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**IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND  
GOVERNANCE THROUGH NATURAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN**  
A Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society  
supported by USAID

**Annual Report**  
**Period: First Project Year**  
**April 10, 2010 to April 9, 2011**

**Cooperative Agreement: 306-A-00-10-00516-00**

*Submitted: May 10, 2011*



FROM TOP LEFT (CLOCKWISE): WCS staff training rangers in Bamiyan during November 2010; Primary School in Band-e-Amir benefits from new solar power project; alpine meadow in planned Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve

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## List of Acronyms

ACEP	Afghanistan Clean Energy Program (USAID-funded, IRG is implementing partner)
AKDN	Aga Khan Development Network
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
APWA	Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority
AWEC	Afghanistan Wildlife Executive Committee
BACA	Band-e-Amir Community Association
BANP	Band-e-Amir National Park
BAPAC	Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee
BPWR	Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve
CDC	Community Development Council
CLD	Community Livelihoods Development
CG	Community Governance
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CVLK	Central Veterinary Laboratory Kabul
EEP	Environmental Education Program
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
Ha	Hectare
HI	Health Interface (Human wildlife livestock health interface)
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
LPI	Laws, Policies, Institutions
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NP	National Programs
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
PA	Protected Area
SO	Social Organization
TCD	Technical Capacity Development
TMP	Training Management Package
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
USAID	US Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WPA	Wakhan-Pamir Association

## **Background**

This report covers the first year of a three year cooperative agreement (April 10, 2010 to April 9, 2013). This report also incorporates changes to the Afghanistan Mission's Performance Monitoring Plan, which was updated in October of 2010.

This project seeks ensure sustainable community management of lands and resources and involvement in national parks and protected areas in such a way that real tangible benefits flow directly to the communities. This is accomplished by concentrating on two provinces, Badakhshan and Bamiyan, as testing grounds for activities and programs that can be duplicated in other areas of the country. This involves community capacity development and training in sustainable management of resources and a corresponding building of capacity with provincial and national government departments (principally the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA). This capacity building and training leads to immediate benefits in the short term as jobs are created and critical management skills are built; in the medium term as Afghans at all levels develop the ability to sustainably manage the country's natural resource base for economic gains, and in the long term as a management system will be built that can be expanded across the country to provide benefits to Afghanistan and its people. At the same time, this project helps to connect distant rural communities with both provincial and central government agencies, helping to extend and strengthen the reach and rule of law across the country.

This project supports USAID's Strategic Objective SO 5: A Thriving Licit Economy Led by the Private Sector. Results are reported under Objective 5: A Sustainable, Thriving Agricultural Environment, and Program Element 5.2: Improved Natural Resource Management as a Result of USG Assistance.

## **Project Goal:**

To build Afghanistan's capacity to conserve and sustainably manage its natural resources to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor in northeast and central Afghanistan and strengthen linkages between local communities and regional and national government institutions.

## **Geographic Areas and Components:**

The project is grouped into two geographically defined areas – Bamiyan and Badakhshan – and a national capacity building component, united through five objectives (see below). All of them were selected in direct consultation with our Afghan partners. The technical objectives are cross cutting, and apply in each area. They are also mutually supporting – best practices are disseminated across all of the regions served and, through WCS's Afghan government partners, across the nation. The chosen areas are significant in terms of watershed protection and management (primarily comprising collection and transport zones).

## **Project Objectives:**

The project is organized around the following five objectives, which correspond with central themes in USAID's and Afghanistan's development policies:

***Objective 1: Build technical capacity for natural resource management at all levels***

Capacity development is central to this program. Afghanistan does not yet have the capacity to sustainably manage its natural resources, and focused and continuous training will be critical if there is to be a hope of handing over the complex of components necessary for successful resource management. Activities for this objective include training, mentoring, and education to develop capacity at local, provincial, and national levels.

***Objective 2: Facilitate community livelihood development by securing sustainable sources of direct benefits to local communities***

Activities in this area are designed to bring direct short-term and medium-term benefits to local communities as well as provide support required for implementation of local natural resource management initiatives. This area includes community ranger programs, ecotourism support programs, and assistance to communities in securing a sustainable source of revenue. It also includes the implementation aspect of benefit-sharing arrangements between local and national government.

***Objective 3: Create and strengthen community governance institutions***

The project works to create and strengthen community governance institutions so that rural communities can sustainably manage and profit from their resources, and to link those community governance institutions with the corresponding national government agencies responsible for resource management, thus expanding the government's reach into the countryside and extending the rule of law. Activities include education, training, mentoring, and capacity building for improved governance from the local through the provincial to the national level.

***Objective 4: Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions***

WCS works to strengthen laws, policies, and institutions to support resource management and ensure revenue sharing from resource development. Activities include development of regulations and legislation at all levels to support sustainable environmental management and community livelihood initiatives. This also includes activities related to international conventions that Afghanistan is party to, such as the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as well as creation of the systems required for benefit sharing between local and national government. This area also includes efforts to extend benefit-sharing procedures established for protected areas to other areas such as community forestry.

***Objective 5: Build capacity to manage the health interface between livestock, wildlife, and people***

Working with in-country wildlife experts, government agencies and public health officers, WCS uses knowledge in wildlife disease to create local training programs, conduct cutting-edge health investigations, advise on policies, and compile preventive guidelines to reduce disease transmission between wildlife, humans, and their domestic animals in programs and projects around the world. Activities include training of vets by the WCS vet team to increase knowledge

of wildlife based diseases, continued training of paravets in Wakhan, assistance to MAIL veterinary division to take over the Wakhan vaccination campaign by 2012, veterinary support to local communities and technical support to the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Kabul.

## **Highlights of the First Year**

The following is a list of significant accomplishments for the period April 10, 2010 to April 9th, 2011. During the first year of the project, WCS:

- Developed the draft final Management Plan for Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP) in consultation with local communities. Assisted 15 villages around BANP to form and officially register a Social Organization, “Band-e-Amir Community Association” (BACA), which will have the legal authority to enter into benefit sharing agreements with GIROA. This will allow the local communities to directly benefit from the national park admission fees, etc., in addition to income they derive from commercial activities targeting tourists.
- With approval of national and provincial education officials, established the first school-based environmental committees in Band-e-Amir communities in Bamiyan. Twenty two teachers were trained, 125 high school students (86 boys and 39 girls) are actively collecting environmental data and organizing clean-up activities in their communities. The program will expand to include all local communities in the next year.
- In cooperation with the USAID-funded Afghanistan Clean Energy Program (ACEP), installed solar power in two schools. WCS also introduced and tested a new fuel efficient stove with the local communities that will dramatically reduce shrub use and damage to rangelands, and significantly reduce indoor pollution adversely affecting the health of women and children.
- In 2010 facilitated the hiring by MAIL of 14 new national park rangers and one clerk (in addition to the 4 guards and one warden already employed by MAIL) in Bamiyan. The rangers are trained by WCS not only to survey, monitor and protect environmental resources, but also in skills associated with ecotourism including first aid, guide skills, cooking and sanitation, English language, etc. The rangers serve as extension resources for community members associated with ecotourism.
- In 2010 began developing trails around the Wakhan landscape for tourism and local livelihood development. Two trails have been constructed thus far, one in Wuzed valley leading to the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve, and another in Qazi Deh valley leading to Noshaq Mountain, the tallest peak in Afghanistan. More work will be carried out on the Noshaq trail in 2011

- Piloted a livestock insurance program in Sarkand village, Wakhan Corridor, in order to help mitigate the impact of livestock depredation by snow leopard, wolves and lynx. To the best of our knowledge this is the first livestock insurance program in the country.
- As part of the overall strategy of reducing stock killing by predators, two predator-proof corrals have been constructed in the Corridor.
- Convinced the Kyrgyz Little Pamir community to fully adopt conservation. The Kyrgyz have been a notoriously difficult community to work with. Numerous outside organizations have tried to work with these people before WCS, all failing. WCS has been working with the community since 2008 and has trained and employed 17 men as rangers. WCS provided training to the rangers again this year, in August, and were very pleased with the reception they received. Wakhi shepherds working there report that wildlife hunting has almost stopped (this is a huge behavioral change) and the community elders thanked WCS and USAID for providing jobs to their rangers. These, they say, are the first meaningful jobs the community has ever received.
- WCS assisted the Ministry of Agriculture to recruit 5 of the Wakhi community rangers into government ranger jobs. These are the first government ranger jobs for Badakhshan. WCS assisted the WPA and District MAIL to select the 5 candidates. Additionally, WCS facilitated the assignment of a villager from the Wakhan to the position of Protected Area Manager with MAIL. This person is now working alongside WCS and the Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA) in the Wakhan conservation headquarters at Qala Panja. It completes WCS's goal of having the Afghan government, the Wakhan community (i.e. WPA) and WCS partner in a meaningful way to manage conservation and sustainable development across the landscape.
- In late November 2010 the Wakhi and Kyrgyz communities commenced working in partnership under the Wakhan-Pamir Association, managing conservation and development collaboratively across the landscape. This is the first time that these two communities have partnered like this.
- Assisted the Wakhan-Pamir Association to draft a management plan for the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve. This plan will be shared with the broader community in Wakhan, and then taken to government for revision and approval. The plan will stand for 3 years during the provisional phase of formal government designation of the protected area.
- Developed and conducted first trainings for senior staff at NEPA and MAIL, including a two day GIS training, and development of the Introductory Ranger Training module and Wildlife Day module. Trainings are created as stand-alone Training Management Packages (TMP's). The adoption of TMPs allows for a training standard to be established across the agency or across the country. The complete package of training materials can then be 'gifted' to MAIL and NEPA for their own trainers to use as needed. Also worked with NEPA and MAIL to develop and publish environmental materials including posters and booklets.
- Assisted MAIL to draft its 100 day Natural Resource Management Plan, and at MAIL request provided a concept note for creation of a wildlife authority. Formulated the MAIL Natural Resource Management (NRM) Task Force planning template which

allowed the 3 areas of the NRM division of MAIL (Forests, Rangeland and Protected Areas) to consolidate their own 100 day plans with those of their principal partners (WCS, ECODIT, UNEP and IDEA-NEW) for the first time.

- Drafted CITES regulations for the Ministry of Agriculture and NEPA. Although a party to CITES since 1986 Afghanistan has never had the necessary enabling legislation to enable full implementation of the convention in Afghanistan.
- Drafted the Wildlife Management Law for the Ministry of Agriculture and NEPA. The Environment Law was the first law enacted by the new parliament of Afghanistan in 2007. However there was never any enabling sub-legislation that established penalties under the law for illegal hunting of wildlife.

## **Obstacles/Constraints**

Because of the relative safety of the areas in which it operates, WCS has had few issues with security, and has successfully avoided any significant incidents during the first year of this project by keeping a low profile and paying close attention to local situations. WCS of course encounters bureaucratic difficulties advancing its programs with Afghanistan government entities, but through patience and persistence is generally able to keep channels of communication open and get approval and/or assistance from its partners as required. One obstacle to the program's first year arose from WCS being informed that we would receive funding from the Commanders' Emergency Response Fund (CERP) to initiate the production of fuel efficient stoves and renovate stock corrals to make them predator-proof, but this funding eventually was not forthcoming.

In Band-e-Amir it was hoped that WCS would be named as the 'contracted administrator' for the national park. This would have given effective management control to WCS while capacity was being built among MAIL and NEPA staff and the ranger force. However, MAIL decided that this would not be possible because the procurement division of MAIL would be too slow to award a contract to WCS and as an alternative they suggested a memorandum of understanding with WCS about the management of Band-e-Amir. This was duly drafted with the involvement of the legal office of WCS in New York but once again MAIL changed their approach and instead asked whether WCS could draft out a concept note for an 'Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority' (APWA). This was produced for them and submitted in August 2010. The rationale behind APWA is that it would be a statutory body modeled on the Afghanistan Land Authority (ALA) that would have much greater freedom of action when dealing with things such as building contracts for infrastructure and benefit sharing contracts with communities. It is not known whether this APWA will come into being soon. In the meantime WCS continues to have an on-site presence in the national park but it is a continuous process to keep checking on any development contracts that have been let by MAIL to ensure that any such development is appropriate for the park.

Specific obstacles/constraints encountered during implementation of individual activities will be described below.

## **Indicator Summary for First Year**

The full list of project indicators with results is provided in Appendix 1. Overall, WCS achieved or overachieved almost all of the indicators, including number of households benefitted by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas, number of communities implementing improved natural resource management practices, number of USG-supported initiative/mechanisms designed to reduce the potential for violent conflict over the control, exploitation, trade or protection of natural resources, number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation, number of Policies, Laws, Agreements, Regulations or Procedures promoting sustainable natural resource management that are drafted and presented for public/stakeholder consultation as a result of USG assistance and number of Policies, Laws, Agreements or Regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management that are implemented as a result of USG assistance.

WCS was less than a percentage point below its planned target for number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management and/or biodiversity conservation due to the fact that winter conditions prevented receipt of the final patrol figures in time for this report. (They will be included in the next quarter.) Additionally, WCS had planned to achieve 50,000 hectares in areas of biological significance showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance, but this was delayed due to the delay in the manufacture/delivery of fuel efficient stoves (which will significantly reduce shrub collection and improve rangeland conditions).

WCS more than doubled the number of planned livestock vaccinations due to a \$12,000 grant from the Commanders' Emergency Response Fund (CERP).

## **Plan versus Results**

The following section describes objectives and activities in the WCS First Year work plan and compares planned to actual results. A list of products submitted to USAID during the first year is included in Appendix 2.

### **1. Bamiyan Province**

***Objective 1.1: Build technical capacity for natural resource management at all levels (Technical Capacity Development-TCD)***

#### **Activity 1.1.1: Environmental Education Program (EEP)**

During the program's first year the WCS team will host eight stakeholder meetings; select five schools to pilot the environmental education program; train one teacher at each of the five schools, establish four environmental committees at each of the five schools (each committee addresses a separate environmental topic) with active participation of 265 students—66 girls, 198 boys; develop 4 EEP posters and 4 data formats; hold four community outreach workshops for 700 community members (175 females/525 males), provide 270 EEP kits to students and teachers; assist committees to implement environmental data collection; evaluate first year student progress in 4 schools; 15 EEP committees to be operational by end of first year.

Results:

- Hosted stakeholder meetings with education officials at the Bamiyan provincial department of education in Bamiyan city, at the district education department for Yakawlang district, and at Shahid Mahmoodi High School in Band-e-Amir. (July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup>). Based on stakeholder input, decided to pilot the environmental education program in Shahid Mahmoodi High School and later replicate the program in four middle schools. Organized additional stakeholder meeting to finalize a Parents' Day event at the high school.
- Implemented a two-day training course (July 14-15) for 22 teachers on environmental education topics at the Shahid Mahmoodi High School.
- Established 4 environmental education committees at Shahid Mahmoodi School. These are the livestock committee, forestry committee, hygiene committee and events committee. 125 students (86 boys and 39 girls) are participating in these environmental education committees. They were trained by teachers and supervised by WCS for data collection formats, data collection and evaluation.
- Designed, printed and distributed 4 environmental education posters to Shahid Mahmoodi School. The posters were also distributed to the other 4 schools at the area.
- Distributed 125 Environmental education kits to students and 22 kits to teachers.
- Facilitated the Parents' Day Environmental Event at Shahid Mahmoodi High School on October 15<sup>th</sup>. 272 females and 280 males attended. (Total 552).

Due to community input, the program was piloted in a single school instead of in 4, which resulted in lower participation numbers. Due to the success of the pilot program, other community schools are now enthusiastic about adopting the program, and this expansion will occur in year 2.

**Activity 1.1.2: Community Conservation Education Outreach**

Introductory meetings will be held with all Community Development Councils (CDCs) in the Northern Plateau and Ajar Valley; a baseline socioeconomic survey will be completed in 29 villages; outreach education materials will be developed and distributed; a Training Management Package (TMP) will be developed for community outreach; 15 workshops will be held for stakeholders in the villages in the area comprising the Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP), Ajar and the Northern Plateau; each of the CDCs will select a focal conservation representative; ten Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC) members will make an exposure visit to the Wakhan to see the activities of the Wakhan Pamir Association (a registered social organization); potential revenue sharing activities will be developed with at least 3 potential revenue streams identified.

Results:

- Performed socioeconomic survey data collection in all 29 villages (July 18 –Sept. 1) and additional socioeconomic survey work in 7 villages in the northern plateau (36 villages in total). The survey questions were designed as part of training local staff to conduct the socio-economic survey
- Conducted 7 CDC meetings in Band-e-Amir between Aug. 13 and Sept. 1.

- Conducted environmental education workshops in 15 villages in Band-e-Amir (November 3-22) after introductory meetings were held in 15 villages in Band-e-Amir and 12 in the Northern Plateau (27 in total).
- Distributed environmental education outreach materials to all of the villages above.
- Conducted Public Hygiene and Sanitation Awareness training sessions in 10 villages within Band-e-Amir National Park. (Total number of attendees 574, comprised of 231 men and 343 women.)
- Environmental education posters were distributed to all stakeholders at Band-e-Amir National Park.
- Per community request, WCS facilitated English and mathematics classes for 111 Band-e-Amir school children (81 boys and 30 girls) from January 1 to March 31.

In response to community input, WCS added trainings on hygiene and sanitation, and classes on mathematics and English that were not included in the original work plan. However, revenue sharing activities are on hold while WCS and GIROA continue working on the regulatory structure. The exposure visit to the Wakhan will now take place in year 2.

**Activity 1.1.3: Expand capacity of existing partners (Regional NEPA and MAIL, AKDN, BAPAC)**

WCS will meet with AKDN to coordinate ecotourism projects, and provide field training and other training opportunities to regional MAIL and NEPA representatives.

**Results:**

- Held three meetings with AKDN, MAIL and NEPA in Bamiyan town and Band-e-Amir on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June and July 28<sup>th</sup>
- Facilitated 5 BAPAC meetings in Band-e-Amir (July 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 25 and November 28) and one meeting between the BAPAC members, AKDN and WCS representatives related to ecotourism.
- Participated in the ecotourism Silk Route festival arranged by the AKDN in Band-e Amir on the July 29-30.
- Facilitated infrastructure development meetings with national-level MAIL representatives and advised a team of MAIL infrastructure development engineers, including representatives from Ministry of Culture on a 10-day site visit for development purposes at Band-e-Amir (July 3-12)
- Facilitated the consultation for the 100-Day plan of MAIL with all stakeholders during the BAPAC meetings.
- Presented protected areas management planning and protected species training to MAIL, NEPA, UNEP and community representatives at the MAIL protected areas workshop in Bamiyan city on October 24-25.
- Proposed plans for management and zoning for Band-e-Amir national park to BAPAC delegates on October 25.

WCS developed and provided trainings and consultation based on stakeholder demand.

***Objective 1.2: Facilitate community livelihood development by securing sustainable sources of direct benefits to local communities (Community Livelihood Development-CLD)***

### **Activity 1.2.1 Community Ranger Program**

The WCS team will develop a training management package (TMP) for ranger training; assist in the recruitment of 16 new rangers for BANP, the Northern Plateau and the Ajar Valley; provide basic GIS training to all rangers; assist the existing rangers to train the newly hired rangers; purchase equipment for new and existing rangers; provide hygiene and first aid training to all rangers; provide ranger training assistance to the UNEP Shah Foladi protected area project as required.

#### **Results:**

- Communication with BAPAC members and communities about the imminent recruitment of the new rangers at Band-e-Amir National Park.
- Designed and distributed a new uniform and equipment to 35 rangers at Band-e-Amir and the 13 new community rangers from the Northern Plateau after approved by MAIL in Kabul.
- Meeting with the UNEP protected Areas Advisor regarding ranger training for Shah Foladi
- Completed the ranger training TMP.
- Employed 13 new community rangers from the Northern Plateau.
- Trained 19 MAIL rangers and 2 supervisory staff, 13 Northern Plateau community rangers, and 7 Shah Foladi game guards (sponsored by UNEP) for a total of 41.
- Winter work planning as on-job training was conducted with the 13 rangers of the Northern Plateau in their respective villages from the February 1-20.
- WCS assisted MAIL to issue motorcycles to Band-e-Amir National Park rangers.
- With assistance from WCS the Northern Plateau and Band-e-Amir rangers patrolled their operational areas, to enforce rules and regulations, and maintained communications with their communities.
- WCS provided English language training to 22 rangers of Band-e-Amir National Park.

### **Activity 1.2.2 Community Needs Assessment**

Conduct a livelihood development needs assessment/baseline survey in five villages around Band-e-Amir National Park using a survey and interviews.

#### **Results:**

- Completed community livelihood needs assessments. Seven communities were surveyed between October 30 and November 3.
- WCS provided technical assistance to BAPAC regarding latrine specifications for the facilities zone in Band-e-Amir National Park
- WCS made an assessment of the fuel wood used by the local bakery in Jaru Kashan village.
- In cooperation with the USAID-funded Afghanistan Clean Energy Program (ACEP), installed solar power in two schools. WCS also provided a list of households in Band-e-Amir to receive solar lanterns from ACEP during year 2.

WCS is actively seeking additional community resources such as the solar lanterns and solar panels mentioned above.

### **Activity 1.2.3 Ecotourism**

Facilitate ecotourism promotion activities in cooperation with AKDN; develop tourism management infrastructure for tourist and vehicle control (stone walls); develop signage for the BANP; provide English language training for up to 30 shop owners, guides, etc.

Results:

- Held two meetings with AKDN about tourism issues..
- Drafted a tourism facilities development plan in cooperation with the MAIL 100-Day development plan. This plan includes parking facilities, camping and picnic sites, signage and stone walling.
- Employed a male and a female English teacher English language teacher for 34 students including park rangers, school teachers, school students and community members (12 of whom are woman). Three English classes were held daily, two for Band-e-Amir National Park previously hired and newly hired rangers, and one for the school teachers.
- A newly discovered natural arch at the northern edge of northern Bamiyan plateau, near Hazarchishma village, was measured by WCS in February 2011. With a span of 210.6 feet, this arch appears to be the twelfth largest natural arch in the world, and is probably the largest one at high altitude (3100m above sea level). It is the most spectacular natural phenomenon to have been located in Afghanistan in recent times and it is hoped that this will raise the tourism potential of the area. There were numerous media ‘hits’ following the WCS media release on this discovery.

MAIL informed WCS that it would be responsible for funding the infrastructure for tourism and vehicle control, and for signage, although WCS continues to advise.

### **Activity 1.2.4 Fuel Efficient Stoves Project**

Pilot fuel-efficient stove technology in one community by holding a demonstration workshop for 40 households, and the household representatives will all be female. The stoves will be introduced during the first year of the project in the Wakhan, and during year two in Bamiyan. This workshop is designed to jump start the stoves project in Bamiyan.

Results:

- After consultation with BAPAC, selected a local (female) teacher from Qala-e Jafar village in Band-e-Amir to be trained to use and demonstrate the stove and adapt to new cooking methods., imported a fuel-efficient stove from Pakistan and the project has been demonstrated among the communities at Band-e-Amir.
- Assisted the new trained local female to implement 10 one-day training workshops for 187 women from three local villages.

The fuel-efficient stove proved to be immensely popular with local women, which resulted in a much higher number of trainees than anticipated.

***Objective 1.3: Create and strengthen community governance institutions (Community Governance-CG)***

**Activity 1.3.1 Establish a Social Organization (Afghan NGO)**

WCS will assist local CDCs to form a social organization (SO) that can receive income from BANP activities on the basis of benefit sharing; commence negotiations with Ajar and Northern Plateau communities through 15 CDC meetings regarding community governance; and organize two workshops to share the collaborative management agreement proposal with the BANP and government counterparts.

**Results:**

- Held meetings and facilitated with BAPAC members and community elders regarding formation of the social organization and the legal requirements for registration, nominations and registration for membership of the social organization, drafted by-laws.
- Facilitated the subsequent separate meetings for each of the 14 villages to appoint members to represent them in the association.
- Hosted a workshop attended by 43 community members representing all villages of Band-e-Amir (July 8) as board of directors. Social Organization By-Laws were discussed and approved; and it was decided that the organization would be called the “Band-e-Amir Community Association” (BACA).
- Facilitated registration process of the SO in Kabul and the SO was officially registered with the Ministry of Justice.
- Assisted the Social Organization (SO) to hold the first meeting in Jarukashan village on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Subsequent meetings have been held monthly.
- Facilitated the establishment of an office for the SO in Jarukashan village and ongoing consultation and support have been provided.

**Activity 1.3.2 Management Planning for Band-e-Amir National Park**

The team will conduct a socio-economic survey (also baseline data) amongst 29 villages to determine traditional resource use and potential effects of protection; receive formal comments from provincial, district and village councils on creation of the park; conduct consultations on boundaries with provincial, district and village councils and also communities; commence development of the final management plan for BANP; assign a WCS full time management consultant to BANP; hire two community liaison officers; support the park warden; initiate the process to establish Ajar and Northern Plateau as protected areas.

**Results:**

- Assigned a full-time management consultant to BANP
- Completed data collection and tabulation for the socioeconomic survey of the 29 villages proposed and preceded the socioeconomic surveys in 7 extra villages.
- Conducted consultations on park boundaries with 15 local communities.
- The draft Band-e-Amir management plan document was completed, translated from English into Dari and revised after comments were received from MAIL and NEPA in Kabul from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March.

- A management planning workshop including all stakeholders from BAPAC, BACA, the Governor's office, provincial council, district office, AKDN, information and culture department, MAIL and NEPA was held in Bamiyan city from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March.
- A simplified draft management plan summary document was produced for the local stakeholders in Band-e-Amir.
- A proposal to designate Band-e-Amir National Park document has been completed.
- A three dimensional scale model map of Band-e-Amir National Park was produced and presented to BAPAC and the provincial authorities.
- WCS worked with MAIL and the Afghan Land Authority regarding the land ownership issues in the Band-e-Amir National Park facilities zone.

### **Activity 1.3.3 Assistance to UNEP in developing the Shah Foladi protected area**

Assist UNEP/Shah Foladi to establish a social organization (SO) in Shah Foladi.

Results:

- Held one meeting with the Bamiyan UNEP representative on 16<sup>th</sup> June and another meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> to introduce the WCS program and discuss cooperation in setting up a social organization in Shah Foladi.
- Held a meeting with the UNEP protected Areas Advisor regarding assistance from WCS in the establishment of a social organization for Shah Foladi.

### ***Objective 1.4: Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions (Laws, Policies, Institutions-LPI)***

#### **Activity 1.4.1 Study and draft resource use rules and regulations**

Study and draft resource use rules and regulations.

Results:

- Engaged legal consultant in preliminary review and discussion of rules and regulations concerning collection of fines in the national park and inserted the suggested regulations into the draft management plan.

### ***Objective 1.5: Build capacity to manage the health interface between livestock, wildlife, and people (Health Interface-HI)***

**Level of Effort: No significant activity planned in Bamiyan in first year.**

## **2. Badakhshan Province**

### ***Objective 2.1: Build technical capacity for natural resource management at all levels (TCD)***

#### **Activity 2.1.1 Environmental Education Program (EEP)**

WCS continues EEP in all Wakhan schools, and introduces the program to Kipkut school near Faizabad at the request of regional authorities; 52 committees are formed (4 in each school) each one addressing one of four environmental topics; 560 EEP kits are issued to the participating students and teachers (400 males/160 females); district education officer participates in school monitoring visits; district education office in Khundud supplied with equipment to run the EEP program (computer, printer, desk, etc.); 14 schools hold environmentally themed Parents Days

attended by at least 3,000 community members (2400 males/600 females); feasibility study is performed for school gardens project; 20 students make environmental presentation at Pamir Festival to participants (430 males/80 females); Wakhan police and border guards are educated on conservation issues (50 males).

**Results:**

- Provided conservation education and outreach material training for five provincial NEPA staff members (all male), and 102 teachers (76 male, 26 female).
- 308 community members, students, officials, AKDN staffs and guests took part in the first Badakhshan Wildlife Conservation Day (253 male and 55)
- Issued 546 EEP kits to 14 schools in the Corridor
- Trained 339 boys, 150 girls and 57 teachers on EEP committee and environmental data collection (546 people in 56 committees total) and continued to support the EEP in all 14 schools along the corridor to continued data collection on livestock and daily events.
- Facilitated Parents' Day events at 12 of the 14 schools between October 16 and November 3. A total of 3,086 males and 1,968 females attended the environmentally themed educational events.
- A Training Management Package (TMP) for start-up of Environmental Education School Programs was drafted.
- WCS provided logistical support to a French film crew that is producing a documentary on the Afghan Kyrgyz, who live in the Pamir Mountains of the Wakhan.
- A paper by the Badakhshan team about snow leopard conservation in Wakhan was submitted for publication in the International Journal of Environmental Studies in June 2011 issue.

The Pamir Festival was cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

**Activity 2.1.2 Capacity Development**

Two teachers are hired and trained to provide ongoing English language training; English language training in support of ecotourism opportunities then provided to students, teachers, local government officials, community rangers, tourism cooks and guides (165 males/30 females); Wakhan Pamir Association members come to Kabul for project management training (4 males); one WPA member receives GIS training in Kabul.

**Results:**

- Commenced English language training on July 20<sup>th</sup> in Qala Panja after initial interviews and hiring of English teacher, three one hour classes a day are being held with a total of 46 male and 14 female students.
- Scaled up English training to all 14 schools across the Corridor. 690 boys and 297 girls are participating in the program.
- The Secretary of the Wakhan-Pamir Association, Mr Mohammad Rahim, participated in 3-months of English and computer training in Kabul from December 7<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.
- 10 shepherds (6 male, 4 female) from Sarkand village were trained for two days on how to teach their livestock to respond to a whistle. This is done as a means of controlling

herd movements and preventing them moving into areas where they become susceptible to predators.

- From January 23-25, whistle training was provided to shepherds at Ishmorgh village (near Sarkand). The trainees included 8 men from Ishmurgh, 3 men from Qala-e Panja, 1 man from Yamit and 1 man from Khandud.
- Upon request from the WPA, in January WCS assisted the community to draft a funding proposal to a group of private international donors who are interested in assisting university students from Wakhan in their studies. Currently students from Wakhan face many financial difficulties with their studies (transport, food, accommodation), often resulting in them not being able to continue to study. Scholarships would be provided to students, particularly girls and poor families, to study at institutions throughout Afghanistan. The donors are attempting to establish a sustainable financing mechanism for their support. The matter is pending.

Shepherd training and additional English classes were provided due to community demand.

### **Activity 2.1.3 Ranger Training**

Existing community rangers receive additional training including first aid and hygiene (59 males); 59 rangers receive basic field training.

Results:

- Trained 38 of the 42 Wakhi community rangers with involvement of two commanders from the Afghan Border Police (from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010).
- Trained three Kyrgyz ranger teams in data sheet use, GPS, compass, map reading and camera trap operation.

For logistical reasons, first aid training has been moved to year 2.

### **Activity 2.1.4 Natural Resource Monitoring**

A monitoring program is developed and refined to enable more effective and meaningful data collection by the rangers; the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve monitoring program is refined and rangers improve data collection and patrolling abilities; biodiversity and socioeconomic community surveys (also for baseline data) are conducted across the Kyrgyz Big Pamir with 10 local CDCs; rangers assist in urial and argali (wild sheep) surveys; Wakhi Big Pamir livestock grazing economics assessment conducted; biodiversity survey conducted in Jurum District.

Results:

- Updated the wildlife monitoring data sheet, making it more user-friendly and adding some additional information to it.
- Trained three rangers who had demonstrated exceptional ability to collect exhaustive and accurate livestock numbers in Big Pamir.
- Inventoried all sheep, goats and cattle according to age (young/adult) and location in the Wakhi Big Pamir.

- Inventoried all yaks present in settlements and estimated those free-ranging in high pastures from questionnaires.
- Trained one male herder in each of the four settlements in western Big Pamir to record the location of the sheep/goat herds they are tending twice a day with a hand-held GPS unit.
- Implemented village-based aerial monitoring surveys in 35 villages. Continued monitoring of Big Pamir livestock grazing patterns as part of WCS' overall resource monitoring strategy for the landscape.
- Provided support and oversight of the ranger teams, participating in the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR) monitoring program.
- Assisted community rangers to implement a pilot camera trap study of snow leopards in Sarkand valley.
- Developed an Access database for the Wakhan camera trap data and the ranger wildlife survey data.
- A community interview survey about wildlife and local livelihoods was carried out in Zebak district, Badakhshan province from January 21st to February 7th. One hundred and seventy five interviews were conducted across 27 villages in the district.

For logistical reasons the biodiversity survey was changed from Jurum to Zebak.

#### **Activity 2.1.5 Wildlife/livestock Health**

Training for MAIL staff and NGOs in Faizabad on ecosystem health in the Wakhan and Pamirs, focusing on foot and mouth disease (FMD). Continue hands-on training of local paravets including during a mass vaccination for FMD. Provide technical and practical training to rangers and communities on wildlife/livestock health issues. Prepare presentations for MAIL, NGOs, rangers and paravets.

#### **Results:**

- Conducted two mass vaccination programs for livestock in the Wakhan Corridor. A total of 6,795 yak and cattle were vaccinated. (See details in 2.5.1.)
- Trained six Wakhi rangers in two WCS teams on wildlife and livestock monitoring and evaluation.
- Trained 38 of the 42 Wakhan rangers on basic concepts related to the risk of disease transmission between livestock, humans and wildlife, and direct health risk to wildlife.
- Provided rangers with sampling kits and recording forms for use during field missions.
- Developed and delivered training on the wildlife/livestock interface to MAIL staff in Badakhshan.
- The half-day ranger training that included a theoretical presentation on the risk of disease transmission between livestock, humans and wildlife was redesigned to fit the standard of a Training Management Package.
- Provided on-the-job training for two Wakhi paravets, their two local assistants and another paravet from provincial MAIL in Faizabad. WCS continued support of two Wakhi paravets

- Trained six Wakhi community members in livestock handling, basic husbandry practices, vaccination and blood-sample processing.
- One presentation on the Ecosystem Health concept was prepared.

***Objective 2.2: Facilitate community livelihood development (CLD) by securing sustainable sources of direct benefits to local communities***

**Activity 2.2.1 Fuel Efficient Stoves**

Procure additional funding for stove project; train women members of the community to use it and demonstrate it to others; purchase supplies and establish local production facility; send women with escorts to villages throughout the Wakhan to demonstrate the new technology and create demand; subsidize initial stove sales.

Results:

- Issued a stove to family in Wakhan, trained them in its use, and assisted the family to train 205 women from neighbouring villages on use of the stove.
- Completed cost estimates and contract for importing fuel-efficient stove technology from Pakistan and trained local tinsmiths in Afghanistan to establish stove-making enterprises.

**Activity 2.2.2 Integrate conservation within the Wakhan Area Development Initiative (WADI)**

Management coordination with AKF and WFP to integrate conservation with the Wakhan Area Development Initiative.

Results:

Held coordination meetings with AKDN in Kabul on May 16 and 23. Apparently there is not as much interest in this initiative as WCS was led to believe, and this activity may be dropped in future years.

**Activity 2.2.3 Livestock Depredation Insurance**

Investigate the potential for a village-level insurance program in Wakhan in one selected village, insuring against wolf and snow leopard depredation.

Results:

- Sarkand was selected as a site to pilot depredation insurance after discussion with WPA and Sarkand community. The insurance program was initiated on August 22.
- Developed a livestock predation monitoring protocol with the local communities.
- Trained shepherds (see capacity development, above) how to use whistles to control the movement of their livestock. This will help them prevent livestock moving into areas where they become at risk of predation.
- Established two predator-proof livestock corrals in the corridor, at Wardif and Ishmorgh villages. A total of 532 person-days of labor was generated for local villagers.

The predator-proof corrals were based on community request, and were not included in the original work plan.

#### **Activity 2.2.4 Support Community Rangers**

Implement local capacity development for the management of the community ranger program in Wakhan by selecting one ranger trainer and project manager from the community; rangers continue patrolling and surveying wildlife across the landscape; all ranger program equipment is inventory checked and new equipment and supplies are issued.

Results:

- Groomed a villager from Qala Panja to manage the ranger program and assisted him to develop a work programming system.
- Inspected all ranger equipment and updated the inventory
- Assisted community rangers to patrol the landscape, monitor hunting and survey wildlife.

#### **Activity 2.2.5 Protected Area Development**

Protected area and tourism infrastructure developments promoted in/around the BPWR through creation of 120 seasonal jobs; a ranger station/tourist accommodation is established in the BPWR; a loop-walking trail is established from Wuzed to the BPWR, down to Sargaz.

Results:

- Two trails have been constructed thus far, one in Wuzed valley leading to the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (456 person-days of paid labor were provided to 4 villages in the local area). The trail significantly improves access to the area. Another trail is being developed in Qazi Deh valley leading to Noshag Mountain, the tallest peak in Afghanistan. More work will be carried out on the Noshag trail in 2011. (See tourism development, below.)

WCS is actively seeking outside funding for the ranger station/tourist accommodation.

#### **Activity 2.2.6 Tourism Development**

Assist the WPA to establish a community owned ecotourism enterprise in Ishkashim and Qala Panja, and coordinate with other agencies (such as AKDN) to promote it; develop and distribute information brochures for tourists.

Results:

- Held discussions and began working with the WPA and various other community members about establishing a community-owned tourism enterprise in Ishkashim. The enterprise will be a handicrafts outlet for all communities in Wakhan. It will also function as a coffee shop/restaurant; and as a tourism hub for Wakhan guides and tour operators.
- Recruited a business consultant to develop the community owned enterprise at Ishkashim.
- Assisted the community to begin defining a trail to Mt Noshag base camp. 691 person-days of labor and approximately \$5,350 were generated for 41 households.
- Recruited an adventure tourism operator, Skip Horner Adventures ([www.skiphorner.com](http://www.skiphorner.com)) from Montana in the United States to begin running tours to Wakhan.
- A WCS staff member from the Badakhshan project, Anthony Simms, is part of a three-person team who has won The North Face Adventure Grant for 2011 to climb the summit of Noshag Mountain, Afghanistan's highest peak.  
([http://www.thenorthface.com.au/tnf\\_grant2011.php](http://www.thenorthface.com.au/tnf_grant2011.php))

***Objective 2.3: Create and strengthen community governance institutions (CG)***

**Activity 2.3.1 Wakhan Pamir Association Institutional Development**

WCS assists the WPA to develop institutionally and attract and work with partner organizations; community governance in the Little Pamir is developed along the lines of the WPA model; processes for collaboration between WPA and government in the management of conservation in Wakhan are developed.

**Results:**

- Met with the World Food Program (WFP) and discussed Food For Work project opportunities for Wakhan; facilitated a meeting between the WPA and the WFP in Faizabad
- Assisted the WPA to re-register with the central government as a Social Organization.
- Facilitated a meeting with the WPA on June 19<sup>th</sup> to plan for 2011.
- Met with the WPA Board of Directors on July 28. The District Government representative for MAIL also participated. Issues covered included selection of rangers to be recruited by MAIL, hunting by government officials, predator-proof corral and fuel-efficient stove projects, and English teaching. All plans were approved.
- Assisted the WPA in oversight of the BPWR and Noshaq track developments.
- Successfully recruited the Kyrgyz community into participation in the WPA. This was a landmark event as the Kyrgyz have been notoriously difficult to involve in any development initiatives with many previous attempts by a number of agencies failing.
- Assisted the WPA to establish employment contracts with all of the Wakhi community rangers and managed the community rangers during the winter months.
- Assisted the WPA to negotiate a no-hunting agreement with the border police commander, after a series of hunting incidents carried out by the Wakhan border police during 2010.
- The WPA successfully dealt with several hunting incidents over the winter, reporting them and discussing them as necessary with government officials, particularly the Border Police. We facilitated some meetings for WPA with the new Wakhan District Governor the AKF Cross-border Tourism Project manager, Mr Gulnazar and AKDN.
- WPA representatives participated in monthly District Coordination Meetings at Khundud.

**Activity 2.3.2 Protected Area Establishment**

A management plan for the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR) is developed with the communities in Wakhan, through the WPA and government, and is submitted to government; progress is made in the creation of additional protected areas' through meetings with CDCs and/or WPA.

**Results:**

- Facilitated preliminary management planning meetings with the WPA, district and provincial government.
- Assisted MAIL to select five of the Wakhi community rangers to become government rangers in Wakhan.

- Introduced the former Secretary of the WPA to MAIL in Faizabad to be recruited as the Ministry's protected areas officer and manager of government rangers in the Wakhan.
- Assisted the WPA to develop rules and regulations for the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve.
- Conducted conservation awareness training for government stakeholders including border police, MAIL, police and district government were held for 98 people at Ishkashim on October 17.
- The draft Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management plan was completed by WPA, with assistance from WCS. The plan will be shared with all 42 Wakhi Community Development Council representatives, and government officials.

***Objective 2.4: Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions (LPI)***

**Activity 2.4.1 Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve management planning**

Work to review and draft the BPWR management plan which is then submitted to government.

Results: See 2.3.2 above.

**Activity 2.4.2. Benefit Sharing**

Work with the WPA to develop potential benefit sharing opportunities in Wakhan to allow communities to begin generating revenue from conservation; consultation meetings held with MAIL, NEPA and other government departments.

Results:

- Consulted with WPA to develop a series of ideas that would allow communities to generate income from conservation

***Objective 2.5: Build capacity to manage the health interface between livestock, wildlife, and people (HI)***

**Activity 2.5.1 Control disease spread at wildlife/livestock interface in Wakhan and Pamirs**

Two mass vaccination campaigns for FMD on 3,000-4,000 yak and cattle in Wakhan/Pamirs followed by assessment of success in terms of disease prevention and also increased economic benefits to herders.

Results:

- Carried out a first mass vaccination campaign against foot-and-mouth disease on 2,938 livestock, including 2,191 cattle and 747 yaks between Sarhad-e Broghil and Qila-e Panja in upper Wakhan (*Cited in 2.1.5 above.*)
- Analyzed and evaluated the level of vaccination success (protection level). The first vaccination campaign was found to be successful.
- Completed the second mass vaccination campaign for FMD on 3,857 animals (1,326 yak and 2,531 cattle) in mid and upper Wakhan Valley.
- WCS completed preparations for the third vaccination campaign to be implemented by the WCS-trained Wakhi paravets as well as a questionnaire survey to monitor the effectiveness of the 2010 FMD vaccination campaigns.

### **Activity 2.5.2 Monitor Zoonotic and other animal diseases in Wakhan/Pamirs**

Sample domestic and wild animals in the Wakhan, monitor livestock health and distribution.

Results:

- Sampled blood from 255 livestock, including 73 cattle, 30 yak, 65 goats and 87 sheep to be tested for brucellosis and possibly tuberculosis –two zoonotic diseases.
- Sampled blood from 255 livestock in Big Pamir and Wakhan for analysis.
- Trained the veterinary team on the principles of tuberculosis (TB) detection in livestock and serological detection of exposure to brucellosis. .
- Blood-sampled 284 sheep, 13 goats, 39 yak and 48 cattle for brucellosis serological testing.

## **National Programs**

*Objective 3.1: Build technical capacity for natural resource management at all levels (TCD)*

### **Activity 3.1.1 Training needs assessment for NEPA and MAIL**

Initial needs assessment at beginning of program in the areas of both management and technical skills; ongoing assessment of needs as the project continues.

Results:

- Conducted a separate needs assessment for NEPA and MAIL and updated their training needs. WCS continued close weekly contact with NEPA and MAIL to continue ongoing assessment of NEPA and MAIL training needs

### **Activity 3.1.2 GIS support and training to MAIL and NEPA**

GIS training support to MAIL and NEPA by visiting their offices upon request and/or scheduled visits; technology awareness workshop for upper management; specialized GIS practical training for MAIL and NEPA including Living Landscape Program and GAP Analysis; GIS orientation training for Department of Agriculture students (Kabul University); technology awareness workshop for Department Heads in Badakhshan and Bamiyan.

Results:

- Provided training to three technicians from MAIL and NEPA
- Provided routine on-site technical GIS support to NEPA and MAIL, and assisted GIS technicians from MAIL
- Participated in a meeting at NEPA about Air Quality Monitoring equipment installation in Kabul to provide GIS support for site selection
- Conducted a two-day GIS training course for 8 GIS technicians from MAIL and NEPA on Species Habitat Analysis and Priority Zoning
- Continued systematic data collection, spatial integration and analysis of all field activities, added more datasets to the centralized GIS database with focus on the Wakhan landscape and the Band-e-Amir National Park.
- Provided data set to for a three-dimensional model of the Band-e-Amir National Park

- MAIL and NEPA have been regularly visited for GIS support with their ongoing GIS projects.
- The three dimensional model of the Band-e-Amir National Park and series of updated maps (Dari and English) were developed based on the new boundaries for the Band-e-Amir National Park management plan.

**Activity 3.1.3 Ongoing management and technical consultant support to NEPA and MAIL**  
Regularly scheduled and ad hoc consulting support to NEPA and MAIL.

Results:

- Developed a training/consultative process with the Protected Area directorate of the Natural Resource Management division of MAIL to develop a training and capacity development proposal. Six staff members were trained over the course of 8 days (4 men, 2 women).
- The Natural Resources Management division in MAIL regularly visited and advised on their 100 day implementation plan.
- Advised NEPA on environmental and biodiversity issues at the Kabul Conference and on the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Advised MAIL on priorities for infrastructure development for Band e Amir National Park.
- WCS continued to pursue the Contracted Administrator Guidelines for Band-e-Amir National Park and Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority.
- Provided a concept note on 'Implementation of small scale integrated watershed management' for MAIL. Designed and printed the new poster for the Afghan protected species.
- Provided 3 sets of posters of Afghanistan Protected Species for Afghan police training by NEPA.
- Provided technical advice about infrastructure development in BANP.

**Activity 3.1.4 Training Management Package Development**  
Five TMPs will be developed during the first year.

Results:

- Trained WCS staff in effective Powerpoint presentation techniques and TMP structure.
- Developed a TMP for conducting wildlife day events in communities or schools.
- Conducted a Training Management Package (TMP) workshop for the MAIL Natural Resource Management (NRM) section. Thirteen staff were trained, including one female.
- Conducted a Training Management Package (TMP) workshop for NEPA staff. Nine staff were trained, including two females.
- Completed the Introductory Ranger Training TMP and submitted it to NEPA and MAIL.
- Trained 9 staff from MAIL and NEPA about the Introductory Ranger Training TMP
- The Afghanistan Border Police Training TMP was drafted and translated into Dari.

Two TMPs have been finalized, and three additional ones will be completed early in year 2.

**Activity 3.1.5 Enhance capability of GIROA to deal with human-wildlife-livestock interface issues**

Provide lectures to staff at MAIL, Kabul University and the Afghan Veterinary Association about avian influenza in wild birds, the concept of ecosystem health, sustainable prophylactic operations and zoonotic risk. Design and prepare a field guide on wildlife disease risk in Afghanistan (in Dari and Pashtu) to be distributed to professionals (1,500 booklets).

**Results:**

- Issued the final report of “Birdlife monitoring in Kol-e Hashmat Khan, Kabul, Afghanistan (March 2007–April 2010).
- Completed a field guide on wildlife disease risk in Afghanistan. This publication is being translated into Dari and Pashto, and 1,500 copies will be printed and disseminated to veterinary and agriculture extension professionals.

***Objective 3.2: Facilitate community livelihood development (CLD) by securing sustainable sources of direct benefits to local communities***

**Activity 3.2.1 Coordination and Lessons Learned Dissemination**

Meet regularly with NEPA and MAIL officials to discuss and evaluate strategies and successes that are applicable throughout Afghanistan. Produce and disseminate information materials.

**Results:**

- Held meetings to discuss with both NEPA and MAIL the need to jointly endorse the Contracted Administrator Guidelines.
- Discussed with NEPA and MAIL the need to endorse the National Protected Area Strategy by executive order of the Director General of NEPA
- Following advice from the Taqneen in the Ministry of Justice, met with NEPA and MAIL for final endorsement of the benefit sharing contracts to be initiated at Band e Amir National Park.
- Designed a booklet about Afghanistan wildlife protected species in cooperation with the MAIL Protected Areas Directorate. This booklet contains 48 protected species which were officially announced by NEPA.

***Objective 3.3: Create and strengthen community governance institutions (CG)***

**Activity 3.3.1 Support to GIROA in fulfilling obligations under international conventions (CITES, CBD, etc.)**

Assistance with document drafting and editing; orientation of staff dealing with these conventions.

**Results:**

- Assisted MAIL with the preparation of a CITES export permit as the first such issue for Afghanistan for over 5 years.
- Equipped an office in the new NEPA HQ building for the Afghanistan Wildlife Executive Committee (AWEC) which will become the CITES Scientific Authority for Afghanistan.

- Continued to assist NEPA on the preparation of an ECO conference on endangered species and protected areas to be held in Kabul in October (postponed due to security concerns).
- Engaged representatives from MAIL and local legal specialists in an effort to streamline current Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) regulations.
- Participated in creation of a WCS training film funded by the Department of Defense that is aimed at reducing or eliminating illegal wildlife product purchases by US military members serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, therefore improving adherence to CITES regulations.
- Assisted NEPA with drafting letters to the Secretariats of Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to inform them that the focal points for these conventions were now lodged within NEPA.
- Advised NEPA on the terms of reference for focal points for CITES, CMS and CBD.
- Simplified the design of the CITES permit template and included Dari and Pashto language in the various sections of the permit. This will be the first official CITES permit design and registered with the CITES Secretariat for Afghanistan.

### **Activity 3.3.2 Develop and introduce a Standardized National Ranger Manual.**

Develop and introduce a standardized National Training Manual.

Results:

- The ranger training TMP is completed, and the accompanying National Ranger Training Manual has been drafted and is being finalized.

### **Activity 3.3.3 Support Local Communities to create Linkages to Regional and National Government concerning Natural Resource Management (Including Protected Area Management)**

Facilitate meetings and regular communication between local, regional and national authorities concerning NRM issues.

Results:

- Facilitated a new round of BAPAC meetings, which had been previously stalled by local disputes. This will effectively re-establish the communication between the central MAIL office in Kabul and the Band-e-Amir communities.
- Both the Badakhshan and Bamiyan WCS teams initiated meetings with Provincial Governors, Provincial and District MAIL and NEPA offices.
- Undertook development and presentation of a public health education program (Hygiene and Sanitation) for Band-e-Amir communities, accompanying with MAIL and NEPA.
- WCS carried out meetings with BACA, BAPAC, district authorities, MAIL and NEPA in drafting the BANP management plan

### **Activity 3.3.4 Assist NEPA and MAIL in drafting any necessary rules, regulations or legislation concerning local rights over natural resources**

Provide expert legal assistance.

Results:

- Met with the Department of Justice about the draft benefit sharing contracts.
- The WCS legal specialist has been working with NEPA and MAIL on a variety of laws and regulations.
- Reviewed regulations related to land use in the BANP.
- WCS engaged an Afghan legal specialist to re-examine the by-laws of the BACA with a view to ensuring that the social organization could enter into contracts with the Government.

***Objective 3.4: Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions (LPI)***

**Activity 3.4.1 Support to the GIROA in the drafting or review of laws and regulations that promote improved natural resource management.**

Results:

- The two previously drafted regulations: “Fauna Conservation” and “Protected Species and Wildlife Trade,” were modified. These documents were simplified and shortened according to the request of MAIL in active cooperative with NEPA and MAIL specialists.
- The Wildlife Conservation Law and the CITES regulations were finalized and presented to NEPA and MAIL

***Objective 3.5: Build capacity to manage the health interface between livestock, wildlife, and people (HI)***

**Activity 3.5.1 Disease Analysis at Laboratories including the Central Veterinary Laboratory of Kabul (CVLK)**

Analyze animal samples in various laboratories including the CVLK, and contribute to building the capacity of Afghan veterinarians and staff at the CVLK.

Results:

- Prepared a project proposal jointly with director of the CVLK on ecosystem health in the Pamirs and submitted it to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- 40 sheep samples have been tested in Kabul (negative for brucellosis) and 128 cattle samples tested for bovine tuberculosis in Wakhan corridor (one cattle doubtful and 127 negative)

**Gender**

WCS strives to the utmost to effect increased participation of women and girls in all of its educational, community mobilization, and other activities. The school education programs encourage girls at an early age to become actively involved in natural resource management issues in their communities, and English language training likewise provides an entry point for women and girls into the economic life of their communities, since English language is essential

to ecotourism service provision. WCS has actively recruited women into the stoves project, as only women are able to demonstrate the stove in the home to other women.