our informant network and our staff presence and reputation (see question #6);
- Establishing an institutional framework for wildlife detection dog use in the region: our dogs were the first four wildlife detection dogs in the Kyrgyz Republic and the first to detect snow leopard and their prey parts in Central Asia;
- Institutionalizing a culture of combatting IWT with training directed at government agencies;
 - Demonstrating to local people that conservation tangibly improves livelihoods through the financial incentives from trophy hunting and more gradually through eco-tourism;
 - Providing non-IWT alternatives for income via hunting and other tourism; and
 - Providing income stability for herding families by stopping livestock depredation via predator-proof corrals.

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

Our project is working to support the first two objectives.

1. Developing sustainable livelihoods for communities economic development, to benefit people directly affected by IWT (see question #3.1):
 - a. 16 hunts were conducted in four conservancies in Tajikistan, netting £54,000 for the communities. These hunts were sustainable because the number of government-issued permits was based on credible ungulate surveys carried out with the support of our team.
 - b. We began training women to work as tourist guides, and, although their training is as yet incomplete, one woman already guided a National Geographic writer in 2017, three guided three different groups of tourists, and three shadowed six different trophy hunts.
 - c. Working with partner H&CAT, we participated in the Berlin tourism fair in March 2018 to promote tourism in both countries.
2. Strengthening law enforcement (see questions #2, 3.1):

- a. We conducted a [counter IWT training workshop](#) in Dushanbe and Darvaz in November 2017.
- b. The detection dog program strengthens ability and pride in the Kyrgyz Customs Service and deters IWT.

6. Impact on species in focus

The community-based approach will reduce poaching pressure on snow leopard, argali, and ibex populations. Population increases of slow reproducing species such as snow leopards take longer to detect. Ungulate species such as argali reproduce quickly with conservation measures in place. We detected a 50% increase in ungulate populations within one year of protection via ranger monitoring in the previously established Tajik conservancies. Once prey populations rebound, snow leopards are likely to return to previously prey-depleted areas. We documented an increase from six to 10 snow leopards after three years in one conservancy in Tajikistan. As it is just year 1, it is too early in the project to detect population increases – we have just established baselines and anticipate increases at least in prey species by year 2.

Panthera documented a near 100% reduction of livestock-snow leopard conflict after predator-proofing livestock corrals. We anticipate a significant, if not entire, reduction in retaliatory killing of snow leopards in participating communities. Area research concludes that human-wildlife conflict is the primary reason for snow leopard poaching. In year 1, we constructed [12 corrals](#) with no retaliatory killing of snow leopards or other predators occurring in any of the 12 project sites.

In February 2018, a female snow leopard killed more than 40 sheep and goats in Totisho Village in Gund Valley, Tajikistan, after which the herder trapped her and locked her in the corral. The herder contacted our team and she was released unharmed higher up in the valley with the support of our staff, but has since returned to kill livestock in another village. Once again our team intervened and transported the cat further away on the territory of a HAT hunting concession, where she awaits release. New predator-proof corrals in the locations where the snow leopard killed the livestock have therefore become quite urgent.

Panthera seeks to concomitantly combat trade in saiga and saker falcon, both endangered and in high demand, in Traditional Asian Medicine and for hunting in the UAE, respectively. Previously, our intelligence network led to the arrest of individuals smuggling saker falcon from the Kyrgyz Republic. In year 1, we cross trained the four wildlife detection dogs in both species' scents to expand their effectiveness in combatting regional IWT.

7. Project support to poverty alleviation

Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic rank 39% and 37.9% respectively in the 2010 Human Development Report Multidimensional Poverty Index. The 24 communities in our project area share the challenges of geographic isolation and limited income-generating opportunities related to agriculture and livestock production, tourism, and handicraft businesses. We expect to directly benefit 8,000 individuals (including 3,500 women and 1,400 children; equivalent to 800 households) in six communities in the Alai Valley, Chon Kemin Region, and Aksu Village (Kyrgyz Republic) and 3,000 individuals (including 1,000 women and 400 children; 300 households) in 18 communities in the Pamirs in Tajikistan. Benefits can be broken down as follows: 30% income, 40% infrastructure, and 30% education. We will monitor income-related benefits through a post-project survey.

In Tajikistan, documented benefits from sustainable trophy hunting have been significant. Community-based organizations now protect wildlife across 3,000 km². In the Pamirs, 21 foreign hunters legally harvested 20 ibex in four conservancies during the hunting seasons of 2012/13-2016/17, earning £[REDACTED]. In 2017/18 alone, foreign hunters legally harvested 15 ibex and one argali sheep, earning £[REDACTED]. Forty jobs were created, with poachers increasingly becoming rangers. We seek to replicate similar results in the Kyrgyz Republic.

In Tajikistan, we are reducing the economic loss and retributive killing of snow leopards due to livestock depredation by predator-proofing corrals, and developing information-gathering

mechanisms regarding snow leopards and their parts entering the IWT. In year 1 of the project, we constructed 12 corrals, protecting 10,000 sheep (valued at £ [REDACTED] and saving the lives of at least five cats.

Looking directly at Measurable Indicators from our logframe:

2.1 Community livelihood improvement projects were approved by year 1 in Tajikistan ([see here](#)).

2.4 We have begun training Tajik women as guides via the Tajik Women in Conservation (TWC) project; 18 women have been trained to date (see question #3.1).

3.1 To date, we have built 12 of the 20 planned predator-proof corrals to be built by year 2 of the project in five communities in Tajikistan. The 12 corrals are protecting 10,000 sheep and goats of 16 households.

8. Consideration of gender equality issues

Yes, we expect there to be direct gender equality impacts from our project. In our logframe, two Measurable Indicators (MI) apply directly to women. MI 2.4 increases the number of sustainable use and nature tourism dependent jobs to include women able to safely guide groups of clients on mountain itineraries for several days and joining the pool of local guides.

MI 3.1 predator-proofs corrals maintained by women: [Twelve corrals](#) were constructed this year and are indeed primarily being maintained by women. As for the tourism jobs, we are very pleased to share that this year, through the TWC, 18 young women from the Bartang Valley and Alichur Village completed two wilderness guide and ranger training workshops. The [first workshop](#) taught basic wilderness skills from equipment use to orienteering. The training continued in [December](#) for the nine trainees from Alichur. They learned basic hunting guide skills with Kelli Poole, a wild sheep biologist and hunter from Montana. The male rangers also had the opportunity to benefit from Kelli's training. Several TWC trainees already had the chance to show off their new skills with important tourists, including Paul Salopek of National Geographic.

Activity 1.9 Tourism management and accounting training skills for women was completed in the five established conservancies in Tajikistan, but not yet in the Kyrgyz Republic or the new conservancy in Tajikistan as we still need to identify the women who will take these roles.

In Tajikistan, the training was conducted by Anna Weiss in October 2017 (see question #3.1).

Activity 2.5 was completed – we conducted an information campaign to inform women about the opportunity to participate in an initiation trek (see question #3.1).

Activity 2.6 was also completed – we conducted a three-day initiation trek for nine women from the Alichur conservancy and nine from Bartang. This initiation trek was an opportunity for local women to go out in the mountains outside of their daily duties and gain a new vision of what the mountains can represent for tourists (see question #3.1). Our goal is to have at least 10 women fully trained as guides.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

We evaluate the success of this project primarily through measuring the change in income local communities receive through the wildlife-based economy, the reduction of illegal activities, and the resulting increase in snow leopards and their prey in the areas where we work. All of these measures are interrelated as tourists and hunters are attracted to areas with higher wildlife densities; more direct connections between local communities and the wildlife-based economy reduce the incentive for illegal activities; and enforcement of wildlife laws can help increase wildlife abundance.

Through this web, our outputs are all directly related to the overall project outcome of recovering snow leopard and prey populations. Output 1, establishing community-based

conservancies, has already been shown in Panthera's past work with conservancies in Central Asia to increase prey numbers. We are hopeful that year 2's ungulate surveys will confirm an increase from year 1's established baseline. In Alichur, where we have conducted a repeat snow leopard camera trap study, their population shows an increase. Output 2, enhancing local community livelihoods, will reduce the need for local people to engage in illegal activities like hunting and trafficking of threatened species because they will have viable, sustainable alternatives that requires abstaining from illegal activities in order for them to succeed. Output 3, reducing conflict with pastoralists, is producing results for snow leopards as we have reduced retaliatory killings of the cat to zero in areas where we have built predator-proof corrals. Finally, Output 4, reducing illegal smuggling across the Tajikistan/Kyrgyz Republic border, has resulted in arrests and seizures of illegal trophies. We are hopeful this will reduce smuggling attempts and the profitability of the industry, thereby reducing illegal hunting of threatened ungulates and snow leopards.

We have kept to much of our overall M&E plan this year: our project steering committee met in person in January 2018 for a two days of meetings to evaluate our progress towards indicators in terms of impact, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. Over the year, we maintained constant communication via email and phone as well as smaller in-person gatherings whenever possible and through monthly reports. We have had to adjust Dr. Howard Quigley's role in the project. Dr. Quigley's leadership in Panthera's [Journey of the Jaguar](#) project reduced his availability more than anticipated. Project Leader Dr. Tom McCarthy has been leading evaluation efforts in the interim, but we are currently exploring options for outside evaluation of the project. We will approach the Fund should we formally change our monitoring plan and look outside of Panthera for monitoring and evaluation assistance.

10. Lessons learnt

In many areas, we have exceeded our goals during the first year of the project. For example, the detection dogs and their handlers are working well above our expectations, and we did not expect so much support from the Kyrgyz Customs State Service. The issues that the Service faces are beyond our control (e.g., restructuring process, understaffing issues), but it is very welcome to see how the Service seeks to overcome them and enthusiastically support our partnership against the IWT.

What did not work well is that we overestimated the potential of some of the conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic to recover their ungulate populations (Ming Teke and Bek Tozot, Alai Valley). We are additionally working with two new community-based conservancies that sought our help, one in Naryn and one in Talas. In the Talas conservancy in March 2018, we had the very first camera trap record for the region of a snow leopard

Finally, the rolling hunting moratorium in Kyrgyz Republic was unexpected and out of our control; it will slow down the initial progress of some conservancies.

Working with local communities in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic creates challenges in terms of the means of verification that we committed to produce to back up some of our activities. We face communication issues where people are not fluent in the national language and have low literacy skills.

Recommendations: Political considerations (risk of war, instability, anti-foreign sentiment) are very important considerations that drive the success of the project, as is the level of corruption. Last but not least, the success of certain activities may not be seen during the relatively short time frame of the grant.

Build into project and future plans: This year has been a great learning experience. The challenges of working in Central Asia are tremendous, especially when trying to create income opportunities through trophy hunting, which is controversial and creates many difficulties. Prosecuting poaching cases is also troublesome. To address these issues, together with GIZ, IUCN SSC Sustainable Use Group, TRAFFIC, and Wild Sheep Foundation, we are convening a meeting in September 2018 to bring together coherent and incisive thinking about the challenges faced in terms of wild resource governance, community rights, livelihoods and

voice, and poaching. We would also welcome the opportunity to contribute to reviewing the criteria used for awarding the grant.

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

N/A – this our first report and questions were answered in [Project Revisions note submitted 10 May 2017](#).

12. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project design has not changed, but as per the two submitted change requests during year 1, there have been some updates. As discussed in question #10, we did encounter difficulties with some of our work in the conservancies where we are not seeing expected increases in ungulate numbers. We are not facing risks at this time.

13. Sustainability and legacy

The project has a very high profile in both Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. In Tajikistan, this is a result of the IWT Conference we co-hosted with the Tajik government and HAT. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the attention is primarily generated by the wildlife detection dog program.

Our planned exit strategy is still the same.

Open access: We communicated project progress and lessons learned with international colleagues over email and in person at conferences, including the International Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Forum put on by the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Program in August 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Panthera and Panthera Kyrgyzstan made the following joint presentation at the meeting: "[Empowering local communities through snow leopard conservation: stories from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan](#)", attended by more than 100 people. We also displayed two [posters](#) for the associated Science Symposium and Exposition, one on Panthera's Sabin Snow Leopard Grants Program and another on Spatial Ecology and Range-wide Genetics of Snow Leopards ([see here](#)).

[Ten blogs](#) were published (also see [here](#) and [here](#)) in year 1 of the project.

Websites: The Panthera website is unfortunately not available in Russian, although of course can be translated with free web translator tools. [H&CAT website](#); [Panthera Kyrgyzstan website](#) (in both Russian and English).

Finally, the 2017 [CMS COP update](#) included details of our project.

14. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

The Challenge Fund was identified in blogs (see links question #13), Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook (#darwininitiative).

In February, we worked with Daisy Goddard, Digital Communications Manager of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to produce a [blog](#).

We produced a script with Daisy for a short [video](#) for social media on our wildlife detection dog project that was released for World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2018.

In March, we submitted an article and photos of the TWC for the IWT Newsletter.

We regularly recognized the UK government as funder of this project—please see presentation mentioned in question #13, "[Empowering local communities through snow leopard conservation: stories from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan](#)"

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2017-March 2018)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2017/18 Grant (£)	2017/18 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)				
TOTAL				

Per our 6 February 2018 approved change request:

1. Consultancy costs for the November 2017 IWT workshop in Dushanbe were more expensive than budgeted. Additionally, international travel expenses to the IWT workshop were higher because we covered the participation of a high level CITES staff member, and UN personnel only travel business class. For TWC, fees for the trainers were higher than budgeted because the trainers worked more days than originally planned. We utilized leftover Capital Items funds to help cover these expense overages.
2. The expense overruns for the Travel and Subsistence and Operating Costs categories are attributed to international travel for the IWT workshop, TWC Initiative trainings in summer 2017, and field and travel expenses of lead organization (Panthera Tajikistan is a branch of lead organization Panthera, not a local partner) which we failed to budget for to carry out our field work for grant activities in Tajikistan. We utilized leftover Capital Items funds to help cover these expense overages.
3. Our program in the Kyrgyz Republic is functioning well and we did not feel it would be a good use of funds to replace it at this time. Instead, we spent GBP [REDACTED] on a used vehicle for use by the Chon Kemin Conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic and GBP [REDACTED] on a sturdy used vehicle for our partner H&CAT in Tajikistan.

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. We plan to publish a version of the following as a blog on the Panthera website, written by Panthera Kyrgyzstan's Shirin Mukhametkadyr Kyzy. Title: We are providing hope for Pamir women and girls

During the summer of 2017, Panthera, with local partner H&CAT, initiated a new pilot project called the "Tajik Women and Conservation" Initiative (TWC): a three-year training session for women in the community-based conservancies "Burgut" in Alichur village and "Parcham" in Ravmed. This is for women who want to stand next to their male peers as rangers and trekking and hunting guides.

With foreign female trekking and hunting tourists increasingly requesting women guides, the conservancies themselves easily recognized that there was an opportunity to empower the women in the communities, and the benefits from doing so could be used to negotiate the barriers of culture, tradition, and religion.

In July 2017, training began with basic skills on how to read a map, orientation, how to use and keep trekking equipment, preparing an expedition and managing the pace of a group, safety in the mountains, etc. Despite the cultural barriers facing them, participating women were motivated and open to a completely new experience and enthusiastic about starting their new career. The women also received outstanding support from their families, sisters, brothers, and male rangers in the two conservancies.

Thanks to the Tajik Women & Conservation Initiative we have hope for our snow leopards, which will now be protected by 18 Pamir women. These women now have hope for a better life, greater recognition, financial independence, and flexibility to help their families and be treated better by men. During the next months and years, these young women will master guiding, wildlife spotting, anti-poaching, and trekking skills through further trainings, exposure to professional development opportunities, and active participation in the conservation work of their conservancies.

These women are making history in the Pamirs. They are the first female rangers and guides in two of the Pamir's community-based wildlife conservancies. Thank you to UK Aid through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and the Global Environment Facility/UNDP for believing in this project and supporting it.

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

Note: Updates to logframe are highlighted in blue. Highlighted key actions planned for next period in grey.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2016 - March 2017	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>To improve resilience of pastoralist livelihoods through managed ungulate hunting and nature tourism, and reduce trafficking of snow leopards and prey species in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.</p>		<p>Our project is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping wildlife parts from entering the IWT by stopping retaliatory killing of cats who depredate livestock by building predator-proof corrals; • Stopping IWT in process: wildlife detection dog Orion's contribution to seizure of ungulate parts at the Bordobo border post; • Preventing retaliatory killing of cats who have killed livestock even in non-project villages thanks to our informant network and our staff presence and reputation (see question #6); • Establishing an institutional framework for wildlife detection dog use in the region: our dogs were the first four wildlife detection dogs in the Kyrgyz Republic and the first to detect snow leopard and their prey parts in Central Asia; • Institutionalizing a culture of combatting IWT with training directed at government agencies; • Demonstrating to local people that conservation tangibly improves livelihoods through the financial incentives from trophy hunting and more gradually through eco-tourism; • Providing non-IWT alternatives for income via hunting and other 	

		<p>tourism; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing income stability for herding families by stopping livestock depredation via predator-proof corrals. 	
<p>Outcome Recovery of snow leopard and prey populations and improved livelihoods of subsistence pastoralists through adoption of sustainable, community-managed trophy hunting of mountain ungulates and nature tourism, reduction of snow leopard and prey poaching and IWT, and elimination of livestock-predator conflict.</p>	<p>0.1 By year 3, 100% increase in the income of 300 conservancy households from sustainable use of wildlife and nature tourism (from £40/month to £80/month)</p> <p>0.2 By year 3, presence of snow leopards recorded in pilot conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (from a baseline of 0-1 cats)</p> <p>0.3 By year 3, 50% increase in density of representative ungulate species (for example in Tajikistan, the incentive of trophy hunting increased argali populations by 78% in less than 3 years)</p> <p>0.4 By year 3, 1200 women trained in accounting fundamentals and tourism hosting (baseline = 0)</p>	<p><i>0.1 Baseline and end of project (EOP) income surveys</i></p> <p>Baseline surveys completed; EOP scheduled for year 3.</p> <p><i>0.2 Baseline camera trap surveys of snow leopards carried out in year 1 and repeated in year 2</i></p> <p>Completed in June and July 2017. We conducted three trainings for 65 rangers from five conservancies (Ming Teke, Bek Tozot, Janay Dar, Chumkar Tor, and Aksu) throughout Chon Kemin, Aksu, and Jar Bashe, Alai Valley. Please see report on Activities 1.2, 1.4 & 1.5.</p> <p><i>0.3 Annual ungulate surveys to determine population density</i></p> <p>Repeat ungulate surveys were completed in the summer and fall of 2017 in Tajikistan in Parcham, Yoquti Darshay, Yuz Palang, and Burgut conservancies, and a baseline survey was conducted in the new conservancy Guldara. All repeat surveys are slated for 2018 in Kyrgyzstan. Please see report on Activities 1.2, 1.4 & 1.5.</p> <p><i>0.4 Surveys by PECTA and KCBTA documenting tourist satisfaction and accounting proficiency</i></p> <p>H&CAT will conduct surveys instead of PECTA and KCBTA; these are</p>	<p>(Highlight key actions planned for next period)</p> <p><i>0.2 Baseline camera trap surveys of snow leopards carried out in year 1 and repeated in year 2</i></p> <p><i>0.3 Annual ungulate surveys to determine population density</i></p>

		scheduled for year 3.	
<p>Output 1. Original: Six Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place, managing ibex and argali and launching nature tourism; and 4 wildlife community-based conservancies in Tajikistan strengthened</p> <p>Revised October 2017 to: Five Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place, managing ibex and argali and launching nature tourism; 1 new community-based conservancy developed in Tajikistan; and 4 existing wildlife community-based conservancies in Tajikistan strengthened</p>	<p>1.1 At least 3000 km² of wildlife habitat protected from poachers as government recognized conservancies by year 1 (baseline = 0) in the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>1.2 200 people, including 80 women, receive DFID-supported training in natural resources management and tourism, and leadership skills in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (baseline = 0)</p> <p>1.3 Over-exploitation (poaching) of ibex, argali and snow leopard reduced by 80% in the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic by year 1 (baseline=100%)</p>	<p>Progress is on track, especially in Tajikistan, where formalizing the existence of H&CAT as the umbrella for all conservancies in Tajikistan has further developed the conservancies and created a support network especially helpful for nascent conservancies. Relationships with HAT are at times difficult as H&CAT gains greater international exposure as a member of IUCN and CIC and as the recipient of the Peter W Capstick Award in 2017.</p> <p>In Kyrgyz Republic, we are faced with more extensive depletion of prey levels and habitat degradation through livestock grazing. This is challenging, especially in the Alai Valley. But support from SAEPF is outstanding. In an official ceremony attended by SAEPF representatives, we presented the new anti-poaching/patrol vehicle to Chumkar Tor (Chon Kemin), purchased with UK Aid funds. The local Kyrgyz bank, RSP Bank, also donated funds to build a banner at the edge of the conservancy (https://twitter.com/NarynTRosen/status/979407694154141696).</p> <p>Since the start of Panthera's support of the Chon Kemin Conservancy in Kyrgyz Republic in 2017, 20 poachers have been apprehended and a percentage of their fines paid back to the rangers responsible for the arrests (https://twitter.com/NarynTRosen/status/979413968170106880).</p> <p>1.1 At least 3000 km² formally recognized as 'conservancy' by government, and management plans approved by the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>All five conservancies have control over their land in excess of 3000 km² (see here). Management plans have been drafted but not yet adopted.</p> <p>1.2 Training course attendance reports and follow-up training to ensure knowledge retention in both countries</p> <p>Progress is on track (see here). Please see question #3.1, Activity 1.3.</p> <p>1.3 In both countries, annual ungulate surveys (to determine population size and trend, sex ratios, reproductive rates, and recruitment) and biannual snow leopard camera trap surveys done together with Panthera. Regular patrolling of conservancy lands by community rangers to reduce poaching and remove snares. Survey and patrol data documented in annual reports.</p> <p>Progress is on track (see here). Please see question #3.1, Activities 1.2, 1.4 & 1.5.</p>	
Activity 1.1 Original: Conduct initial community meetings in Kyrgyz Republic to discuss process of establishing 6th conservancy. Updated: Conduct initial		Initial meetings were conducted in the summer of 2017, with follow up in the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018 (see here).	

community meetings in Tajikistan to discuss process of establishing 5th conservancy.	
Activity 1.2 Conduct a training workshop in snow leopard camera trap survey techniques, fecal collection for DNA analysis, and ungulate survey techniques in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic.	<u>Completed</u> in June and July 2017. We conducted three trainings for five conservancies and 65 rangers throughout Chon Kemin, Aksu, and Jar Bashe, Alai Valley, benefiting 65 rangers from all five conservancies (Ming Teke, Bek Tozot, Janay Dar, Chumkar Tor, and Aksu). Panthera Kyrgyzstan trainers—with support from National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyzstan and OSI Panthera—introduced the fundamentals of camera trapping, fecal sample collection, GPS techniques, ungulate age-class identification, and information-relay protocols.
Activity 1.3 Conduct a training workshop in natural resource management in the 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan.	<u>Completed</u> . During the trainings in 1.1, we introduced natural resource management principles, livestock grazing impacts on wild ungulate habitat and animal husbandry.
Activity 1.4 Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic. Updated: Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 1 new conservancy in Tajikistan.	<p><u>Completed</u>. We did not find any snow leopard fecal samples. Surveys were conducted in the fall of 2017 by 65 rangers. Baseline numbers are as follows: Chumkar Tor: no snow leopards, 192 roe deer; 35 ibex, 32 red deer; Aksu: no snow leopards, no ibex; Janay Dar: no snow leopards, 281 ibex; Bek Tozot: no snow leopards, 80 ibex; Ming Teke: no snow leopard, 73 ibex. All ungulate surveys were conducted by the rangers of the conservancies in collaboration with staff from SAEPF (one person) and National Academy of Sciences (one person), and two members of Panthera Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>In June 2017, we placed 41 camera traps in the Ming Teke and Bek Tozot conservancies in the Alai Valley with the support of 5 rangers in each conservancy. We have not yet camera trapped in Janay Dar but will do so in 2018. In May 2017, we placed 20 camera traps in the Chumkar Tor and Aksu conservancies with the support of four rangers in Chumkar Tor and 3 in Aksu. We collected the cameras in July but photographed no snow leopards.</p>
Activity 1.5 Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan. Updated: Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 5 in Tajikistan.	<p><u>Repeat</u> ungulate surveys were completed in the summer and fall of 2017 in Tajikistan in Parcham, Yoquti Darshay, Yuz Palang, and Burgut conservancies, and a baseline survey was conducted in the new conservancy Guldara. All repeat surveys are slated for 2018 in Kyrgyzstan. Repeat ungulate survey results for Tajikistan are as follows: Burgut (conducted by 20 rangers, 2 Panthera Tajikistan staff, 1 Panthera Kyrgyzstan staff, 1 CEPRT staff): 522 argali (from 368 in 2016) and 531 ibex (from 471 in 2016); Ravmed (15 rangers, 2 Panthera Tajikistan, 1 CEPRT): 500 ibex (from 466 in 2016); Yoquti Darshay (10 rangers, 1 Panthera Tajikistan, 1 CEPRT): 512 ibex (from 495 in 2016); and Yuz Palang (5 rangers, 1 Panthera Tajikistan, 1 CEPRT): 400 ibex (from 370 in 2016).</p> <p>We also placed 33 camera traps for snow leopard baseline survey for Guldara (7 rangers, 3 Panthera Tajikistan; 1 H&CAT, 2 CEPRT). Baseline ungulate surveys counted 38 argali and 150 ibex. Four individual snow leopards were photographed as well as the very first recorded presence in the eastern Pamirs of</p>

	the Asiatic wildcat (<i>Felis silvestris</i>).
Activity 1.6 Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 6 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan. Updated: Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and 1 new Tajik conservancy with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan.	Moved to Q1 year 2.
Activity 1.7 Draft the management plans for each conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Updated: Draft the management plans for each conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic and the new conservancy in Tajikistan.	Drafts completed (see here).
Activity 1.8 Using strong science and applying principles of sustainable use, support the communities in negotiations with the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry on ibex and argali hunting quotas in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.	<p>In Tajikistan, this is ongoing and successful: all four operating conservancies in Tajikistan successfully hosted hunts for a total of 15 ibex hunts and one argali hunt.</p> <p>In May 2017, the Kyrgyz Parliament enacted a staggered moratorium affecting the introduction of hunting in the conservancies we support in Kyrgyz Republic. This will require accelerated effort to enable the three conservancies in the Alai Valley to host hunts before the moratorium comes into effect in 2019 for three years. We will also help them develop ecotourism more as an alternative source of income.</p>
Activity 1.9 Together with H&CAT, develop marketing materials for international hunting outfitters through “book your hunt” portal (Accessible: https://www.bookyourhunt.com/), and, together with PECTA and KCBTA, tourism brochures for tour operators in Europe and the US.	<p>H&CAT has developed a website to advertise tours and has developed packages and materials (see question #2-5).</p> <p>We are exploring expansion of the H&CAT platform to include the Kyrgyz Republic and new collaborations with different partners. One is OSI Panthera, which charges eco-tourists to participate in conservation science. We piloted this in the Alai Valley for the June 2017 camera trap survey. Two conservancies (Ming Teke and Chak) earned £■■■■ for two weeks. In 2018, we will conduct two trips in the Alai Valley. We are developing a high-end tourism experience with Edge Expeditions and Abercrombie & Kent. Through the Tajik Women & Conservation (TWC, formerly “Women Rockin’ Pamirs”) Initiative, we anticipate developing a niche tourism targeting women hikers.</p> <p>The Book Your Hunt (https://www.bookyourhunt.com/) portal generated requests for hunts that the conservancies cannot meet in 2018 and therefore some hunters have already booked for the 2019 hunting season.</p>
Activity 1.10 Together with PECTA and KCBTA and Panthera staff, conduct tourism management and accounting training skills for women in the 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 conservancies in Tajikistan. Updated: Together with PECTA and KCBTA and Panthera staff, conduct tourism	In August 2017, Panthera staff taught a day-long accounting seminar for four conservancies in Tajikistan. Ten women participated and learned how to help keep track of receipts, make tax payments, and account what income from the guesthouses is contributed to the general account of the conservancies. In

<p>management and accounting training skills for women in the 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 5 in Tajikistan.</p>	<p>October, German consultant Anna Weiss of Marketing Sans Frontières led a five day product development and storytelling seminar benefiting women trained in the TWC program, PECTA, and Panthera Tajikistan staff (see here). This was not yet completed in Kyrgyz Republic but will be in year 2.</p>
<p>Activity 1.11 Support the development of non-consumptive nature tourism programs and the marketing of such services in the conservancies with support from KCBTA and PECTA.</p>	<p>See Activity 1.9.</p>
<p>Output 2. Income from hunts and nature tourism enhances local peoples' livelihoods through investments in community-selected health and education projects, impacting 30% of men, women, and children in engaged communities in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan</p>	<p>2.1 Finalization of Business Plan detailing allocation of sustainable wildlife use revenue developed by year 1 of the project in Tajikistan and year 2 in the Kyrgyz Republic Updated: Finalization of Business Plan detailing allocation of sustainable wildlife use revenue developed by year 1 of the project for the 4 established conservancies in Tajikistan and year 2 in the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and the new conservancy in Tajikistan</p> <p>2.2 Community livelihood improvement projects approved by year 1 in Tajikistan and year 3 for the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (baseline = 16) Updated: Community livelihood improvement project implemented by year 1 in Tajikistan (for 4 conservancies) and year 3 in the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and the new conservancy in Tajikistan (baseline = 16)</p> <p>2.3 Community livelihood improvement project implemented by year 1 in Tajikistan and year 3 in the Kyrgyz Republic (baseline = 16) Updated: This section is in error – repetition of 2.2</p> <p>2.4 30% more sustainable use and nature tourism dependent jobs, of which at least half are held by women. This includes 10 women able to safely</p> <p>Progress is on track with increased international promotion of hunting and other tourism and booking of all available hunts for the next season. We may experience delays in Kyrgyz Republic due to moratorium (see question #3.1, Activity 1.7). Based on the survey results from Janay-Dar, the SAEPF is greenlighting issuing a quota to harvest one ibex in the fall of 2018.</p> <p><i>2.1 Copies of business plans and written evidence of approved community projects</i></p> <p>In progress, but plans need to be more formalized.</p> <p><i>2.2 Minutes from regular conservancy meetings capturing community voting and approval of improvement projects</i></p> <p>Community livelihood improvement projects were approved by year 1 in Tajikistan Please see question #3.1, Activity 2.2 (see here).</p> <p><i>2.3 Photographs and conservancy reports of completed livelihood improvement projects</i></p> <p>Community projects in Alichur were the purchase of school books for children, flour and coal for the community, and construction of three homes for homeless families. In Bartang, they used proceeds to replenish their microfinance program. Projects have not yet been set in Zong and Darshay as the hunting season ended in February 2018.</p> <p><i>2.4 Employment survey conducted at regular conservancy meetings; data disaggregated by gender</i></p> <p>These surveys will be conducted in year 2.</p>

	<p>guide groups of clients on mountain itineraries for several days and joining the pool of guides that PECTA offers to international tour operators and individual tourists as well as the pool of local guides who can accompany tourists for trophy hunting (baseline = 12)</p>	
<p>Activity 2.1 Through existing participatory process, finalize and adopt business plans identifying percentage of hunt profits that will be invested in the conservancy and for community development and prioritize development projects.</p>		<p>In progress, but plans need to be more formalized (see here).</p>
<p>Activity 2.2 Support hunts in at least 2 of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies by year 2 and in the 4 conservancies in Tajikistan by year 1.</p>		<p>All 16 hunts between September 2017 and February 2018 were successful. Gross income for the conservancies was £3,600 per ibex hunted and £32,500 for the argali. Roughly half of the ibex income covers expenses (hunt preparation, permit, local transportation, gas, food, lodging, and taxes). Profits are allocated at 50% to anti-poaching and ranger salaries and 50% to local livelihood projects (see here).</p> <p>The SAEPF will issue a quota to harvest one ibex in Fall 2018 in the Alai conservancy Janay Dar. This will be the first hunt for one of our community-based conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic. Given the described staggered moratorium, Chumkar Tor Conservancy in Chui would have been ready to host a hunt in 2018, but will now have to wait until the end of 2019.</p>
<p>Activity 2.3 Support hunts in at least 3 of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies by year 3.</p>		<p>See Activity 2.2.</p>
<p>Activity 2.4 Conduct community surveys of men and women to assess their level of satisfaction with the investment of profits from the hunts.</p>		<p>Deferred to Q1 year 2.</p>
<p>Activity 2.5 Conduct information campaign to inform women about the opportunity to participate in an initiation trek by year 1.</p>		<p>Completed. See question #3.1, Activity 2.6.</p>
<p>Activity 2.6 Conduct a 3-day initiation trek organized by Women Rock'in Pamirs (WRP) by year 1 for 6-8 women per conservancy. This initiation trek is the opportunity for local women to go out in the mountains outside of their daily duties, and to gain a new vision of what the mountains can represent for tourists. Updated: "Women Rock'in Pamirs" has been renamed to "Tajik Women in Conservation"</p>		<p>Completed. Nine women TWC trainees from Alichur and neighbouring village Bash Gumbez, along with nine trainees from Ravmed and neighbouring Khijez, participated in two 10-day training sessions in July and August 2017. Sessions included a theory component (three days), maps and GPS exercises (two days), and a field trek (five days) with conservancy leaders and rangers practicing wildlife observation and camera trap setting. Four of the trainees used their newly acquired skills to accompany tourists on treks, including National Geographic and Pulitzer-prize winning journalist Paul Salopek (see here).</p>
<p>Activity 2.7 A trekking guide training session will be conducted by year 2. The training session will last 21 days, combining theory and practical experiences (including short treks and a longer multiple day trek) in one of the conservancies.</p>		<p>Will be conducted in July/August 2018, year 2.</p>

<p>with an emphasis on wildlife spotting and sustainable hunting practices. The group will be accompanied by a local hunter who can explain the life of wildlife up in the mountains and the main hunting practices.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.8 An additional 21-day training session will be conducted by year 3 to deepen specific topics such as sustainable hunting practices and wildlife spotting and tracking, as well as to discover new skills such as alpinism and climbing.</p>	<p>Year 3.</p>
<p>Output 3. Conflict with snow leopards reduced across the wider Pamir-Alai region, positively impacting 80% of concerned pastoralists (of which 40% are women)</p>	<p>3.1 Twenty predator-proof corrals built by year 2 of the project in 5 communities in Tajikistan. The corrals will be supervised primarily by women, and will protect 14,000 sheep and goats of 28 households (baseline = 130)</p> <p>3.2 By year 1, reduction of snow leopard retaliatory killings from 7-8 cats per year—with an average of 50 livestock killed in each community—to zero cats killed in communities with predator-proofed corrals and no livestock lost at night.</p> <p>Progress is ahead of schedule; new corrals are functioning well with no livestock lost at night and no retaliatory killing to report.</p> <p><i>3.1 Photographs of completed corrals</i></p> <p>To date, we have built 12 of the 20 planned predator-proof corrals to be built by year 2 of the project in five communities in Tajikistan. The 12 corrals are protecting 10,000 sheep and goats of 16 households. Please see Activity 3.1, question #3.1.</p> <p><i>3.2 No documented/reported cases of retaliatory killing of snow leopards and camera trapping indicates stable or increasing snow leopard population</i></p> <p>We do not have documented cases of retaliatory killing where corrals have been predator-proofed. In Alichur, where we conducted two camera trap surveys, we have a positive trend. We have not yet repeated surveys in Bartang, Zong, or Darshay in Tajikistan. Baselines in Kyrgyz Republic are all poor, as expected for the beginning of the project (see question #3.1).</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 Build 20 predator-proof corrals (with locals providing free labour) in villages where snow leopard conflict has occurred in Tajikistan to protect 14,000 sheep and goats.</p>	<p>We are on track to reach our goal with 12 predator-proof corrals built: two in Yazgulom, two in Vanj, two in Bartang, two in Murghab, two in Pshart Valley, and two in Rangkul. They are all 10x20 communal corrals, each benefiting approximately 8,000 sheep and goats and 16 households from 10 villages (see here).</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Designate a conflict mitigation coordinator in each of the villages where predator-proof corrals are built, to respond to conflict and oversee building of corrals as well as their proper use and maintenance.</p>	<p>Designated. Where villages overlap with a conservancy, mitigation coordinators are members of the conservancy. For Yazgulom and Vanj, it is Tohir, head of the Vanj Jamoat. For Bartang, it is Gulbek Khojanazorov, leader of Parcham Conservancy; for Murghab and Pshart it is Sang, deputy of the Murghab branch of CEPRT; for Rangkul, it is Alik, guide for the Vostok hunting concession.</p>
<p>Activity 3.3 Introduce environmental curriculum developed by in-country Panthera staff in at least 8 schools in the conservancies and surrounding areas to sensitize at least 1000 children to wildlife conservation.</p>	<p>During the summer of 2018, we launched “Tajik Kittens” to be used as the umbrella children’s programming to introduce youth to wildlife conservation. In Rangkul, we held a day-long nature camp for 15 children, followed by a week-long nature camp in Alichur for 45 children ages 4-15. Children were introduced to wildlife conservation and human-wildlife conflict concepts through games. They learned about binocular, GPS, and camera trap use. The Alichur school maintains a camera trap and there is currently a competition among the Tajik Kittens group in Alichur, the rangers of the conservancy, and the trainees from TWC for best snow leopard pictures. We will develop a formal curriculum for the Kittens in year</p>

		2 (see here).
<p>Output 4. Illegal trade in wildlife reduced by 80% in and through Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic via canine units at 4 critical border posts</p>	<p>4.1 Transboundary anti-poaching local informant network in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan built around the conservancies and communities with predator-proofed corrals established by year 2 of the project involving 240 people (baseline=120)</p> <p>4.2 Wildlife detection dog units (4 dogs and 4 handlers) additionally trained to detect saiga and saker falcon are operational by year 1 at the Bordobo and Torugart border posts with Tajikistan and China (baseline=0)</p> <p>4.3 Two new wildlife detection dog units trained by year 2 to deploy at 2 additional border posts with Tajikistan and China (baseline=4)</p> <p>4.4 Law enforcement, including customs and border officials, members of the community-based conservancies, and inspectors from the Department on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources of the State Agency on Environment and Forestry, trained in the Standard Enforcement Trainings for Wildlife by year 1 (baseline=14)</p>	<p>Progress is on track with trainings conducted and dogs operating as planned.</p> <p><i>4.1 Written and securely stored documentation of meetings (including a source register kept separate and password protected with access restricted to the informant handler) of the established anti-poaching local informant network, including intelligence gathered and intelligence data used in law enforcement operations resulting in arrests and prosecutions</i></p> <p>Scheduled for year 2.</p> <p><i>4.2 Canine teams are deployed full-time at all border posts with handlers recording their searches daily (deployment is on 10-day cycles for each of two handlers and dogs), and canine trainers visit posts every two months to maintain expertise</i></p> <p>This is happening as scheduled (see here).</p> <p><i>4.3 Training excursions to the conservancies: in combination with trainer visits to border posts, conduct field trips to the conservancies to develop relationships in order to encourage locals to contact Customs for inspections when they receive intelligence about poaching</i></p> <p>Two excursions happened with the three conservancies in the Alai, but we do not have photos except from Joel Caldwell just prior to the launch of this grant (see here).</p> <p><i>4.4 Documentation (video, photo, affidavit) of wildlife detection dogs contributing to seizures and details of illegal wildlife products confiscated at border</i></p> <p>We have evidence from the seizure made by dog Orion and his handler in April 2017 (see here).</p>
<p>Activity 4.1 Develop canine unit support teams led by Panthera together with Working Dogs for Conservation. The units, posted at the Bordobo and Torugart posts, will act as a deterrent against poaching between Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and China.</p>		<p>Two dogs are posted at the Bordobo border post between Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. One of the dogs from this post detected the illegal shipment of four argali and seven ibex trophies from Tajikistan (see question #13). An investigation is underway of consequence to the international hunting community. The other two dogs are currently used for stings based out of Bishkek. One of these will be deployed at Torugart at the border with China where we completed building a new kennel in August 2017 (see here).</p>
<p>Activity 4.2 Conduct on-site refresher trainings for dogs and their handlers in</p>		<p>A refresher training was provided by Tanya Rosen in August 2017 for all dogs.</p>

<p>detecting wildlife products.</p>	<p>The four dogs have been trained to detect saiga horn (see here). Aimee Hurt came in early April 2018 for another refresher training. Hurt trained the four existing detection dogs on live saker falcons, feathers and saiga horn, and reviewed their work with snow leopard, ibex and argali. She was very satisfied with the dogs' performance. Hurt began working with the "J-litter" of year-old pups: Jules, Jerome, Jacques, Jacquelin and Jeneva. They are still mastering their drug contraband detection and the Kyrgyz instructors will introduce them to wildlife products over the summer.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3 Conduct off-site support for dogs and their handlers.</p>	<p>This is ongoing through weekly contact between the trainers of the Kyrgyz Customs Service, Rosen, and Aimee Hurt of WD4C. Dog Orion lost his sight due to illness and could not work. WD4C provided veterinary advice, medication, and special goggles, allowing Orion to swiftly return to work.</p>
<p>Activity 4.4 Facilitate 5 community meetings in the villages where the corrals are being built in Tajikistan to expand existing informal anti-poaching network by linking in these new villages; the network is tasked with both addressing conflict with snow leopards and trade in snow leopards, their parts, and poaching of prey species.</p>	<p>Four community meetings were held over the summer in Vanj, Yazgulom, Murghab, and Rangkul. Two more meetings were held in Shaimak and Tokhtamish, where corrals will be constructed in 2018. Twenty Foxlights were deployed in the interim to deter conflict. Foxlights are solar-powered, light sensor devices that produce light at random intervals to emulate a moving person carrying a flashlight/torch (see here).</p>
<p>Activity 4.5 Strengthen transboundary anti-poaching network which already includes 120 members by holding 4 additional community meetings between representatives from informal networks in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, including representatives of the 6th conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic.</p>	<p>In August 2017, Panthera held one meeting with the two networks (including customs and environmental agency officials from both countries) for a total of 10 participants in Murghab, Tajikistan, to address illegal trophy hunting of argali, the increase in saker falcon poaching, and communication needs. The network was informed of a trapper from the United Arab Emirates targeting saker falcons with local support. The man was unfortunately informed of the search and escaped across the border. It is unclear whether he was successful in leaving the country with saker falcons.</p>
<p>Activity 4.6 Hold 2, 2-week Standard Enforcement Training courses. The first will be for 40 rangers of the local conservancies in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic who are all members of the informant network, and the second will be for 20 Tajik and Kyrgyz customs and border officers. The purpose of the trainings is to establish collaboration and communication protocols that allow for the intelligence from the informant network on illegal trade and poaching to be effectively communicated and used by the customs and border officers working at the supported border post between Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and China.</p>	<p>We swapped the order of planned meetings because the Tajik government insisted on hosting first. We convened the following events in Dushanbe (in collaboration with CEPRT and HAT) from 20 November through 26 November: a one-day conference in Dushanbe (at the Serena Hotel) with the participation of relevant stakeholders from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (Environmental and Forest Agencies, Academy of Sciences, and Border and Customs Officers), relevant international stakeholders (CITES Secretariat, FAO), and representatives of donor organizations (EU Delegation, US Embassy, and UK Embassy) to discuss Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan's implementation of CITES (the needs especially) and the use of the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit; transboundary and cross-agency collaboration; and the potential development of National Environmental Security Task Forces. The outputs of the meeting were Strategic and Operational Plans to combat IWT. The conference was followed by a four-day intensive training session (Master class) led by EcoEnforce experts for five candidates from Tajikistan and five from Kyrgyzstan from the Committee/Kyrgyz</p>

	State Agency, border, and customs officers on how to share intelligence and uncover IWT (see here).
Activity 4.7 Establish first National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) in Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with Kyrgyz government and GSLEP Secretariat.	This is an ongoing activity where Panthera is cooperating with Snow Leopard Trust, another IWT grantee. The first meeting was held in Fall 2017, and we expect the NEST to be formalized in 2018.
Activity 4.8 Establish first National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) in Tajikistan in cooperation with Tajik government and GSLEP Secretariat.	Scheduled for Q4 of year 2 and year 3.

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

Please note: Updates to our logframe are in **bold font**.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: To improve resilience of pastoralist livelihoods through managed ungulate hunting and nature tourism, and reduce trafficking of snow leopards and prey species in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. (Max 30 words)</p>			
<p>Outcome: Recovery of snow leopard and prey populations and improved livelihoods of subsistence pastoralists through adoption of sustainable, community-managed trophy hunting of mountain ungulates and nature tourism, reduction of snow leopard and prey poaching and IWT, and elimination of livestock-predator conflict.</p> <p>(Max 50 words)</p>	<p>0.1 By year 3, 100% increase in the income of 300 conservancy households from sustainable use of wildlife and nature tourism (from £40/month to £80/month)</p> <p>0.2 By year 3, presence of snow leopards recorded in pilot conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (from a baseline of 0-1 cats)</p> <p>0.3 By year 3, 50% increase in density of representative ungulate species (for example in Tajikistan, the incentive of trophy hunting increased argali populations by 78% in less than 3 years)</p> <p>0.4 By year 3, 1200 women trained in accounting fundamentals and tourism hosting (baseline = 0)</p>	<p>0.1 Baseline and end of project (EOP) income surveys</p> <p>0.2 Baseline camera trap surveys of snow leopards carried out in year 1 and repeated in year 2</p> <p>0.3 Annual ungulate surveys to determine population density</p> <p>0.4 Surveys by PECTA and KCBTA documenting tourist satisfaction and accounting proficiency</p>	<p>The conservancies work constructively and in good faith towards the goal of establishing a hunting program (continued poaching would preclude higher community income from sustainable use)</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Original: Six Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place, managing ibex and argali and launching nature tourism; and 4 wildlife community-based conservancies in Tajikistan strengthened</p> <p>Revised October 2017 (IWT approved change): Five Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place, managing ibex and argali and</p>	<p>1.1 At least 3000 km² of wildlife habitat protected from poachers as government recognized conservancies by year 1 (baseline = 0) in the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>1.2 200 people, including 80 women, receive DFID-supported training in natural resources management and tourism, and leadership skills in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (baseline = 0)</p> <p>1.3 Over-exploitation (poaching) of ibex, argali and snow leopard reduced by 80% in the conservancies in the Kyrgyz</p>	<p>1.1 At least 3000 km² formally recognized as 'conservancy' by government, and management plans approved by the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>1.2 Training course attendance reports and follow-up training to ensure knowledge retention in both countries</p> <p>1.3 In both countries, annual ungulate surveys (to determine population size and trend, sex ratios, reproductive rates, and recruitment) and biannual snow leopard</p>	<p>The relevant state authorities assign hunting quotas to the conservancies as agreed and the marketing of hunts is not hampered by factors outside the influence of the conservancies and the project</p>

<p>launching nature tourism; 1 new community-based conservancy developed in Tajikistan; and 4 existing wildlife community-based conservancies in Tajikistan strengthened</p>	<p>Republic by year 1 (baseline=100%)</p>	<p>camera trap surveys done together with Panthera. Regular patrolling of conservancy lands by community rangers to reduce poaching and remove snares. Survey and patrol data documented in annual reports.</p>	
<p>2. Income from hunts and nature tourism enhances local peoples' livelihoods through investments in community-selected health and education projects, impacting 30% of men, women, and children in engaged communities in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan</p>	<p>2.1 Finalization of Business Plan detailing allocation of sustainable wildlife use revenue developed by year 1 of the project in Tajikistan and year 2 in the Kyrgyz Republic Updated October 2017: Finalization of Business Plan detailing allocation of sustainable wildlife use revenue developed by year 1 of the project for the 4 established conservancies in Tajikistan and year 2 in the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and the new conservancy in Tajikistan</p> <p>2.2 Community livelihood improvement projects approved by year 1 in Tajikistan and year 3 for the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (baseline = 16) Updated October 2017: Community livelihood improvement project implemented by year 1 in Tajikistan (for 4 conservancies) and year 3 in the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and the new conservancy in Tajikistan (baseline = 16)</p> <p>2.3 Community livelihood improvement project implemented by year 1 in Tajikistan and year 3 in the Kyrgyz Republic (baseline = 16) Updated October 2017: This section is in error – repetition of 2.2</p> <p>2.4 30% more sustainable use and nature tourism dependent jobs, of which at least half are held by women. This includes 10 women able to safely guide groups of clients on mountain itineraries for several days and joining the pool of guides that PECTA offers to international tour</p>	<p>2.1 Copies of business plans and written evidence of approved community projects</p> <p>2.2 Minutes from regular conservancy meetings capturing community voting and approval of improvement projects</p> <p>2.3 Photographs and conservancy reports of completed livelihood improvement projects</p> <p>2.4 Employment survey conducted at regular conservancy meetings; data disaggregated by gender</p>	<p>Civil war and natural disasters (earthquakes, mudslides, floods) do not prevent access to the conservancies</p> <p>The conservancies comply with their management plans and invest their profits into community projects</p> <p>Community projects are implemented by the communities themselves in partnership with local private businesses</p> <p>International and national tour operators continue to work in good faith with conservancies</p>

	operators and individual tourists as well as the pool of local guides who can accompany tourists for trophy hunting (baseline = 12)		
3. Conflict with snow leopards reduced across the wider Pamir-Alai region, positively impacting 80% of concerned pastoralists (of which 40% are women)	<p>3.1 Twenty predator-proof corrals built by year 2 of the project in 5 communities in Tajikistan. The corrals will be supervised primarily by women, and will protect 14,000 sheep and goats of 28 households (baseline = 130)</p> <p>3.2 By year 1, reduction of snow leopard retaliatory killings from 7-8 cats per year—with an average of 50 livestock killed in each community—to zero cats killed in communities with predator-proofed corrals and no livestock lost at night.</p>	<p>3.1 Photographs of completed corrals</p> <p>3.2 No documented/reported cases of retaliatory killing of snow leopards and camera trapping indicates stable or increasing snow leopard population</p>	<p>Local communities want to protect their livestock and thereby reduce conflicts with snow leopards</p> <p>Communities properly utilize and maintain the corrals during and after the project</p>
4. Illegal trade in wildlife reduced by 80% in and through Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic via canine units at 4 critical border posts	<p>4.1 Transboundary anti-poaching local informant network in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan built around the conservancies and communities with predator-proofed corrals established by year 2 of the project involving 240 people (baseline=120)</p> <p>4.2 Wildlife detection dog units (4 dogs and 4 handlers) additionally trained to detect saiga and saker falcon are operational by year 1 at the Bordobo and Torugart border posts with Tajikistan and China (baseline=0)</p> <p>4.3 Two new wildlife detection dog units trained by year 2 to deploy at 2 additional border posts with Tajikistan and China (baseline=4)</p> <p>4.4 Law enforcement, including customs and border officials, members of the community-based conservancies, and</p>	<p>4.1 Written and securely stored documentation of meetings (including a source register kept separate and password protected with access restricted to the informant handler) of the established anti-poaching local informant network, including intelligence gathered and intelligence data used in law enforcement operations resulting in arrests and prosecutions</p> <p>4.2 Canine teams are deployed full-time at all border posts with handlers recording their searches daily (deployment is on 10-day cycles for each of 2 handlers and dogs), and canine trainers visit posts every 2 months to maintain expertise</p> <p>4.3 Training excursions to the conservancies: in combination with trainer visits to border posts, conduct field trips to the conservancies to develop relationships in order to encourage locals to contact Customs for inspections when they receive</p>	<p>Villagers are incentivized to report poaching activities due to the development of community-based conservancies, workshop education, and peer pressure</p> <p>Kyrgyz Customs Service is committed to development, deployment, and maintenance of the dog/handler unit</p> <p>Safety of informants ensured by creating separate source register, password protected with access restricted to the informant handler per TRAFFIC protocols</p>

	inspectors from the Department on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources of the State Agency on Environment and Forestry, trained in the Standard Enforcement Trainings for Wildlife by year 1 (baseline=14)	intelligence about poaching 4.4 Documentation (video, photo, affidavit) of wildlife detection dogs contributing to seizures, and details of illegal wildlife products confiscated at border	
<p>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)</p> <p>Activity 1.1 Conduct initial community meetings in Kyrgyz Republic to discuss process of establishing 6th conservancy. Updated October 2017: Conduct initial community meetings in Tajikistan to discuss process of establishing 5th conservancy.</p> <p>Activity 1.2 Conduct a training workshop in snow leopard camera trap survey techniques, fecal collection for DNA analysis, and ungulate survey techniques in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>Activity 1.2 Conduct a training workshop in natural resource management in the 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.3 Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>Activity 1.4 Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 1 new conservancy in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.5 Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 6 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 5 in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.6 Draft the management plans for each conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Updated October 2017: Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and 1 new Tajik conservancy with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan</p> <p>Activity 1.7 Using strong science and applying principles of sustainable use, support the communities in negotiations with the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry on ibex and argali hunting quotas in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Draft the management plans for each conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic and the new conservancy in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.8 Together with H&CAT, develop marketing materials for international hunting outfitters through “book your hunt” portal (Accessible: https://www.bookyourhunt.com/), and, together with PECTA and KCBTA, tourism brochures for tour operators in Europe and the US.</p> <p>Activity 1.9 Together with PECTA and KCBTA and Panthera staff, conduct tourism management and accounting training skills for women in the 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 conservancies in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.10 Support the development of non-consumptive nature tourism programs and the marketing of such services in the conservancies with support from KCBTA and PECTA. Updated October 2017: Together with PECTA and KCBTA and Panthera staff, conduct tourism management and accounting training skills for women in the 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 5 in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 2.1 Through existing participatory process, finalize and adopt business plans identifying percentage of hunt profits that will be invested in the conservancy and for community development and prioritize development projects.</p> <p>Activity 2.2 Support hunts in at least 2 of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies by year 2 and in the 4 conservancies in Tajikistan by year 1.</p> <p>Activity 2.3 Support hunts in at least 3 of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies by year 3.</p> <p>Activity 2.4 Conduct community surveys of men and women to assess their level of satisfaction with the investment of profits from the hunts.</p> <p>Activity 2.5 Conduct information campaign to inform women about the opportunity to participate in an initiation trek by year 1.</p> <p>Activity 2.6 Conduct a 3-day initiation trek organized by Women Rock’in Pamirs (WRP) by year 1 for 6-8 women per conservancy. This initiation trek is the opportunity for local women to go out in the mountains outside of their daily duties, and to gain a new vision of what the mountains can represent for tourists. Updated: “Women Rock’in Pamirs” has</p>			

been renamed to “Tajik Women in Conservation”.

Activity 2.7 A trekking guide training session will be conducted by year 2. The training session will last 21 days, combining theory and practical experiences (including short treks and a longer multiple day trek) in one of the conservancies, with an emphasis on wildlife spotting and sustainable hunting practices. The group will be accompanied by a local hunter who can explain the life of wildlife up in the mountains and the main hunting practices.

Activity 2.8 An additional 21-day training session will be conducted by year 3 to deepen specific topics such as sustainable hunting practices and wildlife spotting and tracking, as well as to discover new skills such as alpinism and climbing.

Activity 3.1 Build 20 predator-proof corrals (with locals providing free labour) in villages where snow leopard conflict has occurred in Tajikistan to protect 14,000 sheep and goats.

Activity 3.2 Designate a conflict mitigation coordinator in each of the villages where predator-proof corrals are built, to respond to conflict and oversee building of corrals as well as their proper use and maintenance.

Activity 3.3 Introduce environmental curriculum developed by in-country Panthera staff in at least 8 schools in the conservancies and surrounding areas to sensitize at least 1000 children to wildlife conservation.

Activity 4.1 Develop canine unit support teams led by Panthera together with Working Dogs for Conservation. The units, posted at the Bordobo and Torugart posts, will act as a deterrent against poaching between Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and China.

Activity 4.2. Conduct on-site refresher trainings for dogs and their handlers in detecting wildlife products.

Activity 4.3 Conduct off-site support for dogs and their handlers.

Activity 4.4 Facilitate 5 community meetings in the villages where the corrals are being built in Tajikistan to expand existing informal anti-poaching network by linking in these new villages; the network is tasked with both addressing conflict with snow leopards and trade in snow leopards, their parts, and poaching of prey species.

Activity 4.5 Strengthen transboundary anti-poaching network which already includes 120 members by holding 4 additional community meetings between representatives from informal networks in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, including representatives of the 6th conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Activity 4.6 Hold 2, 2-week Standard Enforcement Training courses. The first will be for 40 rangers of the local conservancies in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic who are all members of the informant network, and the second will be for 20 Tajik and Kyrgyz customs and border officers. The purpose of the trainings is to establish collaboration and communication protocols that allow for the intelligence from the informant network on illegal trade and poaching to be effectively communicated and used by the customs and border officers working at the supported border post between Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and China.

Activity 4.7 Establish first National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) in Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with Kyrgyz government and GSLEP Secretariat.

Activity 4.8 Establish first National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) in Tajikistan in cooperation with Tajik government and GSLEP Secretariat.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

N/A