



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report 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
Lead organisation	Panthera
Partner institution(s)	Panthera Foundation Kyrgyzstan (now Ilbirs Foundation), Kyrgyz Customs State Service, State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, Hunting Association of Tajikistan (HAT), Hunting and Conservation Alliance of Tajikistan (H&CAT – now Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan or ANCOT), 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 - 30 September 2020
Reporting period (e.g. April 2019-Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020, Annual Report 3
Project Leader name	Thomas McCarthy
Project website/blog/social media	
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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 summary

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 trafficking points, and human-carnivore conflict exacerbate the decline of snow leopards and prey species. IWT deteriorates local and national institutions that manage ecosystems by undercutting nature-based livelihoods from tourism and legal hunting—communities' most significant opportunity for income generation outside of animal husbandry.

Panthera's conservancy model uses sustainably-managed ungulate hunting to generate local employment and revenues, 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. Please see [maps](#) here.

2. Project partnerships

1. Panthera Foundation Kyrgyzstan (now Ilbirs Foundation): Ilbirs Foundation continued to liaise with all local government and community partners, including the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF), Kyrgyz Customs Service, and our 5 community-based conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic. In October 2018, our local organization opted to become an independent NGO and we signed an MOU with the new organization in March 2019. Although this slowed progress and necessitated a [change request](#) and extension of our grant deadline from 31 March 2020 to 30 September 2020, this arrangement is now working smoothly.
2. Kyrgyz Customs State Service: The Customs Service remains committed to the mission, actively working with existing dogs and handlers, and has added new dogs and handlers.
3. SAEPF: SAEPF continues to support community-based conservancy development.
4. H&CAT (now Association of Nature Conservation Organizations of Tajikistan, ANCOT): H&CAT is the local alliance of Tajik conservancies that we helped establish.
5. Pamir-Eco Cultural Tourism Association (PECTA): As previously explained, collaborations with PECTA and the Kyrgyz Community Based Tourism Association (KCBTA) were not as effective as anticipated.
6. Hunting Association of Tajikistan (HAT): HAT includes all of the private Tajik argali hunting concessions and is the body that distributes argali hunting permits.
7. Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (CEPRT): CEPRT is the regulatory body and key partner in the implementation of our activities in Tajikistan. Until our Tajik entity was closed in Jan 2019, we supported CEPRT in the implementation of CITES, the GSLEP, the Snow Leopard National Action Plan, and activities related to combating IWT.
8. WD4C: Our final training was conducted in year 2 (February 2019), and we continue to liaise with WD4C via monthly updates from Customs and discussions of how to further develop the project in year 4. Additionally, our partnership has expanded to include work under the auspices of another grant to continue training wildlife detection dog teams in both Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan, including another in-person training in August 2020.

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 IWT.
10. EcoEnforce: In September 2018 in Kyrgyz Republic, EcoEnforce developed and conducted our [IWT ranger enforcement training](#) for Kyrgyz conservancy rangers. No further trainings were scheduled in year 3.
11. Other partners: Our local partners are all of the community-based conservancies we support. At the international level, the IUCN Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group (SULi) and Cat Specialist Group provide scientific counsel and improve the community-based governance model. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) is another key partner through the Central Asian Mammals Initiative—snow leopards and argali sheep are recognized as key species of concern. Finally, the [GSLEP Secretariat](#) relies on our work to meet goals.

3. Project progress

As detailed in our June 2019 change request, our project is no longer able to operate as hoped in Tajikistan for reasons beyond our control. An investigation by the Ministry of Justice resulted in charges against our organization's in-country branch. We successfully defended ourselves against most of the charges, but the court ordered our branch to close for minor administrative irregularities linked to the Country Program Director, who has since resigned. While we believe we could successfully appeal the mechanics of the decision, we opted to work through local organizations in the near-term, and reopen the branch NGO at a later date because the government agency that shut us down would review our registration.

Unfortunately, we were unable to pursue the option of working through a local organization as they are hesitant to associate with an organization that had been shut down by the government. We have worked in Tajikistan for a decade and are committed to continue our important work in the country once we can re-establish a branch office. In the meantime, we are conducting baseline research through the University of Central Asia's Mountain Societies Research Institute with our Country Program Director working as an independent researcher.

In Tajikistan, our involvement in promoting community-based hunting of snow leopard prey species was perceived as a threat by some private hunting concessions, leading to our closure, and led us to step back from activities perceived as involvement in hunting within community-based conservancies. Many of our IWT-funded tasks continue thanks to the conservancy capacity already developed by Panthera and the temporary partnership with ANCOT, as detailed in our application and approved [change request](#) (6 February 2018). We also had to distance ourselves from ANCOT due to the same perceived hunting conflict issues. As detailed by Joe Smith in the December 2018 meeting with IWT, Panthera has strived to move forward in both countries despite obstacles. Nonetheless, we cannot complete every planned task.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1: Five Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place and launching nature tourism; and 4 wildlife community-based conservancies in Tajikistan strengthened

Activity 1.1 The Guldara Conservancy replaced the sixth in Kyrgyz Republic per our approved change request submitted 1 October 2017. This activity is partially complete. Preliminary surveys and trainings were undertaken, but did not cover all conservancy lands. A gap in conservancy leadership slowed their development, impeding completion of the activity.

Activity 1.2 This activity is complete in all but the former Guldara Conservancy. Rangers there received some camera trap/snow leopard and ungulate monitoring training following preliminary surveys; please see restrictions for Guldara stated above in Activity 1.1.

Activity 1.4 In Kyrgyz Republic, the final camera trapping survey was set up in September 2019 when Panthera Conservation Scientist Shannon Kachel, an expert in snow leopard population ecology, was joined by Ilbirs Foundation partners and conservancy rangers to deploy 17 camera traps in the ~750km² Talas Conservancy and 10 in the ~180 km² Chon Kemin Conservancy. The cameras were collected in November 2019. Unfortunately, no snow leopards were photographed in either conservancy. The December 2017 – March 2018 baseline survey in Talas documented the presence of a single snow leopard, while in Chon

Kemin this exercise was the first systematic assessment of snow leopard presence and distribution. Shannon trained 5 rangers in Talas and 2 in Chon Kemin in camera trap deployment and its use for population monitoring.

Ungulate surveys were completed in 5 community-based conservancies (CBC's) in Kyrgyz Republic in 2019:

1. " CBC, 16-21 November we counted 226 ibex compared to 184 last year. CBC, 24-30 October we found 201 ibex; last year 165.
2. " CBC, 16-18 November we tallied 460 ibex, 42 more than the 418 ibex last year. Here, a herd of 192 male and female ibex was observed during the surveys.
3. "CBC in Bakai-Ata District of Talas Region, 10-12 November we found 294 ibex, 40 more than the first survey last year, and 28 argali. This is the only CBC we work with in Kyrgyz Republic where argali are found.
4. "CBC, 19-21 October: 247 roe deer (*Capreólus pygárgus*) were counted, 29 more than last year (218 in 2018). This year 41 red deer (*Cervus elaphus asiaticus*) were observed compared to 25 last year. Twenty-one red deer were observed in one herd, unusual for this region. The habitat in this conservancy is not as suitable for ibex; only 4 were observed this time compared to 20 in 2018. Surveyors were unable to reach all of the already limited amount of ibex habitat in the conservancy due to weather conditions. In 2019, 61 boar (*Sus scrofa*) were counted, compared to 22 in 2018 and 13 in 2017.

In Tajikistan, we completed this activity in one conservancy, Alichur ("Burgut"). Conservancies in Zong ("Yuz Palang") and Ravmeddara ("Parcham") completed these surveys on their own, since they can't get hunting permits without them.

Activity 1.5 Exchange meetings between conservancies in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic have primarily focused on non-consumptive nature tourism. In May 2019, we held the second meeting over 5 days in the Chon Kemin Conservancy, Kyrgyz Republic. Seven participants came from 3 conservancies in Tajikistan to join 12 from 4 conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic. We emphasized exchanging experiences and tourism skills, as well as leadership, management, and gender awareness. The final exchange meeting will be held in year 4.

We originally proposed 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and with support from staff and the Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan. In our approved 30 January 2020 [change request](#), we requested cancelling the fourth exchange meeting between the conservancies

Our original intent of the exchange meetings between conservancies in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic was to help Kyrgyz Republic conservancies learn directly from their Tajik counterparts management skills for community-based sustainable trophy hunting. With hunts in Kyrgyz Republic postponed until at least 2022 or 2023 (the year depends on the conservancy region), we will postpone the fourth previously scheduled meeting. We hope to find funding to hold a meeting closer to the start of hunts to help Kyrgyz conservancies succeed. The first 2 meetings discussed hunting and nature-based tourism opportunities and safety.

Activity 1.6 In Kyrgyz Republic, management plans for the 5 conservancies were finalized and enacted in November 2019. In Tajikistan, although we developed the plans with conservancies, prior to our closure, we are unable to assist the written process (Activity 1.4). Ilbirs Foundation will share the final management plans and lessons learned regarding the development process with conservancies at the final meeting in year 4 (Activity 1.5).

Activity 1.7 In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium that will last until 2022 or 2023 at the earliest.

Activity 1.8 In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium that will last until 2022 or 2023 at the earliest.

Activity 1.9 In Tajikistan, 5 women completed a 2-week intensive course in accounting for non-profit organization management, taught by an expert from the University of Central Asia. Three young women from 2 of the established conservancy villages attended: 2 from Bartang and 1 from Alichur. Since we could not include additional women from conservancy villages, we opened up the training to 2 women from our partner, women-run organization Zanon who works

closely with our French organization partner, Women Rockin' the Pamirs. For the past 4 years, Zanon has trained local female mountain guides in the Pamir region and last year they offered a tour to group of French tourists solely guided by female guides. Zanon needed to develop accounting skills to better manage their organization.

For the final course on computers and advanced English language, we selected a young conservationist from the Darvaz region who has worked in all the community-based conservancies we supported as well as the family owned conservancies in the area. Gholisho (Gholib) Mulloyorov grew up in one of the villages and has intimate understanding of snow leopard habitat and extensive knowledge of the cat's ungulate prey species, and has conducted camera trap and ungulate surveys in conservancies. By closely working with Gholib, we learned that he lacked computer proficiency and solid English language skills necessary to work independently with international conservationists and scientists, thereby limiting his professional growth. This investment in improving his computer and English skills will enable him to lead projects in the conservancies and fight the illegal wildlife trade in Tajikistan.

Activity 1.10 In Kyrgyz Republic, Ilbirs Foundation launched a pilot alternative income generation project in December 2019 in the Chon Kemin Conservancy: beekeeping for honey production with expert training provided by the Beekeepers Association of the Kyrgyz Republic. This enterprise will economically benefit 10 of the 14 conservancy households as well as contribute towards the conservancy projects such as anti-poaching patrols and providing salt for wild ungulates in winter. Training continued in January 2020 and anticipated first harvest will be later this year. Prior to the launch, we conducted participant income surveys.

Additionally, 3 of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies offer nature tourism opportunities including wildlife viewing, horseback riding, hiking, photography, cultural (showcasing national games), and "research tourism" (foreign tourists help set camera traps; this was done for 3 tourists in Min Teke in 2019 where they photographed a snow leopard). The Shumkar Tor Conservancy in Chon Kemin may offer agro tourism as the honey project develops. The remaining 2 conservancies, Janaidar in Alai Valley and Chegetei Too in Talas, are more remote to access, making tourism opportunities more difficult, but they are working to promote with assistance from Ilbirs Foundation for 2020.

In 2019, Chon Kemin, the Shumkar Tor Conservancy had ~400 tourists including both Kyrgyz Republic (the capital of Bishkek is just a ~1.5-2 hour drive away) and foreign nationals from Canada, China, France, and Australia. In 2018, they hosted ~250 tourists. The Bek Tosot Conservancy hosted 2 groups of 10 tourists in 2018, and 20 again in 2019 – in 2019, tourists came from Switzerland, France, and Germany. Min Teke Conservancy hosted 10 tourists in 2018 and 15 in summer 2019.

To attract tourists, Ilbirs Foundation is advertising via social media, including using clips from a video shared by the NGO Plateau Perspectives. Conservancy chairmen track tourist numbers and report to Ilbirs. Income generated is spread amongst conservancy members via distribution of services – one family will provide horses while another prepares meals, another hosts, etc. Horse rentals are GBP ~12/day and overnight room and board is GBP ~20/day.

In Tajikistan, this activity is completed. From 15 February through 1 March, 2 and 4 international tourists went to Alichur and Darvos, respectively, for a snow leopard viewing tour.

Output 2: Income from hunts and/or 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

Activity 2.1 In Kyrgyz Republic, the extended government-mandated moratorium on hunting will delay the first hunts until 2022/23. In this country, unlike Tajikistan, there are no "big money" ungulate trophy species like argali. Foreign hunters pay £ for ibex and of this, £covers the State Agency permit, leaving £. Once conservancy rangers are paid (salaries in Kyrgyz Republic are higher than in Tajikistan), there is little money remaining for community development projects. Paying the conservancy rangers will be critical as they are currently volunteering their time. For these reasons, business plans detailing how hunting proceeds should be distributed have not been developed for the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies.

However, the management plans provide a solid framework for these to be developed once hunting begins.

To provide incentives for conservancies through income from sustainable natural resource based livelihoods, we provided funding in grant year 3 to conduct anti-poaching for 2 rangers and 2 horses (horse rentals and homestay fees). They have provided monthly reports and photos of these patrols. In January 2020, the Chegetei Too Conservancy rangers in Talas rescued a young male snow leopard who had been shot and badly injured. It is recovering in Bishkek, but due to the severity of his injuries, he cannot be released back into the wild. The shooter remains unknown. Between 1 May 2019 and 31 March 2020, there were 5 reported incidents, including the injured snow leopard. The 2 incidences in Shumkar-Tor Conservancy near Bishkek involved individuals with guns who were not actively hunting but were approached and educated about the conservancy. There was one false alarm, and in Chegetei Too, 10 days after the snow leopard was found, 3 men were taken to the Bakai Ata police station and arrested after being found poaching partridges. They paid fines and were released.

Additionally, with the launch of the pilot beekeeping project in Chon Kemin (Activity 1.10), participants signed an agreement in December 2019 that 10% of their earnings will be used to fund ongoing conservancy work (buying salt for wild ungulates in winter, horse-related expenses, more binoculars, etc.), while the rest of the communal money is to be used to maintain and expand the beekeeping operation.

In Tajikistan, these percentages are agreed upon and conservancies are spending proceeds on community development projects, as reported in our previous annual reports. However, this is not formalized. Like Activity 1.6, we hope ANCOT will pursue formalization at annual meetings based on plans adopted by the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies, which will be shared at the final exchange meeting (Activity 1.5, 1.6).

Activity 2.2 In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable due to the hunting moratorium until 2022/23. In Tajikistan, hunts did happen in grant years 1, 2 and 3.

Activity 2.3 This activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium that will last until at least 2022 or 2023 in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Activity 2.4 In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium that will last until 2022 or 2023. In Tajikistan, it was too risky for us to complete these surveys (Activity 1.4). For this same reason, we are unable to gather data for Indicator 2.4, Employment survey conducted at regular conservancy meetings.

Activity 2.8 Tajik Women in Conservation (TWC) is a Tajikistan-specific activity. We have one remaining training program scheduled for summer 2020.

Output 3: Conflict with snow leopards reduced across the wider Pamir-Alai region, positively impacting 80% of concerned pastoralists (of which 40% are women)

Activity 3.1 In year 3, we investigated the status of the 8 corrals which we reported to IWT as incomplete at the end of year 2 in Tajikistan. However, we were incorrectly informed that only the roofs remained to be completed. We conducted an investigation and learned that while 15 corrals were completed in 2017 (1 each in Yazgulom, Vanj and Ranglkul, 2 in Pshart Valley, 4 in Murghab and 6 in Bartang), in 2018 only 4 corrals were done (1 each in Yazgulom, Chartern, Alichur, and Nisur) leaving 10 more to be completed in 2020:

- 1 in Darmorakht: walls are up, roof materials need to be completed for 40m² corral
- 4 in Roshorf: need cement to reinforce roofs and doors; one corral needs wood to finish roof
- 1 in Yapshorf: corral built but needs wood and wire mesh
- 2 in Madiyan: corrals were started but materials delivered were insufficient to complete them. We need to provide more wood and wire mesh so they can build walls and complete the roof.
- 1 in Ishkashim: materials were not provided – we need to deliver the materials
- 1 in Murgab: not enough wire mesh was provided to complete the roof

There is also a possibility that we may be able to complete a 15th corral in Alichur. At the end of the grant, 29 corrals will have been completed (15 corrals in 2017 plus 14 completed in 2020); 30 if we add a second corral in Alichur in 2020. We originally planned to build 20 corrals.

Activity 3.3 This activity is Kyrgyz Republic-specific. In August 2019, 4 Peace Corps volunteers conducted English language training for the students of grades 6-10 in the Tar-Suu village of Chon-Kemin plus 2 children of members of the Burgut Conservancy in Alichur, Tajikistan. Although originally only for Kyrgyz Republic, please see year 2 report Activity 2.7 for educational English language activities provided to children in Ravmed Village, Tajikistan.

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

Activity 4.2 All dogs in the program receive ongoing training with their handlers at the main Kyrgyz Customs campus in Bishkek and on-site. Advisors include Customs Service canine trainers Mr. Alexey Tarasenko, Mr. Evgenii Mashenko, and Mrs. Natalya Gladkova.

Activity 4.3 The dog trainers check in monthly via reports, photos and videos (), and we can forward any questions they have to Working Dogs for Conservation for off-site support if needed.

The Kyrgyz Customs Service currently has 9 wildlife detection dogs. To date, 8 of these 9 dogs are fully trained to detect wildlife scents, including snow leopard, ibex, argali, saiga, and saker falcon. The 9th dog is a recent recruit almost fully trained. All dogs continue their regular, daily training on detecting wildlife scents.

Additionally, the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is now adding a wildlife detection dog team to their toolkit. Once trained within the customs service with our cadre of dogs, the team will be stationed at an “Eco Post” in south-eastern Kyrgyzstan, where agents check for illegal transportation of wildlife derivatives. This expansion of the program to another government agency is thanks to the training initially started with IWT Defra funding.

Activity 4.4 We are no longer able to develop this network in Tajikistan (Activity 1.4), although through ongoing surveys (Question 3.2, Output 4.1), we have made strong local connections and gained information regarding snow leopards attack on livestock and their capture. Also, biweekly, from December 2019 to March 2020, we searched local and Russian social media outlets for information related to predator attacks on livestock or sale of predator-related products. Results revealed that people do report some of these activities on social media. For example, 2 illegal hunting activities were documented on Instagram, and almost all snow leopards attacks and subsequent live-captured cats were posted on Facebook and Instagram. The information collected corroborated 5 of the 8 local reports regarding captured/relocated or subsequently deceased snow leopards, and 2 ungulate poaching cases.

Activity 4.5 The network remains informal. The ~100 conservancy rangers (~50 in Kyrgyz Republic and ~50 in Tajikistan) and their families act as an anti-poaching network. With an average of 5 relatives per ranger, this is roughly 500 individuals. In Kyrgyz Republic, conservancy rangers have created an informal association among conservancies to share ideas to improve their work. In 2020, they plan to formally register the organization. The chairman is Ilbirs Foundation staff member Atai Oskonbaev.

Activity 4.7 The National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) is under the jurisdiction of GSLEP and there has not been any movement on this front. Panthera staff attended the first NEST meeting in November 2017. The second meeting scheduled for May 2019 did not happen. Meeting arrangements are the responsibility of the State Agency for the Environment, and if/when they convene another meeting, Ilbirs Foundation will participate.

Activity 4.8 We are not able to conduct this in Tajikistan without a legal entity.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Per approved change request submitted in October 2017, this Output was revised 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.”

This is completed in Tajikistan for the 4 existing conservancies, where formalization of ANCOT (formerly H&CAT) strengthened conservancies and created a support network. ANCOT's 2020

annual meeting notice was posted on Instagram, reporting involvement of 10 conservancies discussing the future of community-based conservancies and sustainable use of natural resources. ANCOT announced a new conservancy was launched in the Mastchohi Kuhu Region of Northern Tajikistan (the others are all in the eastern portion of the country). Meanwhile, progress is slow in Kyrgyz Republic due to the government-mandated hunting moratorium extended to 2022 or 2023. We are developing alternative options, primarily nature tourism, and have launched a sustainable, income generating beekeeping/honey production pilot project in one conservancy.

1.1 Completed in year 1. Please see the following spreadsheet listing the breakdown of the 3289 km² that are protected from poachers. In year 3, management plans were drafted, revised and adopted for all 5 conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic.

1.2 Completed in year 1 and 2, with exception of the defunct Guldara Conservancy in Tajikistan.

1.3 There is no evidence of poaching of ibex, argali or snow leopard in the Kyrgyz conservancies or the conservancies in Tajikistan with the exception of one snow leopard found shot in January 2020. The Kyrgyz rangers of Chegetei Too Conservancy rescued the cat. Kyrgyz conservancy rangers have provided monthly reports of their anti-poaching patrols from April 2019 through March 2020. There were 3 incidences of poachers stopped from targeting partridges in 2 of the 5 Kyrgyz conservancies.

Output 2: In Tajikistan, progress is on track with hunts and community projects, and the launch of the first snow leopard viewing tours in 2019. We do not have updates for these activities although 2 snow leopard tours were offered in early 2020 (Question 3.1, Activity 1.4). Progress is delayed in Kyrgyz Republic due to the extended hunting moratorium. However, we have encouraged development of nature tourism opportunities in 4 of 5 Kyrgyz conservancies (with plans to develop the 5th in 2020), and launched a pilot beekeeping/honey production project in Shumkar-Tor Conservancy (Question 3, Activity 1.10).

2.1 Business plans are included in the Kyrgyz Republic conservancy management plans adopted in 2019 (Question 3.1, Activity 2.1), although distribution of hunting proceeds will not be decided until closer to 2022/23 due to the moratorium. Conservancy management plans define management planning and structure, and describe conservancy location and environment including wildlife and local communities, infrastructure, tourism and hunting opportunities, conservation threats, goals (including protection, research, capacity building, public awareness, income-generating activities, and sustainable hunting), monitoring plans and budget. Although the conservancies in Tajikistan have agreed-upon protocols for funding projects from wildlife revenues, plans are not formalized in writing. We are no longer able to assist them, but Ibirs Foundation will provide management planning and development advice during the final exchange meeting in year 4 (Question 3.1, Activities 1.5, 1.6).

2.2 & 2.3 Completed in Tajikistan (2.1, above) but not possible in Kyrgyz Republic for duration of the grant (Question 3.1, Activities 2.1 & 2.2) because the income generated to undertake community development projects is insufficient without hunting revenues. However, current efforts by conservancy members include poaching patrols and providing supplemental salt for ungulates in the winter. They pay for these supplements themselves and cover patrol expenses, although we did support some patrolling expenses in 2019 thanks to IWT funds.

2.4 At the outset, we aimed to train the same cadre of women for the duration of the 3-year pilot project. Due to family commitments, only a few women were able to attend more than once. As a result, we end up repeating the wildlife and backcountry guide skills in each training session. However, all TWC trainees will be able to act as guides. The final training will be offered in summer 2020 to continue to increase opportunities for these women.

Output 3: Fifteen corrals were completed in 2017 and 4 in 2018/2019. We will finish 10-11 in 2020. The total surpasses our goal of 20 completed corrals (Question 3.1, Activity 3.1). The new corrals are functioning well with no losses at night and no reported retaliatory killing in project communities. More corrals or other mitigation measures are needed in other communities in the Pamirs, and, beginning with surveys of communities with and without predator-proof corrals, we will study how to accomplish this in 2020.

3.1 (Output 3, above)

3.2

3.3 & 3.4 are new Outputs that were approved in our 30 January 2020 change request that will be addressed in year 4.

Output 4:

4.1 In the Kyrgyz conservancies, over 240 people are aware of anti-poaching efforts. Since November 2019 in Tajikistan, we have been carrying out human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and carnivore occupancy surveys (more than 270 to date) with local people across the western Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. We are learning about the current severity of HWC, mapping HWC hotspots, and learning how cats may be entering the illegal wildlife trade. Survey results will help us to design and implement projects to stop this trend.

4.2

4.4 Trainings completed in year 1.

4.5 New Output approved in our 30 January 2020 change request for year 4.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Due to issues raised in our change request form submitted 7 January 2019 and subsequent questions from IWT sent on 25 February, we have updated our Outcome statement to the following: Recover snow leopard and prey populations, and improve livelihoods of subsistence pastoralists through: 1) sustainable, community-managed mountain ungulate trophy hunting and elimination of livestock depredation (Tajikistan); 2) enacting alternative sustainable natural resource-based income generation options (Kyrgyz Republic); 3) reducing snow leopard and prey poaching and IWT (Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic).

Despite substantial setbacks for our organization in Tajikistan, we are making quantifiable strides towards achieving our desired Outcome.

1) We have achieved this goal and activities are ongoing via support of the conservancy association we started, H&CAT (now ANCOT). We have eliminated livestock depredation in the communities where we constructed predator-proof corrals. The conservancies continue to conduct ungulate surveys on their own and with support from their association, though not as frequently. We sent 3 trainees from conservancy villages to accounting classes to improve financial tracking know-how in the communities. We will rely on ANCOT to provide continued financial tracking support in communities. While we would rather be the lead organization ensuring conservancies establish formal business plans with proper community consultations and due diligence, ANCOT will instead provide this technical support. To support and follow this process, we will share lessons learned in Kyrgyz Republic regarding the process of writing and adopting management plans, and share drafts of those management plans with conservancies in Tajikistan (Question 3.1, Activities 1.5, 1.6).

2) This is ongoing in Kyrgyz Republic, and supported in Tajikistan through the Tajik Women in Conservation (TWC) program to train young women to be mountain guides. We have one remaining training program scheduled for TWC trainees in summer 2020. Exchange meetings between conservancies in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic have focused on sharing ideas for non-consumptive nature tourism, including yak and horse riding.

3) This has been successful in that the conservancies have the capacity to prevent poaching on their lands, thereby reducing availability of parts for the IWT. This is true for conservancies in both Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

We anticipate achieving the Outcome by end of the grant period (30 September 2020). Income from trophy hunting in Tajikistan exceeded expectations. With the stable political situation in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic and recognition of the High Pamirs as a renowned hunting and nature tourism destination, income from nature tourism can play an important role, demonstrated by the first snow leopard viewing tour in Tajikistan in 2019 and two more in 2020 (Question 3, Activity 1.10 and year 2 report). Predator-proof corrals eliminated conflict in affected areas. The detection dogs appear to have halted illegal transport of ungulate trophies between Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, but we can't measure non-detection. Achieving

gender equity through the TWC Initiative remains a challenge to secure positive impacts for young women in these conservative rural communities.

0.1 Household incomes in the 4 established conservancies in Tajikistan have increased substantially through sustainable ungulates hunting and nature tourism (Question 3.1, Activities 1.4). We cannot quantify specific income changes due to our inability to work directly with the conservancies. We conducted baseline income surveys in Kyrgyz Republic in 2019 and exploring income generation options with the conservancies in lieu of hunting, including the launch of a beekeeping pilot project in December 2019 (Question 3.1, Activity 2.1).

0.2 The presence of snow leopards has been documented in 3 of 5 conservancies thanks to ongoing anti-poaching patrols (Question 3.1, Activity 2.1). In Ming Teke, snow leopards were photographed once in 2018 and once in 2019. Rangers observed a mother with 2 cubs in 2019. We photographed a snow leopard in Chegetei-Too in 2018 and rangers photographed tracks in February 2019, and paw prints were observed in Bek-Tosot in 2019.

0.3 We are on track for the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (please see summary spreadsheet). Over the 3 years of the IWT grant, ibex counts increased 169% in Bek-Tosot, 175% in Min Teke, and 111% in Janaidar. Chegetei Too Conservancy was only surveyed twice, showing an increase of 16% between 2018-2019. For argali, which are only found in the Chegetei Too conservancy, counts increased by 180% over the grant period. Roe deer, red deer and wild boar are only found in Shumkar-Tor; counts increased 29%, 24%, and 369% respectively over the 3 years. The only decrease noted was recorded in ibex - 89% - in Shumkar-Tor, from 35 to 4 individuals. However, in 2019 observers were not able to reach most of the limited amount of ibex habitat in the conservancy during the surveys due to heavy snow, so they are not confident in their total count of individuals (Question 3.1, Activity 1.4).

These raw counts suggest that wild ungulate numbers are increasing in the conservancies. However, the monitoring methods sacrificed short-term sensitivity in favour of logistical ease, meaning, the methods are simple to implement, but sensitive only to long-term population trends (over a period >5 years). While monitoring results are very encouraging, these raw counts may be affected by multiple factors not related to the size of ungulate populations, including weather and year-to-year differences of survey effort. In particular, the total surveyed area of different habitat types varied between years. For example, by accounting for greater survey area in Bek-Tosot the percentage increase in ibex counts there was not 169% but rather 59%, and in Shumkar-Tor greater total area and shifting habitat-types surveyed in later years may explain nearly all of the observed increases in red deer and roe deer. On the other hand, counts of ibex and argali in Min-Teke, Janaidar, and Chegetei-Too, and wild boar in Shumkar-Tor, show dramatic increases even when differences in surveyed areas are accounted for. Available evidence supports the conclusion that conservation efforts are helping to recover wild ungulate populations.

As noted, it is not possible to document populations in the now defunct Tajik Guldara Conservancy although we did conduct initial surveys across part of their territory.

0.4 We are facing difficulties with this MI given the 4 conservancies' social conservatism. In these Sunni areas, women are not very visible outside of their households. We do not think we will reach this number, but are confident that we will have trained at least 70 women in various basic tourism skills including hosting, backcountry and hunting guiding, and essential English language skills (~40 in Kyrgyz Republic and 29 in Tajikistan, 18 in year 1, 11 in year 2). This number will increase in year 4 following our final TWC training.

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 Tajik conservancies, poaching is under control and the communities are supportive of the profitable hunting program which benefits conservancy rangers and the

communities as a whole. In the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies, no poaching by local people was detected over the past year, although it is unknown who shot the snow leopard in Chegetei Too. The 3 men arrested for poaching partridges came from outside the conservancy. Locals and visitors are increasingly aware which lands are being patrolled by conservancy members. Conservancies here are anxious to start sustainable hunting programs but understand they must wait until 2022/23 due to the government moratorium.

Assumption 1: The relevant 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. This assumption is not relevant in Kyrgyz Republic with the hunting moratorium. In Tajikistan, hunts are continuing in the conservancies so authorities are assigning hunts to the communities although we do not know to what extent (Question 3.1, Activity 1.4).

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

Comments: There were no issues during years 1-3 of the grant.

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

Comments: In Tajikistan as of year 2, conservancies were complying with agreed-upon distribution of hunting profits in Tajikistan, but management plans still need to be written. We do not have access to updated information for year 3 (Question 3.1, Activity 1.4). In year 3, management plans were drafted, revised and adopted for all 5 conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic. Although there were no hunting profits to invest in Kyrgyz Republic, the conservancies still voluntarily patrolled their lands for poachers and purchased salt for wild ungulates over the winter.

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

Comments: In Tajikistan in year 2, community projects were implemented by locals in cooperation with local businesses for the benefit of local families, schools, and hospitals.

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

Comments: ANCOT attended the Wild Sheep Foundation show in the US in January 2020 where they sold many hunts for the next season. Two snow leopard viewing tours were offered in early 2020.

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

Comments: The communities are eager to have predator-proofed corrals and avoid loss of income to predators.

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

Comments: Overall yes, although we have not been able to revisit all communities to be sure of maintenance. Communities actively want to protect their livelihoods.

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

Comments: Overall yes, because snow leopards are an important species, locals like to communicate their views and report observations and problems.

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

Comments: Yes, this was demonstrated through their continued addition of new dogs and handlers to the program, regular deployment of dog/handler teams, and desire to expand to include the Torugart border post in their coverage (Question 3.1, Activity 4.3).

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 since informants are few and in Kyrgyz Republic, often the identities are kept protected by the conservancy members themselves acting as conduit for intelligence. In Tajikistan, we do not keep data on informants on computers in the country – the data is only kept on computers in the US.

3.5 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 wild ungulates are 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. These alternative livelihoods include tourism and legal hunting, a community's most significant income generation opportunity outside of animal husbandry. A 2016 TRAFFIC report indicates that ~400 snow leopards are killed annually 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 employment and revenues, incentivizing community engagement. Low-volume, high-value ungulate hunting and nature tourism provide significant revenue opportunities for 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 more detail):

- Stopping wildlife contraband from entering the IWT by building predator-proof [corrals](#) that mitigate depredation of livestock and related retaliatory killing of cats;
- Stopping IWT in process: wildlife detection dog Orion's (now retired) contribution to [seizure](#) of ungulate parts at the Bordobo border post in 2017;
- Preventing retaliatory killing of cats who have killed livestock in project villages in Tajikistan thanks to our informant network and our staff presence and reputation;
- Establishing an institutional framework for wildlife detection dog use in the region: our dogs were the first 4 wildlife detection dogs in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Institutionalizing combatting of IWT with [training](#) of government agencies and rangers;
- Demonstrating to local people that [conservation tangibly improves livelihoods through the financial incentives from trophy hunting](#) and more gradually through [eco-tourism](#), thereby providing non-IWT alternatives for income; and
- Providing income stability by stopping livestock depredation via predator-proof [corrals](#).

Progress towards relevant indicators from logframe:

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: completed.

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%) Our extensive network of conservancy and project community informants indicate that poaching on our project lands has not occurred. This value is close to zero, assuming that some poaching may go undetected.

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: unattainable in Tajikistan but completed in Kyrgyz Republic (Question 3, Activity 2.1), although plans will be shared with Tajik conservancies at final exchange meeting to encourage their development.

2.2 & 2.3 Community livelihood improvement projects approved by year 1 in Tajikistan and year 3 for the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic (baseline = 16) Accomplished in Tajikistan as reported in year 1 and year 2; delayed in Kyrgyz Republic as explained in change request. Conservancies continue to fund some patrols and purchase salt for wild ungulates in winter.

2.4 30% more sustainable use and nature tourism dependent jobs, of which at least half are held by women. This includes 10 women who 1) conduct multi-day tours, 2) join the pool of guides that PECTA offers to international tour operators and individual tourists, and 3) join the pool of local guides who can accompany tourists for trophy hunting (baseline = 12). We don't have a final number of jobs created in the Tajik conservancies because ANCOT will not provide that information. In year 1, we trained 18 women in mountain guiding and in year 2, 11 women in mountain and/or hunting guiding. The year 3 TWC training was postponed until summer 2020, year 4. We trained 3 women from conservancy villages in detailed accounting courses in year 3 (Question 3.1, Activity 1.9). Ten households in Shumkar-Tor Conservancy (out of 14 conservancy households) in Kyrgyz Republic will benefit from the beekeeping project launched in December 2019. In 2019, 3 of the 5 conservancies provided nature tourism opportunities to 435 tourists with plans to expand to all 5 conservancies in 2020. We do not have data regarding the number of people involved in providing the tourism or amount of money raised.

3.1 Fifteen predator-proof corrals built in 2017 protect ~10,000 sheep/goats for ~21 households. The 4 corrals completed in 2018/19 and 10 currently underway will benefit a minimum of 70 households and ~400 sheep and goats per corral for a total ~5600 animals. Altogether, ~15,600 livestock will be protected for ~91 households (Question 3, Activity 3.1).

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. Goal reached in first year of project.

4.1 Transboundary anti-poaching local informant network in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan established by Year 2 that involved 240 people around the conservancies and communities with predator-proofed corrals (baseline=120). The network is informal and could be expanded and formalized as reported in Question 3, Activity 4.4.

4.2 Wildlife detection dog units (4 dogs/handlers) 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). Units are trained in saiga and saker falcon, and are operational part time at the Bordobo border post and Manas International Airport, but not yet at Torugart as reported in Question 3, Activity 4.3, year 1 and year 2 reports. Torugart deployment anticipated for 2020.

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).

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) Completed in year 1.

4. Project support to the IWT Challenge Fund Objectives and commitments under the London Declarations and Kasane Statement

Our project supports two objectives of the IWT Challenge Fund:

1. Developing sustainable livelihoods for community economic development, to benefit people directly affected by IWT:
 - a. Hunts are being conducted by the conservancies in Tajikistan, but we do not have details regarding their proceeds for the past year (Question 3.1, Activities 1.4 & 2.2). At least in years 1 and 2, these hunts were sustainable because the number of government-issued permits was based on credible ungulate surveys conducted with our support.

- b. Launched a pilot bee keeping/honey production project in Kyrgyz Republic with potential to benefit 10 of 14 conservancy families in one conservancy (Question 3.1, Activity 1.10).
 - c. Encouraged further development of nature tourism in exchange meeting between Tajik and Kyrgyz conservancies (Question 3.1, Activity 1.5).
2. Strengthening law enforcement:
- a. We conducted a conservancy ranger enforcement training workshop in Kyrgyz Republic in September 2018.
 - b. The detection dog program strengthens the Kyrgyz Customs Service and deters IWT.

Our project also contributes towards the commitments listed in the London Declaration on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, specifically:

- Item #12: This statement sums up the goals and anticipated outcome of our project.
- Item XVIII: We support community-based conservancies and the development of sustainable, nature-based tourism, and fighting poverty through predator-proof corrals (Question 3, Activities 1.9-1.10, 2.2, 2.8, 3.1).
- Item XIX: We support this item by helping conservancies secure rights to protect wildlife on their lands and achieve official recognition by the government, teaching rangers how to monitor and protect their lands, encouraging anti-poaching patrols, and our TWC program (Question 3.1, Activities 1.4, 2.1, annual report year 2).
- Item XX: We help conservancy rangers conduct anti-poaching patrols, maintain an informal informant network, and involved locals in the counter-IWT training for government staff (Question 3.1, Activities 1.5, 2.1, 4.4, 4.5, annual report year 2).

5. Impact on species in focus

The project is reducing poaching pressure on snow leopard, argali, and ibex. Population changes for species such as snow leopards are not reliably detectable across the short timeline of this project. Conversely, ungulate species such as argali reproduce quickly with conservation measures in place. After one year of ranger monitoring, our surveys found nearly 1.5 times the number of ungulates in the previously established Tajik conservancies. Once prey populations rebound, snow leopards are more likely to return to previously prey-depleted areas. We documented an increase from 6 to 10 snow leopards after 3 years in 1 conservancy in Tajikistan (baseline data collected prior to IWT grant). At year 3, it is too early to detect snow leopard population increases. Wild ungulate surveys consistently found higher numbers of prey in most conservancies following conservation interventions (Question 3, Activity 1.4).

Human-wildlife conflict is the primary reason for snow leopard poaching. Panthera continues to document a 100% reduction of livestock-snow leopard conflict and retaliatory killing in participating communities after predator-proofing livestock corrals. In year 1, we constructed 15 corrals with no retaliatory killing of snow leopards or other predators reported in the project sites. In year 2, we constructed 4 corrals, and 10 more are in various stages of completion, to be finished in 2020 (Question 3.1, Activity 3.1). This number of corrals (29) surpasses the 20 corrals committed to for the IWT project. No retaliatory killing has been reported in project villages, nor have snow leopards or other predators attacked livestock since construction.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

In the UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) for 2018, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic rank 125 and 122 out of 189 countries, respectively. The communities in the project area are geographically isolated and are limited largely to economic opportunities based on agriculture and livestock production, tourism, and handicrafts. In the Kyrgyz Republic, we hoped to directly benefit 8,000 individuals (including 3,500 women and 1,400 children; equivalent to 800 households) in 6 communities in the Alai Valley, Chon Kemin Region, and Aksu Village. The scale of livelihood benefits is unobtainable within the timeline of this grant due to the hunting moratorium (Question 3.1, Activity 2.1). As of year 2, we knew that we benefitted 3,000 individuals (including 1,000 women and 400 children; 300 households) in 18 communities in the Pamirs in Tajikistan via income, infrastructure, and education.

In Tajikistan, community-based organizations now protect wildlife across 3,000 km². In the Pamirs, 21 foreign hunters legally harvested 20 ibex in 4 conservancies during the hunting

seasons of 2012/13-2016/17, earning £80,360. In 2017/18 alone, foreign hunters legally harvested 15 ibex and one argali sheep, earning £54,000. Forty jobs were created, and former poachers have become rangers. In 2018/19, 23 ibex were taken by foreign hunters bringing in a gross income of £ (annual report year 2). We have no data for year 3 (Question 3.1, Activity 1.4). The hunting moratorium in the Kyrgyz Republic will slow progress until 2022/23 and will not allow us to meet goals there during this IWT grant cycle. However, we are protecting 3,289 km² across the 5 conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic.

In Tajikistan, we are reducing the economic loss and killing of snow leopards due to livestock depredation by predator-proofing corrals. We are developing information-gathering mechanisms for snow leopard contraband entering the IWT, although we are limited in implementation until we reopen our office. In year 1 of the project, we constructed 15 corrals, protecting 10,000 sheep. In year 2 of the project, we completed 4 corrals and 10 more are in various stages of completion but will be finished in years 3 and 4. These additional corrals will benefit at least 70 households, housing approximately 400 sheep and goats per corral (total ~5600 animals; Question 3.1, Activity 3.1).

Looking directly at Measurable Indicators from our logframe:

2.1 Community livelihood projects were approved year 1 in Tajikistan.

2.4 Training of Tajik women as guides is ongoing (Question 3.1, Activity 2.8).

3.1 We have completed 19 of the 20 planned predator-proof corrals in 5 communities in Tajikistan. We will finish 10 more in 2020 for a total of 29 corrals (Question 3.1, Activity 3.1).

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

We anticipate direct gender equality impacts from our project. Two Logframe Measurable Indicators (MI) apply directly to women. MI 2.4 increases the number of sustainable use and nature tourism dependent jobs to train and include women. Through the Tajik Women in Conservation (TWC) Initiative in year 1, 18 women from Bartang Valley and Alichur Village completed guide and ranger training workshops. Some learned wilderness skills and others learned hunting guide skills, while a few were able to participate in both workshops. In year 2, 11 women benefited from a similar mix of training (annual report year 2). We anticipated training the same cohort of women over a period of 3 years. Household obligations frequently prevent young women from regularly attending trainings and, while we are glad to be able to reach more individuals, we adapted our 2018 trainings to emphasize basic skills.

In year 1, we completed Activities 2.5 and 2.6, conducting an information campaign for women about the opportunity to participate in the 3-day initiation trek for 9 women from the Alichur conservancy and 9 from Bartang. This opportunity allowed local women to get into the mountains and learn about tourism opportunities. A trekking guide training session was conducted in year 2 and included both wilderness and hunting skills as described in Question 3.1, Activity 2.7. Final training, Activity 2.8, will be in summer 2020.

MI 3.1 predator-proof corrals maintained by women: Nineteen corrals were constructed in the first two years of this project and are maintained by women (Question 3.1, Activity 3.1).

Activity 1.9 Tourism management and accounting training for women was conducted in 5 established conservancies in Tajikistan in year 1 (annual report year 1), and for 25 women and 23 men in some of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies (annual report year 2). In Tajikistan in 2020, we provided more intensive accounting training to 3 women from 2 conservancy villages as well as women in our partner organization Zanon who are also training female mountain guides (Question 3.1, Activity 1.9).

8. Monitoring and evaluation

We evaluate project success by measuring local communities' change in income opportunities through the wildlife-based economy, reduction of illegal activities, and increase in snow leopards and their prey. Measures are interrelated as tourists and hunters are attracted to areas with higher wildlife densities; strengthening of a wildlife-based economy reduces incentive for illegal activities; and enforcement of wildlife laws increases wildlife abundance.

Our outputs are directly related to the overall project outcome of recovering snow leopard and prey populations. Output 1 is demonstrated in Panthera's previous work with conservancies in Central Asia to increase prey numbers. Year 3's ungulate surveys confirmed an overall

increase from year 1's baseline in [Kyrgyz Republic](#). Output 2 reduces the need for locals to engage in illegal activities (e.g., hunting and trafficking of threatened species) because they will have viable, sustainable alternatives whose success is incompatible with IWT. There are delays in achieving such income levels in Kyrgyz Republic due to extension of the hunting moratorium. Output 3, reducing conflict with pastoralists, eliminates retaliatory killings in areas where we have built predator-proof corrals. Output 4, reducing illegal smuggling across the Tajikistan/Kyrgyz Republic border, resulted in seizures of illegal trophies. This has expanded to cover the Manas International Airport and will be expanded to the Kyrgyz border with China in 2020. We anticipate deterrence of smuggling attempts and illegal hunting of threatened ungulates and snow leopards.

We have adhered to M&E plan this year with some challenges ([change request June 2019](#)). Lax initial reporting by a former staff member has proved extremely frustrating as we have uncovered inaccuracies in previously reported corral numbers. We maintained constant communication via email, Skype and phone as well as in-person gatherings whenever possible and through monthly reports. We had to adjust Dr. Howard Quigley's role in the project as he has been unavailable. Project Leader Dr. Tom McCarthy has led evaluation efforts.

9. Lessons learnt

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

Issues raised during review of our year 2 annual report were to be addressed in this report:

1. In Kyrgyz Republic, progress has been slow due to the extended government-mandated moratorium on hunting which will reportedly last until at least 2021. While the project states it is exploring alternative income generating opportunities, no further details are provided. Response: Please see Question 3.1, Activity 1.10, launch of pilot alternative income generation project in December 2019 in the Chon Kemin Conservancy: bee keeping for honey production and that 3 of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies are offering nature tourism opportunities with 435 tourists hosted in 2019.
2. No baseline exists for indicator 0.1 and an alternative income source to hunting in the Kyrgyz Republic has not been identified. This renders the indicator arbitrary. A further change request may be required in 2019 when baselines have been established and alternative income sources identified. Response: Baseline income surveys were conducted in Kyrgyz Republic for all 5 conservancies so we have a baseline before hunting launches in 2022 or 2023, and also prior to the launch of the pilot bee keeping/honey production project (Question 3.3, 01).
3. The report states that, before the project office in Tajikistan was closed, communication with project villages was maintained using cell phones to monitor corral breaches and retaliatory killings. Now the office is closed, how is monitoring undertaken? Response: We can only monitor human-wildlife conflict through unofficial connections made during range-wide surveys in late 2019/early 2020 (Question 3.2, output 4.1) and biweekly checks across social media channels from September 2019 through March 2020 (Question 3.1, Activity 4.4). Once we are reopened, we plan to create a cell phone hotline for such reports. We will first need to formulate an agreement with the government to collect data on predator attacks and share that data regularly. We will then run a notice on local Badhakshan television stating who we are and that we are collecting data on predator attacks together with the government, and if you have had predator attacks to please call this number.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

12. Sustainability and legacy

Our planned exit strategy remains the same, only delayed to 30 September 2020 (via approved January 2019 [change request](#)). The legacy of this project will be sustained in a number of ways. Panthera intends a long-term commitment to maintain and expand our presence in the region to support all of the aspects related to this grant. We are investigating how to reopen our

local office in Tajikistan. Once we are reopened, we will initially focus on eliminating human-wildlife conflict between herders and snow leopards (and other predators). As time passes, we anticipate that we will be able to once again carefully collaborate with ANCOT and conservancies in monitoring snow leopard and ungulate populations. We will continue to collaborate with Ilbirs Foundation and the conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic as they draw closer to launching hunts in 2022/23. Secondly, the conservancies and their respective governance structures, including ANCOT in Tajikistan, are on sound footing. They will be able to continue supporting social, economic and ecological advances initiated through our program.

The project has a high profile in both Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic. Perhaps *too* high in Tajikistan as our successful efforts with community-based hunting drew the consternation of private enterprises and HAT. In Kyrgyz Republic, the flagship wildlife detection dog program remains a source of pride and is expanding – through another grant obtained by Panthera and partnership with the State Agency, a wildlife detection dog team will be trained and deployed at a wildlife checkpoint to deter illegal hunting and trade.

13. IWT Challenge Fund Identity

We regularly recognized the UK government as funder of this project—please see presentation, poster, and blog from year 2. We kept a low profile this year considering our situation in Tajikistan and developing relationship with Ilbirs Foundation.

14. Safeguarding

Panthera considers the protection of potentially vulnerable directly employed by the project or associated through partnerships and operational activity as high priority.

Panthera has a strict, no-tolerance policy prohibiting harassment and discrimination, including protecting Panthera employees from workplace harassment by non-employees, as well as a thorough whistle blower protection policy. These policies extend to partner organisations with whom we work with in the field and these policies are reviewed annually to ensure that they remain relevant and up to date by our HR team.

As an organisation, we have had the foresight to recruit law enforcement experts from the UK who bring with them multiple skill sets including how to effectively manage vulnerable persons, safely and effectively manage the development of information from communities and help us identify the best ways to ensure that human rights are always maintained. As part of this development, we as an organisation are in the process of developing standard operating procedures tailored to each region in which we work to ensure that minimum standards of operation are maintained when working with communities and law enforcement agencies.

Our work in both Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic have required our staff to handle potentially sensitive information which, if not handled in the correct manner, may serve to increase risks to both our staff and our community contacts. Therefore we have ensured the introduction and maintenance of risk mitigation measures which include, but are not exclusive too, ensured source anonymity, data protection safeguards, and a ‘clear desk’ policy.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2019-March 2020)

Current Year's Costs	2019/20 Grant (£)	2019/20 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain any variance)
Staff costs (from Section 5)				
Consultancy Costs				
Overhead Costs				

Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (from Section 7)				
Others (from Section 8)				
TOTAL				

Staff employed (Provide name and position)	Date work commenced and finished in 2019/20	Proportion of this time spent on this work	Cost to IWT/Darwin (£)
McCarthy, Thomas - Snow Leopard Program Species Specialist			
Shokirov, Qobiljon (Kobil): Tajikistan Program Director (replaced Rosen, Tatjana)			
Bayrakcismith, Rana: Snow Leopard Program Manager & Senior Program Manager, Conservation Science			
Kachel, Shannon: Conservation Scientist, Snow Leopard Program			
Kharamkhudoeva, Munira: Snow Leopard Program Manager – Tajikistan (replaced Kaikovusova, Gulbahor)			
Khaydarova, Mavluda: Snow Leopard Program Deputy Director - Tajikistan			
Kubanychbekov, Zairbek: Director, Ilbirs Foundation			
Oskonbaev, Atai: Assistant, Ilbirs Foundation			
Kulenbekov, Rahim: Field Biologist, Ilbirs Foundation			
Tarasenko, Alexey: Trainer, State Customs Service - Kyrgyzstan			
Mashenko, Evgenii: Trainer, State Customs Service - Kyrgyzstan			

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum).

I agree for the IWT Secretariat to publish the content of this section.

In Kyrgyz Republic, we are proud to continue our wildlife detection dog training program in partnership with local NGO Ilbirs Foundation and the Kyrgyz Customs Service. We are currently completing expansion of four operational dog/handler units to nine units which are or will be deployed around the country at border and check posts, airports, freight terminals and elsewhere as warranted. The Kyrgyz Customs Service currently has nine wildlife detection dogs who are fully trained on narcotics. To date, eight dogs are trained to detect wildlife scents, including snow leopard, ibex, argali, saiga, and saker falcon. One dog was recently recruited and so is currently training daily on wildlife scents. Five dog/handler teams are each stationed regularly in four locations and all dogs continue their daily training on detecting wildlife scents. There are plans to expand to an additional border post in 2020. Thanks to the success of this program, the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is now adding a wildlife detection dog and handler to their toolkit. The team will

be stationed at an “Eco Post” in the south eastern region of the country, where agents check for the illegal transportation of wildlife derivatives within the country.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020

Note: Updates to logframe are in [blue](#).

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>To improve resilience of pastoralist livelihoods through managed ungulate hunting, natural resource-based sustainable income projects, and reduce trafficking of snow leopards and prey species in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping wildlife contraband from entering the IWT by building predator-proof corrals that mitigate depredation of livestock and related retaliatory killing of cats; • Stopping IWT in process: wildlife detection dog Orion's (now retired) contribution to seizure of ungulate parts at the Bordobo border post in 2017; • Preventing retaliatory killing of cats who have killed livestock in project villages in Tajikistan thanks to our informant network and our staff presence and reputation (Question 10); • 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; • Institutionalizing combatting of IWT with training of government agencies and rangers; • Demonstrating to local people that conservation tangibly improves livelihoods through the financial incentives from trophy hunting and more gradually through eco-tourism, thereby providing non-IWT alternatives for income; and 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing income stability by stopping livestock depredation via predator-proof corrals. 	
<p>Outcome Recover snow leopard and prey populations, and improve livelihoods of subsistence pastoralists through:</p> <p>1) sustainable, community-managed mountain ungulate trophy hunting and elimination of livestock depredation (Tajikistan),</p> <p>2) enacting alternative sustainable natural resource-based income generation options (Kyrgyz Republic),</p> <p>3) reducing snow leopard and prey poaching and IWT (Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic).</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 £/month to £/month) Income increase will be lower, since hunting was most lucrative factor. Anticipate closer to 70% increase in KGZ</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, 120 women trained in accounting fundamentals and tourism hosting (baseline = 0). Delayed 6 months in both Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic</p>	<p>Despite setbacks in Tajikistan, we are making quantifiable strides towards achieving desired Outcomes.</p> <p>1) Achieved via support of the conservancy association we started, H&CAT (now ANCOT). Eliminated livestock depredation in the communities where we constructed predator-proof corrals. Conservancies continue to conduct ungulate surveys on their own, with support from their association, though not as frequently. We will send 3 trainees from conservancy villages to accounting classes to improve financial tracking know-how in the communities. We will rely on ANCOT to provide continued financial tracking support in communities. While we would rather be the lead organization ensuring conservancies establish formal business plans with proper community consultations and due diligence, ANCOT will instead provide this technical support. To support and advance this process, we will share lessons learned in Kyrgyz Republic regarding writing and adopting management plans, and share drafts of those management plans with conservancies in Tajikistan (Question 3.1, Activities 1.5, 1.6).</p>	<p>In year 4, ongoing work includes bee keeping project and tourism opportunities in Kyrgyz conservancies, final exchange meeting between Tajik and Kyrgyz conservancies, final TWC training, predator-proofing of corrals and barns, production of film to reduce livestock depredation by snow leopards, ongoing wildlife detection dog training including likely new border deployment, and retrofitting Kyrgyz Customs vehicle to safely transport dog/handler teams.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>2) Ongoing in Kyrgyz Republic, and supported in Tajikistan through the Tajik Women in Conservation (TWC) program to train young women to be mountain guides. One remaining training program scheduled for TWC trainees in summer 2020. Exchange meetings between conservancies in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic have focused on sharing ideas for non-consumptive nature tourism, including yak and horse riding.</p> <p>3) This has been successful in that the conservancies have the capacity to prevent poaching on their lands, thereby reducing availability of parts for the IWT. This is true for conservancies in both Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>We anticipate achieving the Outcome by end of the grant period (30 September 2020). Income from trophy hunting in Tajikistan exceeded expectations. With the stable political situation in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic and recognition of the High Pamirs as a renowned hunting and nature tourism destination, income from nature tourism can play an important role, demonstrated by the first snow leopard viewing tour in Tajikistan in 2019 and two more in 2020 (Question 3, Activity 1.10 and year 2 report). Predator-proof corrals eliminated conflict in affected areas. The detection dogs appear to have halted illegal transport of ungulate trophies between</p>	

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		<p>Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic, but we can't measure non-detection. Achieving gender equity through the Tajik Women on Conservation (TWC) Initiative remains a challenge to secure positive impacts for young women in these conservative rural communities.</p> <p>Reporting on indicators: 0.1 Household incomes in the 4 established conservancies in Tajikistan have increased substantially through sustainable ungulates hunting and nature tourism (Question 3.1, Activity 1.4). We cannot quantify specific income changes due to our inability to work directly with the conservancies. We conducted baseline income surveys in Kyrgyz Republic in 2019 and exploring income generation options with the conservancies in lieu of hunting, including the launch of a beekeeping pilot project in December 2019 (Question 3.1, Activity 2.1).</p> <p>0.2 The presence of snow leopards has been documented in 3 of 5 conservancies thanks to ongoing anti-poaching patrols (Question 3.1, Activity 2.1).</p> <p>0.3 We are on track for the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic. Ibex counts increased 169% in Bek-Tosot, 175% in Min Teke, and 111% in Janaidar. Chegetei Too Conservancy was only surveyed twice, showing an increase of just 16% between 2018-2019. For argali, which are only found</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>in the Chegetei Too conservancy, counts increased by 180% over the grant period. Roe deer, red deer and wild boar are only found in Shumkar-Tor; counts increased 29%, 24%, and 369% respectively over the 3 years. The only decrease noted was recorded in ibex - 89% - in Shumkar-Tor, from 35 to 4 individuals. (Question 3.1, Activity1.4).</p> <p>These raw counts suggest that wild ungulate numbers are increasing in the conservancies. However, the monitoring methods sacrificed short-term sensitivity in favour of logistical ease, meaning, the methods are simple to implement, but sensitive only to long-term population trends (over a period >5 years). While monitoring results are very encouraging, these raw counts may be affected by multiple factors not related to the size of ungulate populations, including weather and year-to-year differences of survey effort. In particular, the total surveyed area of different habitat types varied between years. For example, by accounting for greater survey area in Bek-Tosot the percentage increase in ibex counts there was not 169% but rather 59%, and in Shumkar-Tor greater total area and shifting habitat-types surveyed in later years may explain nearly all of the observed increases in red deer and roe deer. On the other hand, counts of ibex and argali in Min-Teke, Janaidar, and</p>	

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		<p>Chegetei-Too, and wild boar in Shumkar-Tor, show dramatic increases even when differences in surveyed areas are accounted for. Available evidence supports the conclusion that conservation efforts are helping to recover wild ungulate populations.</p> <p>As noted, it is not possible to document populations in the now defunct Tajik Guldara Conservancy although we did conduct initial surveys across part of their territory.</p> <p>0.4 We are facing difficulties with this MI given the 4 conservancies' social conservatism. In these Sunni areas, women are not very visible outside of their households. We do not think we will reach this number, but are confident that we will have trained at least 70 women in various basic tourism skills including hosting, backcountry and hunting guiding, and essential English language skills (~40 in Kyrgyz Republic and 29 in Tajikistan, 18 in year 1, 11 in year 2). This number will increase in year 4 following our final TWC training.</p>	
<p>Output 1. Five Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place and launching nature tourism; and 4 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 UK Government through Defra -supported training in natural resources</p>	<p>This is completed in Tajikistan for the 4 existing conservancies, where formalization of ANCOT (formerly H&CAT) strengthened conservancies and created a support network. ANCOT's 2020 annual meeting notice was posted on Instagram, reporting involvement of 10 conservancies discussing the future of community-based conservancies and sustainable use of natural resources. ANCOT announced a new conservancy was launched in the Mastchohi Kuhi Region of Northern Tajikistan (the others are all in eastern portion of the country) Meanwhile, progress is slow in Kyrgyz Republic due to the government-mandated hunting moratorium extended to 2022 or 2023. We are exploring alternative</p>	

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	<p>management and tourism, and leadership skills in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan (baseline = 0) Accomplished everywhere except full training in Guldara Conservancy, Tajikistan</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>options, primarily nature tourism, and have launched a sustainable, income generating beekeeping/honey production pilot project in one conservancy.</p> <p>1.1 Completed in year 1. Please see the following spreadsheet listing the breakdown of the 3289 km² that are protected from poachers. In year 3, management plans were drafted, revised and adopted for all 5 conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>1.2 Completed in year 1 and 2, with exception of the defunct Guldara Conservancy in Tajikistan.</p> <p>1.3 No evidence of poaching of ibex, argali or snow leopard in the Kyrgyz conservancies or the conservancies in Tajikistan with the exception of one snow leopard found shot in January 2020. The Kyrgyz rangers of <u>Chegetei Too Conservancy</u> rescued the cat. Kyrgyz conservancy rangers have provided <u>monthly reports</u> of their anti-poaching patrols from April 2019 through March 2020.</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>Completed: The Guldara Conservancy replaced the sixth in Kyrgyz Republic per our approved <u>change request</u> submitted 1 October 2017. Preliminary surveys and trainings were undertaken, but did not cover all conservancy lands. A gap in conservancy leadership slowed their development, impeding completion of the activity.</p>	<p>None (completed)</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>Completed: This activity is complete in all but the former Guldara Conservancy. Rangers there received some camera trap/snow leopard and ungulate monitoring training following preliminary surveys (Activity 1.1).</p> <p>Completed. During the trainings in 1.1, we introduced natural resource management principles, livestock grazing impacts on wild ungulate habitat and animal husbandry.</p>	<p>None (completed)</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 1.3 Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic.		Completed. Please see progress towards Outcome, above.	None (completed)
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>Completed: In Kyrgyz Republic, the final camera trapping was set in September 2019. We deployed 17 camera traps in the ~750km² Talas Conservancy and 10 in the ~180 km² Chon Kemin Conservancy. The cameras were collected in November 2019. No snow leopards were photographed in either conservancy. The December 2017 – March 2018 <u>baseline survey</u> in Talas documented the presence of a single snow leopard, while in Chon Kemin this exercise was the first systematic assessment of snow leopard presence and distribution.</p> <p>Ungulate surveys were completed in 5 community-based conservancies (CBC's) in Kyrgyz Republic in 2019 (full report):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Bek-Tosot" 226 ibex, last year 184. 2. "Min Teke" 201 ibex, last year 165. 3. "Janaidar" 460 ibex, 418 last year. 4. "Chegetei Too" 294 ibex, 40 more than last year, and 28 argali. This is the only CBC we work with in Kyrgyz Republic where argali are found. 5. "Shumkar-Tor" 247 roe deer, 218 last year. 41 red deer, 25 last year. <p>Habitat is not as suitable for ibex; only 4 compared to 20 in 2018. Surveyors were unable to reach all of the already limited amount of ibex habitat in the</p>	None (completed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>conservancy due to weather. 61 boar, 22 in 2018.</p> <p>In Tajikistan, we completed this activity in one conservancy, Alichur (“Burgut”). Conservancies in Zong (“Yuz Palang”) and Ravmeddara (“Parcham”) completed these surveys on their own, since they can’t get hunting permits without them.</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.</p>		<p>Will be completed in year 4. Exchange meetings between conservancies in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic have focused on non-consumptive nature tourism. In May 2019, we held the second meeting over 5 days in the Chon Kemin Conservancy, Kyrgyz Republic. We originally proposed 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, but in our 30 January 2020 change request, we requested cancelling the fourth exchange meeting between the conservancies</p>	<p>Final exchange meeting will occur in year 4</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>Completed: In Kyrgyz Republic, <u>management plans</u> for the 5 conservancies were finalized in November 2019. In Tajikistan, although we developed the plans with conservancies, prior to our closure, we are unable to assist the written process (Activity 1.4). Ilbirs Foundation will share the final management plans and lessons learned regarding the</p>	<p>Kyrgyz management plans will be shared with Tajik conservancies in year 4</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		development process with conservancies at the final meeting in year 4 (Activity 1.5).	
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.		Postponed: In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium that will last until 2022 or 2023 at the earliest.	Postponed
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.		Completed in Tajikistan: H&CAT developed a website to advertise tours and has developed packages and materials. The Book Your Hunt (https://www.bookyourhunt.com/) portal is booking international trophy hunters. In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium.	None (partially completed)
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.		Completed: In 2020, 5 women completed a 2-week intensive course in accounting. Three young women from 2 of the conservancy villages attended and 2 women from our partner, woman-run organization Zanon who works with our partner, Women Rockin’ the Pamirs. For the past 4 years, Zanon has trained local female mountain guides in the Pamir region. Previously, in August 2017, Panthera staff conducted an accounting seminar for 4 conservancies in Tajikistan. Ten women participated and learned to track receipts, make tax payments, and account what income from the guesthouses is contributed to the general account of the conservancies.	None (completed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>In November 2018 in Kyrgyz Republic, Ilbirs Foundation held a half-day seminar for 25 women and 23 men who have financial and tourist responsibilities in the conservancies, focusing on financial management basics to conduct conservancy activities and tourism.</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>Ongoing: In Kyrgyz Republic, Ilbirs Foundation launched a pilot alternative income generation project in December 2019 in the Chon Kemin Conservancy: beekeeping for honey production. This enterprise will economically benefit 10 of the 14 conservancy households as well as contribute towards the conservancy projects such as anti-poaching patrols and providing salt for wild ungulates in winter. Training continued in January 2020 and anticipated first harvest will be later this year. Prior to the launch, we conducted participant income surveys.</p> <p>Additionally, 3 of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies offer nature tourism opportunities. The Shumkar Tor Conservancy in Chon Kemin may offer agro tourism as the honey project develops. The remaining 2 conservancies, Janaidar in Alai Valley and Chegetei Too in Talas, are more remote to access, making tourism opportunities difficult, but they are working to promote with assistance from Ilbirs Foundation for 2020.</p>	<p>Bee keeping project is ongoing</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>In 2019, Chon Kemin, the Shumkar Tor Conservancy had ~400 tourists; in 2018, they hosted ~250 tourists. Bek Tosot Conservancy hosted 2 groups of 10 tourists in 2018, and 20 again in 2019. Min Teke Conservancy hosted 10 tourists in 2018 and 15 in 2019.</p> <p>In Tajikistan, this activity is completed. A total of 8 tourists went to Alichur and Darvos for 2 snow leopard tours.</p>	
<p>Output 2. Income from hunts and/or 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 Delayed in KGZ; will not be able to happen in TJK</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) Delayed in KGZ</p> <p>2.3 Community livelihood improvement project implemented by year 1 in Tajikistan and year 3 in the Kyrgyz Republic (baseline = 16) Delayed in KGZ</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</p>	<p>In Tajikistan, progress is on track with hunts and community projects, and the launch of the first snow leopard viewing tours in 2019. We do not have updates for these activities although 2 snow leopard tours were offered in early 2020 (Question 3.1, Activity 1.4). Progress is delayed in Kyrgyz Republic due to the hunting moratorium. However, we have encouraged development of nature tourism opportunities in 4 of 5 Kyrgyz conservancies (with plans to develop the 5th in 2020), and launched a pilot beekeeping/honey production project in Shumkar-Tor Conservancy (Question 3, Activity 1.10).</p> <p>2.1 Business plans are included in the Kyrgyz Republic conservancy management plans adopted in 2019 (Question 3.1, Activity 2.1), although distribution of hunting proceeds will not be decided until moratorium is lifted. Although the conservancies in Tajikistan have agreed-upon protocols for funding projects from wildlife revenues, plans are not formalized in writing. We are no longer able to assist them, but Ibirs Foundation will provide management planning and development advice during the final exchange meeting in year 4 (Question 3.1, Activities 1.5, 1.6).</p> <p>2.2 & 2.3 Completed in Tajikistan (2.1, above) but not possible in Kyrgyz Republic for duration of the grant (Question 3.1, Activities 2.1 & 2.2) because the income generated to undertake community development projects is insufficient without hunting revenues. However, current efforts by conservancy members include poaching patrols and providing supplemental salt for ungulates in the winter. They pay for these supplements themselves and cover patrol expenses, although we did support some patrolling expenses in 2019 with IWT funds.</p> <p>2.4 At the outset, we aimed to train the same cadre of women for the duration of the 3-year pilot project. Due to family commitments, only a few women were able</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>international tour operators and individual tourists as well as the pool of local guides who can accompany tourists for trophy hunting (baseline = 12) <i>In TJK, we will be able to complete the final training session for female guides within the 6-month grant extension period in 2020. Jobs have already been created for men in connection with hunting and nature guiding.</i></p>	<p>to attend more than once. As a result, we end up repeating the wildlife and backcountry guide skills in each training session. However, all TWC trainees will be able to act as guides. The final training will be offered in summer 2020 to continue to increase opportunities for these women.</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>Close to completed: In Kyrgyz Republic, the moratorium on hunting will delay hunts until 2022/23. Management plans will provide a solid framework for these to be developed once hunting begins.</p> <p>To provide incentives for conservancies through income from sustainable natural resource based livelihoods, we provided funding in grant year 3 to conduct anti-poaching for 2 rangers and 2 horses (horse rentals and homestay fees). They have provided monthly reports and photos of these patrols. In January 2020, the Chegetei Too Conservancy rangers in Talas rescued a young male snow leopard who had been shot and badly injured. It is recovering in Bishkek, but due to the severity of his injuries, he cannot be released back into the wild. Between 1 May 2019 and 31 March 2020, there were 5 reported incidents, including the injured snow leopard but no incidences related to poaching ungulates.</p>	<p>Kyrgyz management plans will be shared with Tajik conservancies in year 4 at final exchange meeting.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		<p>Additionally, with the launch of the pilot beekeeping project (Activity 1.10), participants signed an agreement in December 2019 that 10% of their earnings will be used to fund ongoing conservancy work (buying salt for wild ungulates in winter, horse-related expenses, buying more binoculars, etc.), while the rest of the communal money is to be used to maintain and expand the beekeeping operation.</p> <p>In Tajikistan, these percentages are agreed upon and conservancies are spending proceeds on community development projects, as reported in our previous annual reports. However, this is not formalized. Like Activity 1.6, we hope ANCOT will pursue formalization at annual meetings based on plans adopted by the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies, which will be shared at the final exchange meeting (Activity 1.5, 1.6).</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.		Completed: In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium that will last until at least 2022/23. In Tajikistan, hunts did happen in grant years 1, 2 and 3.	None (completed in Tajikistan, postponed in Kyrgyz Republic)
Activity 2.3 Support hunts in at least 3 of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies by year 3.		Postponed: This activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting moratorium.	None (not possible)
Activity 2.4 Conduct community surveys of men and women to assess their level of satisfaction with the investment of profits from the hunts.		Postponed: In Kyrgyz Republic, this activity is no longer needed or attainable because of the hunting	None (not possible)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		moratorium. In Tajikistan, it was too risky for us to complete these surveys (Activity 1.4) or gather data for Indicator 2.4, Employment survey conducted at regular conservancy meetings.	
Activity 2.5 Conduct information campaign to inform women about the opportunity to participate in an initiation trek by year 1.		Completed in year 1 (see Activity 2.6).	None (completed)
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 "Tajik Women in Conservation (TWC)".		Completed in year 1 : 18 women TWC trainees participated in two 10-day training sessions in July and August 2017. Four of the trainees used their newly acquired skills to accompany tourists on treks .	None (completed)
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.		Completed: We were unable to conduct the scheduled full length of this training session, nor able to train all the scheduled young women due to the local government. We were able to offer 8 days of training to 9 women in basic hiking and outdoor skills, an overnight hike, and wildlife viewing basics. TWC hunting guide training: The second training included taxidermy skills, client relations, scouting and game observation, and processing wild game for 2 young trainees which included participating in an actual hunt with 2 women ibex hunters.	None (completed)
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.		Ongoing: TWC is a Tajikistan-specific activity. The final training program is scheduled for 2020.	Final training event to take place in year 4
Output 3. Conflict with snow leopards reduced across the wider Pamir-Alai	3.1 Twenty predator-proof corrals built by year 2 of the project in 5	Fifteen corrals were completed in 2017 and 4 in 2018/2019. We will finish 10-11 in 2020. The total surpasses our goal of 20 completed corrals (Question 3.1,	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>region, positively impacting 80% of concerned pastoralists (of which 40% are women)</p>	<p>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>3.3 In year 4, in 2 villages with high risk of livestock depredation by snow leopards, secure 280 additional Pamiri-style existing barn roof holes with wire mesh to stop flow of snow leopards in the region.</p> <p>3.4 In year 4, the short (~5 minute) film we produce on livestock depredation in the Western Pamirs has been shown 12 times on local Tajik television and raised awareness of the problem and promoting at least short term solutions to prevent depredation until we are able to reach every community with the more permanent solution of wire mesh.</p>	<p>Activity 3.1). The new corrals are functioning well with no losses at night and no reported retaliatory killing in project communities.</p> <p>3.1 (Output 3, above)</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3 & 3.4 are new Outputs that were approved in our 30 January 2020 change request that will be addressed in year 4.</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>Ongoing: In year 3, we investigated the status of the 8 corrals which we reported to IWT as incomplete at the end of year 2 in Tajikistan. We were incorrectly informed that only the roofs remained to be completed. We investigated and learned that while 15</p>	<p>Will be completed in year 4</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		corrals were completed in 2017, in 2018 only 4 corrals were done (1 each in Yazgulom, Chartem, Alichur, and Nisur) leaving 10 more to be completed in 2020. At the end of the grant, 29 corrals will have been completed (15 in 2017 plus 14 in 2020; Question 3.1, Activity 3.1).	
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.		Completed initially but can't be maintained: Regional volunteer conflict mitigation coordinators were designated for 3 regions in year 1, but without an entity in Tajikistan, we are unable to continue this program.	None (completed)
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.		Partially completed: This activity is Kyrgyz Republic-specific. In August 2019, 4 Peace Corps volunteers conducted English language training for students in Chon-Kemin plus 2 children of members of the Burgut Conservancy in Alichur, Tajikistan. Although originally only for Kyrgyz Republic, please see year 2 report Activity 2.7 for educational English language activities provided to children in Ravmed Village, Tajikistan. We have not yet made it into schools. In year 2, we conducted 2 week-long environmental education camps in summer 2018.	None (completed)
Activity 3.4 Updated January 2020: Secure 280 Pamiri-style existing barn roof holes with wire mesh.		New activity	Will be completed in year 4
Activity 3.5 Updated January 2020: Produce 5-minute film on livestock depredation in the Western Pamirs ad how to temporarily secure barn roof holes.		New activity	Will be completed in year 4

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 3.6 Updated January 2020: Show film 12 times on local Tajik television.		New activity	Will be completed in year 4
<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 3 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) Two units (2 dogs and 2 handlers) operational at Bordobo/Osh region, 2 units are scheduled to be deployed at Torugart in 2020, and the airport is being regular monitored by 2 units.</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) Two units scheduled to be deployed in 2020.</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>4.1 In the Kyrgyz conservancies over 240 people are aware of anti-poaching efforts. Since November 2019 in Tajikistan, we have been carrying out human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and carnivore occupancy surveys (more than 270 to date) with local people across the western Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region. We are learning about the current severity of HWC, mapping HWC hotspots, and learning how cats may be entering the illegal wildlife trade. Survey results will help us design and implement projects to stop this trend.</p> <p>4.4 Trainings completed in year 1.</p> <p>4.5 New Output approved in our <u>30 January 2020 change request</u> for year 4.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>4.5 Retrofit Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers as recommended by expert from Working Dogs for Conservation</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>Completed, although units are posted at different locations than originally planned (Activity 4.3 below).</p>	<p>Torugart post deployments should happen in year 4</p>
<p>Activity 4.2. Conduct on-site refresher trainings for dogs and their handlers in detecting wildlife products.</p>		<p>Ongoing: All dogs in the program receive ongoing training with their handlers at the main Kyrgyz Customs campus in Bishkek and on-site by staff trainers.</p>	<p>Ongoing in year 4</p>
<p>Activity 4.3 Conduct off-site support for dogs and their handlers.</p>		<p>The dog trainers check in, and we can forward any questions they have to Working Dogs for Conservation for off-site support as needed.</p> <p>The Kyrgyz Customs Service currently has 9 wildlife detection dogs. To date, 8 of these 9 dogs are fully trained to detect wildlife scents, including snow leopard, ibex, argali, saiga, and saker falcon. The 9th dog is a recent recruit almost fully trained. All dogs continue their regular, daily training on detecting wildlife scents.</p> <p>Additionally, the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry at the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is now adding a wildlife detection dog team to their toolkit. Once trained within the customs service with our cadre of dogs, the team will be stationed at an "Eco Post" in south-eastern</p>	<p>Ongoing in year 4</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		Kyrgyzstan, where agents check for illegal transportation of wildlife derivatives. This expansion of the program to another government agency is thanks to the training initially started with IWT Defra funding.	
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.		Completed: We are no longer able to develop this network in Tajikistan (Activity 1.4), although through ongoing surveys (Question 3.2, Output 4.1), we made strong local connections and gained information regarding snow leopards attack on livestock and their capture. Biweekly, from December 2019 to March 2020, we searched social media outlets for information related to predator attacks on livestock or sale of predator-related products and poaching of ungulates. The information collected corroborated 5 of the 8 local reports regarding captured/relocated or subsequently deceased snow leopards, and 2 ungulate poaching cases.	None (completed)
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.		Completed: The network remains informal. The ~100 conservancy rangers (~50 in Kyrgyz Republic and ~50 in Tajikistan) and their families act as an anti-poaching network. With an average of 5 relatives per ranger, this is roughly 500 individuals. In Kyrgyz Republic, conservancy rangers have created an informal association among conservancies to share ideas to improve their work. In 2020, they plan to formally register the organization.	None (completed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
		The chairman is Ilbirs Foundation staff member Atai Oskonbaev.	
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.		Both trainings are complete. In Tajikistan, officials and conservancy rangers received training in Darvoz in October and November 2017. The second training was completed in Kyrgyz Republic in September 2018; fourteen rangers from 4 of 5 the conservancies attended.	None (completed)
Activity 4.7 Establish first National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) in Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with Kyrgyz government and GSLEP Secretariat.		Postponed: The National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) is under the jurisdiction of GSLEP and there has not been any movement on this front. Panthera staff attended the first NEST meeting in November 2017. The second meeting scheduled for May 2019 did not happen. Meeting arrangements are the responsibility of the State Agency for the Environment, and if/when they convene another meeting, Ilbirs Foundation will participate.	None (unable to complete)
Activity 4.8 Establish first National Environmental Security Task Force (NEST) in Tajikistan in cooperation with Tajik government and GSLEP Secretariat.		Postponed: We are not able to conduct this in Tajikistan without a legal entity.	None (unable to complete)
Activity 4.9 Updated January 2020: Retrofit Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers.		New activity	Will be completed in year 4

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

Note: blue indicates approved/acknowledged updates to the logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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Impact: To improve resilience of pastoralist livelihoods through managed ungulate hunting, natural resource-based sustainable income projects, and reduce trafficking of snow leopards and prey species in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic.

<p>Outcome: Recover snow leopard and prey populations, and improve livelihoods of subsistence pastoralists through:</p> <p>1) sustainable, community-managed mountain ungulate trophy hunting and elimination of livestock depredation (Tajikistan),</p> <p>2) enacting alternative sustainable natural resource-based income generation options (Kyrgyz Republic),</p> <p>3) reducing snow leopard and prey poaching and IWT (Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic).</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) Income increase will be lower, since hunting was most lucrative factor. Anticipate closer to 70% increase in KGZ</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, 120 women trained in accounting fundamentals and tourism hosting (baseline = 0). Delayed 6 months in both Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic</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 Delayed in KGZ pending identification of alternative tourism related income opportunities.</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) Hunting no longer possible in Kyrgyz Republic</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Five Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place and launching nature tourism; and</p> <p>4 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 UK Government through Defra-supported training in natural resources management and tourism, and leadership skills in the Kyrgyz Republic</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>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>There is a supportive environment of government policy for sustainable</p>

	<p>and Tajikistan (baseline = 0) Accomplished everywhere except full training in Guldara Conservancy, Tajikistan</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>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>hunting in conservancies in TJK and KGZ.</p>
<p>2. Income from hunts and/or 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 Delayed in KGZ; will not be able to happen in TJK</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) Delayed in KGZ</p> <p>2.3 Community livelihood improvement project implemented by year 1 in Tajikistan and year 3 in the Kyrgyz Republic (baseline = 16) Delayed in KGZ</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 operators and individual tourists as well as the pool of local guides who can accompany</p>	<p>2.1 Copies of business plans and written evidence of approved community projects Community projects may not be possible, or reduced in scale in KGZ due to no income from hunts</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 Delayed in KGZ</p> <p>2.4 Employment survey conducted at regular conservancy meetings; data disaggregated by gender Delayed in both KGZ and TJK</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 No hunt profits in KGZ, but possible alternative ecotourism opportunities – maybe not lucrative enough for anticipated scale of 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 conservancies</p>

	<p>tourists for trophy hunting (baseline = 12) In TJK, we will be able to complete the final training session for female guides within the 6-month grant extension period in 2020. Jobs have already been created for men in connection with hunting and nature guiding.</p>		
<p>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>3.3 In year 4, in 2 villages with high risk of livestock depredation by snow leopards, secure 280 additional Pamir-style existing barn roof holes with wire mesh to stop flow of snow leopards in the region.</p> <p>3.4 In year 4, the short (~5 minute) film we produce on livestock depredation in the Western Pamirs has been shown 12 times on local Tajik television and raised awareness of the problem and promoting at least short term solutions to prevent depredation until we are able to reach every community with the more permanent solution of wire mesh.</p>	<p>3.1 Photographs of completed corrals Delayed – but will be completed in 2020</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>3.3 Photo documentation of secured corrals.</p> <p>3.4 Share film with IWT and demonstrate when the film was aired on Tajik TV.</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> <p>Herders view film on television, learn how to better protect their livestock, and are inspired to at least temporarily block snow leopard access to barns through roof holes</p>

<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>	<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 3 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) Two units (2 dogs and 2 handlers) operational at Bordobo/Osh region, 2 units are scheduled to be deployed at Torugart in 2020, and the airport is being regular monitored by 2 units.</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) Two units scheduled to be deployed in 2020.</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>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 intelligence about poaching</p> <p>4.4 Documentation (video, photo, affidavit) of wildlife detection dogs contributing to seizures, and details of illegal wildlife products confiscated at border</p> <p>4.5 Photos of retrofitted vehicle</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 This is not feasible at this time and will not be completed in Kyrgyz Republic</p>
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	<p>4.5 Retrofit Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers as recommended by expert from Working Dogs for Conservation</p>		
<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 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 1 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>			

- Activity 2.5 Conduct information campaign to inform women about the opportunity to participate in an initiation trek by year 1.
- 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 "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 100 children to wildlife conservation.
- Activity 3.4 **Updated January 2020:** Secure 280 Pamiri-style existing barn roof holes with wire mesh.
- Activity 3.5 **Updated January 2020:** Produce 5-minute film on livestock depredation in the Western Pamirs and how to temporarily secure barn roof holes.
- Activity 3.6 **Updated January 2020:** Show film 12 times on local Tajik television.
- 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 informant 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 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.
- Activity 4.9 **Updated January 2020:** Retrofit Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

N/A

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

As per email approval, we have provided evidence via OneDrive links throughout the text of our report.