



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note: (<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-conditions/>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

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 Ibirs 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 June 2021 (submitted change request on 20 April 2021 to extend to 31 December 2021)
Reporting period (e.g. April 2020-Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021, Annual Report 4
Project Leader name	Byron Weckworth (formerly Thomas McCarthy)
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Byron Weckworth, Thomas McCarthy, Rana Bayraccismith, Qobiljon Shokirov, Zairbek Kubanychbekov, Atai Oskonbaev, Shannon Kachel, Eric Ventura, Kenje Sultanbaeva 27 April 2021

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 £, 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

We have abbreviated this section to only include the partners with whom we worked in year 4.

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.
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. Additionally, since 2018 they are partnering with Panthera and Ilbirs on additional counter-wildlife crime initiatives.
4. WD4C: Our final training was conducted in year 2 (February 2019). We continued to liaise with WD4C regarding how to further develop the project in year 4.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Between being in the final stages of our project and COVID-19 bringing our work almost to a halt in 2020/21, there are fewer activities to report on than in previous years.

Activity 1.10 Bee boxes were delivered to the Chon Kemin Conservancy "Shumkar Tor" in May instead of March due to pandemic travel restrictions within Kyrgyz Republic. Sadly, all bee boxes were [vandalized](#) beyond repair on 27 October 2020. The police investigated without reaching any resolution. Conservancy members suspect it was retaliation by poachers against the community after community members reported the poaching of a red deer in September.

Craig Fullstone, expert and Operational Security Advisor in Panthera's Counter Wildlife Crime department, travelled to Chon Kemin in March 2021 to speak with the victims and others in the community to help troubleshoot in order to prevent this from happening again. He suggested using signage to indicate that the boxes are being monitored by hidden camera and that Ilbirs and Panthera have the final decision regarding location of replacement bee boxes. He recommended selecting potential locations, map them and list the reasons why they believe the locations to be suitable. Some village locations are better than others – for example, they should not be located on the very edge of the village where there is low visibility but instead be

where other homes overlook them. Ilbirs signed an [agreement](#) to ensure these guidelines will be followed. They shared a [map](#) of proposed locations, and Craig provided valuable feedback.

Activities 2.2 & 2.3 In Kyrgyz Republic, with the support of the Kyrgyz Republic's State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry, we are very pleased to report that on 7 September, Community Based Conservancy (CBC) [Bek Tosot was awarded hunting rights](#) over a 180,800 hectare area. Conservancy Min Teke has joined Bek Tosot as one conservancy under the Bek Tosot name. On 27 November, CBC [Janaidar](#) was also awarded hunting rights. They received a permit to organize hunting on a 157,000 hectare area (which is 60,000 hectares more than expected) for ~15 years – until September 2035. The agreement states that the State Agency will assist the CBCs' hunting activities by providing methodological and consulting support, CBC's are required to conduct 1) annual prey surveys, 2) hunting activities according to Kyrgyz Republic legislation, and 3) anti-poaching activities, as well as 4) provide quarterly reports to the regional branch of the State Agency.

Activity 3.1 One 40m x 40m [corral](#) was completed in the summer pastures of Darmorakh Village. Some walls were constructed by villagers in summer 2019, we delivered construction materials in summer 2020, and the corral was finished in September. The villagers are delighted with the communal corral that can accommodate up to 2,000 sheep and goats as well as the small hut for herders to sleep and store personal gear. At least 328 households from three sub-villages of Darmorakh now use the corral, with each household having an average of 5-6 family members.

COVID prevented us from traveling within Tajikistan, so finishing all remaining corrals is delayed until summer/fall 2021.

Activities 3.3 & 3.4, Predator-proofing barns and creating the film to reduce the ability of snow leopards to enter barns were delayed due to COVID and will begin in summer 2021.

Activities 4.1 & 4.2 & 4.3 The dog trainers continued to check in monthly via [reports, photos and videos](#) until their monthly support ended after September 2020. We could forward any questions the trainers had to Working Dogs for Conservation for off-site support if needed.

The wildlife detection dog/handler teams were not deployed between the end of March and 10 August because all duty stations were closed (airport, border posts, etc.) during COVID-induced states of emergency in Kyrgyz Republic. They continued to actively train on their own.

The Kyrgyz Customs Service currently has 8 wildlife detection dogs fully trained to detect wildlife scents, including snow leopard, ibex, argali, saiga, and saker falcon. One dog has been designated for breeding, with a veterinarian assigned as its handler. The breeding dog gave birth to a litter of 7 [puppies](#) in July. The puppies will be trained in scent detection starting in 2021 when they are eight months old.

Activity 4.9 Retrofitting of the Customs Service [Gazel](#) and [Niva](#) vehicles for safe transport of dogs and handlers was delayed due to the pandemic, but both were completed by the end of November 2020 and January 2021, respectively.

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 was completed in Tajikistan for the 4 existing conservancies, where formalization of ANCOT (formerly H&CAT) strengthened conservancies and created a support network. Meanwhile, progress is slow in Kyrgyz Republic due to the government-mandated hunting moratorium, but 3 conservancies (2 of which have combined to become one group) were awarded hunting rights (Question 3.1, Activities 2.2 & 2.3). We are also developing alternative options, primarily nature tourism (paused due to COVID in 2020), and a pilot beekeeping/honey production project in one conservancy (Activity 1.10).

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 (now 4 with Bek Tosot and Min Teke banding together) conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic.

1.2 Completed in years 1 and 2, with exception of the Guldara in Tajikistan.

1.3 There was no evidence of poaching of ibex, argali or snow leopard in the Kyrgyz conservancies in year 4 with the exception of one red deer poached in Chon Kemin in September 2020. We only have year 3 data for the Tajik conservancies (no poaching).

Output 2: In Tajikistan, progress was on track with hunts and community projects, and the launch of the snow leopard viewing tours in 2019. Progress was delayed in Kyrgyz Republic due to the extended hunting moratorium. Nature tourism opportunities we developed in Kyrgyz conservancies in 2019 were on hold due to COVID in 2020. The pilot beekeeping/honey production project in Shumkar-Tor Conservancy was vandalized in late 2020 but is currently being relaunched.

2.1 Business plans are included in the Kyrgyz Republic conservancy 2019 management plans, although distribution of hunting proceeds will be decided when closer to actual hunts in 2023. These 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 were not formalized in writing. We are no longer able to assist them, but Ibirs Foundation shared the business plan format and is able to provide management planning and development advice as they are regularly in touch with the conservancy in Alichur.

2.2 & 2.3 Completed in Tajikistan (2.1, above) but not possible in Kyrgyz Republic for duration of the grant because the income generated to undertake community development projects is insufficient without hunting revenue. 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 are able to act as guides.

Output 3: Fifteen corrals were completed in 2017, 4 in 2018/2019, and 1 in 2020. We will finish 9 or 10 in 2021 if our deadline is extended. This 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 studied how to accomplish this in 2020 and have developed a plan for 2021 and beyond (this is outside the scope of the IWT Funded work).

3.1 (Output 3, above)

3.2

3.3 & 3.4 New Outputs that were approved in our 30 January 2020 change request we now hope to address in year 5 (see change request submitted April 2021) instead of year 4. We were delayed due to COVID and opening a legal entity.

Output 4:

4.1 In the Kyrgyz conservancies, over 240 people are aware of anti-poaching efforts. In late 2019 in Tajikistan, we carried out 270 human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and carnivore occupancy surveys with local people across the western Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region (outside of the scope of IWT funded work). Analysis provided insight into the severity of HWC, maps of HWC hotspots, and how cats may be entering the illegal wildlife trade. Our findings reveal that poorly fortified livestock corrals facilitate livestock depredation by snow leopards at an alarming

scale, and also facilitate subsequent retaliation against them. Available evidence indicated that cats captured or killed opportunistically inside corrals may account for the majority of the 13-17 snow leopards estimated by Nowell et al. (2016) to enter the illegal wildlife trade each year, and confirm that corral improvements could help dramatically impact the cycle of human-snow leopard conflict as it feeds into illegal trade.

4.2

4.3

4.4 Trainings completed in year 1.

4.5 New Output approved in our 30 January 2020 change request for year 4 delayed due to COVID and to be completed in year 5 pending approval of 20 April 2021 change request.

Nowell, K., Li, J., Paltsyn, M. and Sharma, R.K. (2016). *An Ounce of Prevention: Snow Leopard Crime Revisited*. TRAFFIC, Cambridge, UK.

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 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 eliminated livestock depredation in the communities where we constructed predator-proof corrals. As of 2019, conservancies continued to conduct ungulate surveys on their own and with support from their association.

2) Outside of the past year, this is ongoing in Kyrgyz Republic via nature tourism and bee keeping. In earlier years, exchange meetings between conservancies in Tajikistan and Kyrgyz Republic focused on sharing ideas for non-consumptive nature tourism, including yak and horse riding. Also earlier, we accomplished this in Tajikistan through the Tajik Women in Conservation (TWC) program to train young women to be mountain guides.

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 (Question 3.2, assumption 1.3).

We anticipate achieving the Outcome by end of the grant period if it is extended to 31 December 2021 per our April 2021 change request. Income from trophy hunting in Tajikistan exceeded expectations in early years of the project. 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 (year 2 report and year 3 report Question 3, Activity 1.10) - provided that COVID-19 risks reduce. 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 was a challenge to secure positive impacts for young women in these conservative rural communities, and a project we were ultimately unable to continue due to our situation in Tajikistan.

0.1 Household incomes in the 4 established conservancies in Tajikistan increased substantially through sustainable ungulate hunting and nature tourism (year 3 report 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. Hunting will not occur until after this grant has ended, so we will not be able to conduct surveys at the end of the project unless other funding is secured.

0.2 The presence of snow leopards was documented in 3 of 5 (now 4) conservancies by year 3 thanks to ongoing anti-poaching patrols (year 3 report Question 3.1, Activity 2.1). In Min 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, 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 (year 3 report 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 (>5 years) population trends. 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 survey effort differences. 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 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 accounting for differences in surveyed areas. 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. Although we do not think we will reach this number, 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 over years 1-3 and 29 in Tajikistan, 18 in year 1, 11 in year 2).

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, in years 1-3, poaching was under control and the communities were supportive of the profitable hunting program which benefits conservancy rangers and the communities as a whole; we have no update for year 4. In the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies, one case of a red deer being poached by local people was detected in September 2020; conservancy rangers turned these individuals in to the police. Locals and visitors are increasingly aware which lands are being patrolled by conservancy members.

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.

Comments: This has finally happened in Kyrgyz Republic with the hunting moratorium being lifted in parts of the country and the State Agency awarding 2 conservancies (really 3 since 2 conservancies merged) the rights to organize hunting on their lands. Specific quotas have not yet been assigned. In Tajikistan, at least through year 3 hunts continued in the conservancies so authorities were assigning hunts to the communities.

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 1-4 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, but management plans may still needed to be written. We do not have access to updated information for year 4. In year 3, management plans were drafted, revised and adopted for all 5 (now 4) conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic. Although there are no hunting profits yet to invest in Kyrgyz Republic, the conservancies still voluntarily patrolled their lands for poachers and purchased salt for wild ungulates over the winter. Ilbirs shared Kyrgyz conservancy management plan formats with one Tajik conservancy and is providing advice.

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. We do not have updated information for year 4.

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 in year 3, although we have not been able to revisit communities in year 4 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 support of dogs and handlers, regular deployment of dog/handler teams when healthy and not under lockdown, and enthusiastic reception of the retrofitted vehicles.

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:

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

Impact (original): 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. We updated this in a change request: 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.

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:

- 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;
- Establishing an institutional framework for wildlife detection dog use: our dogs were the first wildlife detection dogs in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Institutionalizing combatting of IWT with [training](#) of government agencies and rangers. This work is being carried further by a grant from the United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Combat Trafficking in High Value Wildlife Products from Big Cats;
- 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 occurred only once in year 4 (a red deer in Chon Kemin in September 2020).

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, although plans were shared with the dominant Tajik conservancy 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 There were 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). In year 1, we trained 18 women in mountain guiding and in year 2, 11 women in mountain and/or hunting guiding. We trained 3 women from conservancy villages in detailed accounting courses in year 3. Ten households in Shumkar-Tor Conservancy (out of 14 conservancy households) in Kyrgyz Republic will benefit from the beekeeping project re-launched in March/April 2021. In 2019, 3 of the 5 conservancies provided nature tourism opportunities to 435 tourists with plans to expand to all 5 conservancies in 2020 – although COVID precluded this in 2020 and plans are now extended to 2021. 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, one in 2020 and 9 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.

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 remains informal and could be expanded and formalized.

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 deployments do occur for 2-3 weeks at a time, but a dog/handler team is not yet regularly assigned there.

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. 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 ([year 3 report](#), 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 ([year 3 report](#), Question 3, Activities 1.9-1.10, 2.2, 2.8, 3.1).
- Item XIX: We supported 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 the TWC program ([year 3 report](#), Question 3.1, Activities 1.4, 2.1, [annual report year 2](#)).
- Item XX: We helped conservancy rangers conduct anti-poaching patrols, maintain an informal informant network, and involved locals in the counter-IWT training for government staff ([year 3 report](#), Question 3.1, Activities 1.5, 2.1, 4.4, 4.5, [year 2 report](#)).

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 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 4, 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 ([year 3 report](#), 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, 1 in year 4, and 9 more are in various stages of completion, to be finished in 2021 (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 corralled livestock since construction.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

In the UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) for 2020, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic rank 125 and 120 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 ([annual report year 3](#), Question 3.1, Activity 2.1). As of year 2, 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 £. In 2017/18 alone, foreign hunters legally harvested 15

ibex and one argali sheep, earning £. 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 years 3 and 4 (please see note in question 3.4). 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 were developing information-gathering mechanisms for snow leopard contraband entering the IWT, although we are limited in implementation until we open an office. In year 1 of the project, we constructed 15 corrals, protecting 10,000 sheep (valued at £). In year 2, we constructed 4 corrals, 1 in year 4, and 9 more are in various stages of completion, to be finished in 2021 (Question 3.1, Activity 3.1). These additional corrals will benefit at least 70 households, housing approximately 400 sheep and goats per corral (total ~5600 animals).

Looking directly at Measurable Indicators from our logframe:

2.1 Community livelihood projects were approved year 1 in Tajikistan.

3.1 We completed 19 of the 20 planned predator-proof corrals in 5 communities in Tajikistan. We will finish 9 or 10 more in 2020 for a total of 28-9 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. The final training, Activity 2.8, was planned for summer 2020 but was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

MI 3.1 predator-proofs corrals maintained by women: Nineteen corrals were constructed in the first two years of this project and are maintained by women (Question 6).

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 (annual report year 3, Question 3.1, Activity 1.9).

8. Monitoring and evaluation

We planned to 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 have viable, sustainable alternatives whose success is incompatible with IWT. There are delays in achieving such income levels in Kyrgyz Republic due to 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 expanded to cover the Manas International Airport and intermittently the Kyrgyz border with China. 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](#)). 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. Former Project Leader Dr. Tom McCarthy has led evaluation efforts. Current Project Leader is Dr. Byron Weckworth as Dr. McCarthy retired from this position and is now working as a Species Specialist for Snow Leopards with Panthera.

9. Lessons learnt

Positive: we were able to retrofit two vehicles for safe transport of Kyrgyz Customs State Service handlers and dogs. The wildlife detection dog program work is continuing beyond IWT support which ended during Year 4.

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

Responses to questions posed in reference to our April 2020 [year 3 annual report](#):

1. Is there any clarity when the hunting moratorium will be lifted in Kyrgyz Republic or is the moratorium in place indefinitely? The report states the moratorium is extended until at least 2022 or 2023; AR2 stated the moratorium would last until at least 2021.

All our conservancies had hunting contracts prior to conducting the new competitive application process. They are now they are participating in the revised process to officially reacquire the rights to hunt their respective territories.

For the Shumar Tor conservancy in Chon Kemin, Chui Oblast, the hunting moratorium will be lifted in 2021. At the time of writing, public and private concessions are competing via the State Agency for the right to sustainably hunt the territory for 15 years. Ilbirs Foundation is assisting the conservancy with necessary documentation. Competition process described in detail below.

In September 2020, our conservancies [Bek Tosot](#) and Min Teke in Osh Oblast won their contests and became the official hunting concessionaires for their lands as hoped. Min Teke has joined Bek Tosot as one conservancy under the Bek Tosot name. The Janaidar conservancy in Osh Oblast won their [rights](#) in November 2020. Sustainable hunting can begin in both locations in 2023 when the hunting moratorium is lifted. The first season will be September 2023-December 2023.

For the Chegetei Too conservancy based in Talas Oblast, the State Agency decided that a wildlife refuge will be established, so hunting will not be conducted there. Instead, this conservancy will focus on developing non-consumptive nature tourism and other alternative income generation ideas, and conservancy rangers will be employed by the State Agency to patrol and help manage the wildlife refuge.

Description of the hunting competition process: The right to conduct hunting is awarded to hunting concessionaires on defined hunting grounds in accordance with contracts made with the State Agency, the authorized state institution in charge of hunting and hunting management. Hunting operations are awarded on the basis of a contest conducted by a special contest commission comprising at least seven people selected by the State Agency. Members include representatives of the State Agency, scientific institutions, associations of hunting concessionaires, and environmental NGOs. Representatives of local administrations where hunting grounds are located can also be included in the work of the contest commission as voting members.

Applicant organizations must have founding documents confirming their commitment to hunting activities – these are included in the business plans we developed under IWT Fund. To award contracts, the commission assesses the quality and contents of submitted documents, and applicant knowledge and experience in, and approach to hunting management. Hunting concessionaires do not pay to be awarded hunting rights.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

There is a silver lining to project delays in Year 4 resulting in the [change request](#) submitted in April 2021: our remaining IWT activities dovetail nicely with activities funded under the Conservation Leadership Program (CLP) grant which means that we will be able to do more with the funds from each project. The CLP grant will support a series of participatory workshops in 4 conflict-prone villages to understand key issues contributing to the Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) cycle and stakeholder perceptions. Together with participants, we will design and test an agreed upon conservation intervention to reduce HWC rates via predator proofing existing corrals or using predator deterrents. Our inclusive approach will facilitate implementation of a rigorous experimental design to produce the strong inference that is typically missing in evaluation of HWC intervention tools. This project will help develop low-cost, accessible and effective conservation tools to reduce HWC which can be scaled to the broader region in the future, and improve test communities' understanding and capacity to adapt and respond to HWC. We will be able to combine transport costs for the predator-proofing of the barns that IWT fund are paying to protect with CLP project funds. This means that 1) fees saved by combining materials transport can be used to protect additional barns; 2) we will be able to use mitigation techniques decided upon by the communities, thereby ensuring more active community support and participation and 3) utilize tested and proven mitigation techniques. Due to COVID-19, the prices of materials and gas have [skyrocketed](#) in the region (and indeed, around the world). We had hoped to predator-proof ~480 barns. This number may drop to closer to 300 even though we can combine transport costs. The current inflation rate and ever [increasing gas prices](#) (by nearly half) as well as all the prices of [imported materials](#) (such as wire mesh) will force us to scale down the number of predator-proofed barns in the Pamirs.

We discuss year 4 delays due to COVID and bureaucracy further in question 14.

12. Sustainability and legacy

Our planned exit strategy remains the same, only delayed to 30 June 2021 (via approved [September 2020 change request](#)) or hopefully 31 December 2021 pending our recently submitted [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 have secured additional funding to do just this via a Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund grant and CLP grant, and via awarding Sabin Snow Leopard Grant program funds to a collaborator in Kyrgyz Republic.

We will continue to collaborate with Ilbirs Foundation and the conservancies in Kyrgyz Republic as they draw closer to launching hunts in 2021 and 2023 (see question 10 for details). 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 what began as our program.

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. In Tajikistan, the project currently has a low profile out of necessity.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

In previous project years, we regularly recognized the UK government as funder of this project. In Tajikistan, we kept a low profile this year considering our situation. In Kyrgyz Republic, Ilbirs Foundation posted information on one of the Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle retrofits on Facebook and Instagram, both recognizing IWT Challenge Fund's support of the work. The Facebook text recognizes this as a distinct project funded by UK Aids.

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

Due to COVID-19 international travel restrictions, we submitted a change request (approved on 25 September), to replace the tasks requiring international travel with in-country projects. We cancelled the final exchange meeting between Tajik and Kyrgyz conservancies (Activity 1.5) and the final Tajik Women in Conservation mountain guide training (Activity 2.8; trainer would have been coming from Europe). Instead, per the approved change request, we will predator-proof an additional ~300-480 barns (Activity 3.3), and retrofitted a second vehicle to safely transport wildlife detection dogs in Kyrgyz Republic (Activity 4.10).

In Kyrgyz Republic, COVID lockdowns limited Kyrgyz Customs Service dog deployments and training during the lockdown and delayed vehicle retrofits. Handlers worked independently with their respective dogs during the lockdown to keep skills sharp and were ready to be deployed as soon as the lockdown was lifted. Vehicle retrofits were completed once restrictions were lifted and workers were healthy and able to do the work.

In Tajikistan, due to COVID restrictions and precautions, we have not been able to safely travel and meet with stakeholders to carry out our remaining activities. We will slowly be able to carefully conduct work starting this summer while following all local guidelines for safe interaction with stakeholders.

15. Safeguarding

Please tick this box if any safeguarding or human rights violations have occurred during this financial year.

No safeguarding-related concerns were raised in year 4.

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. Additionally, our HR department is currently developing a Code of Conduct which should be finalized in 2021 and will be shared as appropriate with colleagues and partners.

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.

Finally, as part of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) grant process, in early 2021 we and close partner Ibirs Foundation completed CEPF's Gender Tracking Tool exercise which helps to keep gender-related issues on everyone's radar in relation to project activities/work outside our organization as well as work within our organizations. We and our colleagues reviewed and signed codes of ethics and statements of integrity both related to the CEPF grant but relevant to all of our work.

16. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2020-March 2021) per change request submitted 2Sep20 and approved 25Sep20

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

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

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

With IWT Fund support, we were able to retrofit two Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicles for the safe transport of dogs and handlers. Prior to these retrofits, transportation to/from deployment posts was often a challenge because it required handlers to locate a local taxi driver willing to have a loose dog as a passenger since most cars are too small to accommodate a dog crate. This led to postponement or even cancellation of deployments. Additionally, dogs now have access to more off-site training, veterinary care, socialization, and varied stimulation. Previously, there was the threat of dogs overheating while traveling if windows couldn't be opened, and transporting multiple highly-driven dogs was always potentially risky since dogs who are excited to work when loose within the small car could lead to displaced excitement resulting in fights. Our partners WD4C tells us that providing this "Dog Rig" is fantastic because safe transport is a big barrier to programs around the world.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

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

Green indicates progress for Financial Year 2020-2021. As we are nearing the end of our grant and due in part to COVID-related delays, we made little progress in year 4 and look forward to completing the grant-supported tasks in year 5 if our deadline is extended per our [change request](#) submitted April 2021.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
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. 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).</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 during the timeline of the grant</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Five Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in</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>1.1 At least 3000 km² formally recognized as 'conservancy' by government, and management plans approved by the State Agency on</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</p>

<p>place and launching nature tourism; and 4 wildlife community-based conservancies in Tajikistan strengthened</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 and Tajikistan (baseline = 0)</p> <p>1.3 Over-exploitation (poaching) of ibex, argali and snow leopard reduced by 80% in the conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic by year 1 (baseline=100%)</p>	<p>Environmental Protection and Forestry in the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>1.2 Training course attendance reports and follow-up training to ensure knowledge retention in both countries</p> <p>1.3 In both countries, annual ungulate surveys (to determine population size and trend, sex ratios, reproductive rates, and recruitment) and biannual snow leopard 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>influence of the conservancies and the project</p> <p>There is a supportive environment of government policy for sustainable 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 Kyrgyz business plans shared with Tajik counterparts via partner organization</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</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 Not possible in TJK; surveys conducted in KGZ prior to hunts but hunts will not occur until after the grant period so final surveys cannot be completed</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 with conservancies</p>

	<p>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 tourists for trophy hunting (baseline = 12)</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 ~480 additional Pamiri-style existing barn roof holes with wire mesh to stop flow of snow leopards in the region. Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved. May only be ~300 barns due to inflated gas and materials pricing from COVID.</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</p>	<p>3.1 Photographs of completed corrals Fifteen corrals were completed in 2017, 4 in 2018/2019, and 1 in 2020. Finishing the remaining 9 was delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete remaining 9 planned in 2021 if extension approved. One 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. Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved</p> <p>3.4 Share film with IWT and demonstrate when the film was aired on Tajik TV. Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved</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 Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved</p>

	<p>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. Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved</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) Eight dog/handler units trained with 5 units regularly deployed and 3 operating out of the Bishkek campus. Two units (2 dogs and 2 handlers) operational at Bordobo/Osh region, Torugart deployments remain intermittent (2-3 weeks at a time), and the airport is being regular monitored by 2 units and a customs terminal in Bishkek by one unit.</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) Torugart deployments remain intermittent (2-3 weeks at a time), but the airport is being regular monitored by 2 units and a</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</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>

	<p>customs terminal by 1 unit since Kyrgyz Customs Service priorities changed over the project years.</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>4.5 Retrofit 2 Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicles to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers and 2 dogs with 2 handlers, respectively, as recommended by expert from Working Dogs for Conservation. Completed</p>	<p>illegal wildlife products confiscated at border</p> <p>4.5 Photos of retrofitted vehicles Retrofitting of the Customs Service Gazel and Niva vehicles for safe transport of dogs and handlers was completed.</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 the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>Activity 1.2 Conduct a training workshop in natural resource management in the 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.3 Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>Activity 1.4 Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 1 new conservancy in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.5 Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 6 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 5 in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.6 Draft the management plans for each conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Updated October 2017: Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and 1 new Tajik conservancy with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan</p>			

- 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.](#)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.](#) [Bee boxes were delivered to the Chon Kemin Conservancy “Shumkar Tor” in May instead of March due to pandemic travel restrictions within Kyrgyz Republic. Sadly, all bee boxes were vandalized beyond repair in October 2020. Funds were found to purchase the materials again and establish them in a more secure location following guidelines established by Panthera’s Counter Wildlife Crime department Operational Security Advisor.](#)
- 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.
- 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.
- Activity 2.3 Support hunts in at least 3 of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies by year 3. [Conservancy Bek Tosot was awarded hunting rights over a 180,800 hectare area. Conservancy Min Teke has joined Bek Tosot as one conservancy under the Bek Tosot name. On 27 November, Janaidar was also awarded hunting rights. They received a permit to organize hunting on a 157,000 hectare area \(which is 60,000 hectares more than expected\). Both awards will allow hunts starting in 2023 for 15 years with quotas set by the Kyrgyz Republic’s State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry.](#)
- Activity 2.4 Conduct community surveys of men and women to assess their level of satisfaction with the investment of profits from the hunts.
- 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” was 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. **Updated September 2020:** [final training cancelled due to COVID.](#)
- 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. [One 40m x 40m corral was completed in the summer pastures of Darmorakh Village. Finishing remaining corrals was delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment, but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved](#)
- Activity 3.2 Designate a conflict mitigation coordinator in each of the villages where predator-proof corrals are built, to respond to conflict and oversee building of corrals as well as their proper use and maintenance.

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

Activity 3.4 **Updated January 2020:** Secure 480 Pamiri-style existing barn roof holes with wire mesh. Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved. May only be ~300 barns due to inflated gas and materials pricing from COVID.

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. Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved

Activity 3.6 **Updated January 2020:** Show film 12 times on local Tajik television. Delayed due to COVID and TJK entity establishment but plan to complete in 2021 if extension approved

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. [The dog trainers continued to check in monthly via reports, photos and videos until their monthly support ended after September 2020.](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activity 4.9 **Updated January 2020:** Retrofit Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers. **Updated September 2020:** Retrofit second, smaller Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 2 wildlife detection dogs and 2 dog handlers. **Completed**

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
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.			
Outcome: Recover snow leopard and prey populations, and improve livelihoods of subsistence pastoralists through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	<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 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 during the timeline of the grant</p>
Outputs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five Kyrgyz Republic wildlife community-based conservancies operating with governance structures in place and launching nature tourism; and 4 wildlife community-based 	<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>1.1 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>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>conservancies in Tajikistan strengthened</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 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>1.2 Training course attendance reports and follow-up training to ensure knowledge retention in both countries</p> <p>1.3 In both countries, annual ungulate surveys (to determine population size and trend, sex ratios, reproductive rates, and recruitment) and biannual snow leopard 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>There is a supportive environment of government policy for sustainable 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 but completed in KGZ; will not be able to happen in TJK. Plan to share Kyrgyz business plans with Tajik counterparts via partner organization.</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</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>groups of clients on mountain itineraries for several days and joining the pool of guides that PECTA offers to international tour operators and individual tourists as well as the pool of local guides who can accompany tourists for trophy hunting (baseline = 12) Jobs have already been created for men in connection with hunting and nature guiding. 29 women have received some guide training and would be able to act as mountain guides for tourists.</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 ~480-300 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</p>	<p>3.1 Photographs of completed corrals Delayed</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>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>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) Seven dog/handler units trained and regularly deployed. 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</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 vehicles</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>

	<p>Enforcement Trainings for Wildlife by year 1 (baseline=14)</p> <p>4.5 Retrofit 2 Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicles to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers and 2 dogs with 2 handlers, respectively, 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 the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>Activity 1.2 Conduct a training workshop in natural resource management in the 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.3 Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic.</p> <p>Activity 1.4 Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 in Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Conduct baseline ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 1 new conservancy in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.5 Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 6 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Conduct repeat ungulate, snow leopard camera trap, and fecal DNA surveys in 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and 5 in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.6 Draft the management plans for each conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic. Updated October 2017: Conduct 4 exchange meetings on leadership, governance, and gender awareness with the executive committees, inclusive of women, of the 5 Kyrgyz Republic conservancies and 1 new Tajik conservancy with support from staff and Burgut Community-based Conservancy in Tajikistan</p> <p>Activity 1.7 Using strong science and applying principles of sustainable use, support the communities in negotiations with the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry on ibex and argali hunting quotas in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. Updated October 2017: Draft the management plans for each conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic and the new conservancy in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.8 Together with H&CAT, develop marketing materials for international hunting outfitters through “book your hunt” portal (Accessible: https://www.bookyourhunt.com/), and, together with PECTA and KCBTA, tourism brochures for tour operators in Europe and the US.</p> <p>Activity 1.9 Together with PECTA and KCBTA and Panthera staff, conduct tourism management and accounting training skills for women in the 6 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 4 conservancies in Tajikistan.</p> <p>Activity 1.10 Support the development of non-consumptive nature tourism programs and the marketing of such services in the conservancies with support from KCBTA and PECTA. Updated October 2017: Together with PECTA and KCBTA and Panthera staff, conduct tourism management and accounting training skills for women in the 5 conservancies in the Kyrgyz Republic and the 5 in Tajikistan.</p>			

- 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.
- 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.
- Activity 2.3 Support hunts in at least 3 of the Kyrgyz Republic conservancies by year 3.
- Activity 2.4 Conduct community surveys of men and women to assess their level of satisfaction with the investment of profits from the hunts.
- 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. **Updated September 2020:** final training cancelled due to COVID.
- Activity 3.1 Build 20 predator-proof corrals (with locals providing free labour) in villages where snow leopard conflict has occurred in Tajikistan to protect 14,000 sheep and goats.
- Activity 3.2 Designate a conflict mitigation coordinator in each of the villages where predator-proof corrals are built, to respond to conflict and oversee building of corrals as well as their proper use and maintenance.
- Activity 3.3 Introduce environmental curriculum developed by in-country Panthera staff in at least 8 schools in the conservancies and surrounding areas to sensitize at least 1000 children to wildlife conservation.
- Activity 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 ad 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 informal networks in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, including representatives of the 6th conservancy in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Activity 4.6 Hold 2, 2-week Standard Enforcement Training courses. The first will be for 40 rangers of the local conservancies in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic who are all members of the informant network, and the second will be for 20 Tajik and Kyrgyz customs and border officers. The purpose of the trainings is to establish

collaboration and communication protocols that allow for the intelligence from the informant network on illegal trade and poaching to be effectively communicated and used by the customs and border officers working at the supported border post between Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and China.

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

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

Activity 4.9 **Updated January 2020:** Retrofit Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 4 wildlife detection dogs and 5 dog handlers. **Updated September 2020:** Retrofit second, smaller Kyrgyz Customs Service vehicle to safely transport 2 wildlife detection dogs and 2 dog handlers.

Annex 3 Standard Measures

We are in Year 4 of our project. The standard measures table was not part of the previous annual reports so we do not have information from previous years to cut and paste.

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
22B	Conservation Leadership Program grant								
22B	Conservation Leadership Program grant and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) grant								
22B	United States Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Combat Trafficking in High Value Wildlife Products from Big Cats								

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
N/A						

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