



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

**Fourth Quarterly Annual Report (Second Year)**  
**Period: April 10 2011 to April 9, 2012**  
**Cooperative Agreement: 306-A-00-10-00516-00**



*From left to right: Pathways and benches funded by MAIL and constructed by local communities for BANP and Repaired bridge over Mandaraz stream, on the trail to Noshaq base camp*

**Contact Person: David Lawson**, Country Director and Chief of Party, Wildlife Conservation Society Afghanistan, Street 1 Qala-e-Fatullah Khan, Kabul, Afghanistan. Tel. +93 (0) 798 981 967, Email [dlawson@wcs.org](mailto:dlawson@wcs.org)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Acronyms	3
Fourth Quarterly Annual Report (Second Year Annual Report and Q2 FY12)	4
Appendix 1	Bamyan activity report for second year
Appendix 2	Badakhshan activity report for second year

## 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
CMA	Central Management Authority
CG	Community Governance
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CVDRL	Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory in Kabul
EEP	Environmental Education Program
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning System
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Formerly known as GTZ)
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
SWSS	Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation NGO
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

## **IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND GOVERNANCE THROUGH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN (ILGNRM)**

### **Fourth Quarterly Annual report** *April 10 2011 to April 9, 2012*

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

#### **Background**

This report covers the Second 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 Second Year**

The following is a list of significant accomplishments for the period April 10, 2011 to April 9th, 2012. During the second year of the project:

- In cooperation with the USAID-funded Afghanistan Clean Energy Program (ACEP), distributed 534 solar lanterns to the local households in 12 villages of Band-e-Amir national park and 1,680 lanterns across the 42 villages of Wakhan landscape.
- The Physical Development Plan for visitor facilities in Band-e-Amir national park was written by a landscape planning specialist (Jon Coe of Jon Coe design) whom WCS recruited for this purpose. We facilitated the formal approval process of this plan by the Afghan government to completion.
- The EEP program was scaled up to 3 more new schools (4 schools in total) throughout Band-e-Amir (16 teachers and 444 students, 176 girls and 268 boys collecting data on fuel-wood use, livestock numbers, predation and events in the 16 committees) and 14 schools of Wakhan (140 students (100 males, 40 females) and 14 teachers organized into 14 committees, focused on snow leopard biology). Educational materials and relevant trainings have been provided for the committees. Environmentally oriented parents' day ceremonies were held at 4 BANP schools (2295 students, parents, teachers and education officials attended) and 14 schools of Wakhan (5,220 people, 1,928 females and 3,292 males attended).
- Facilitated development of park management infrastructure for BANP including new head quarter buildings (the complex will consist of a park office and meeting room; a ranger station; training centre; police station; store rooms and park management accommodation), two rubbish disposal sites for waste management, renovation of the shrine at Band-e-Haibat, construction of tourist walking pathways and seating benches from the main parking area to the waterfalls, shrine and lookout points; and construction of 5 ablution blocks each housing 8 toilet booths (4 x men and 4 x woman) in the facilities area of the park.
- Trained 7 Local tinsmiths in Bamyan and 6 in Badakhshan and equipment/material provided to produce the fuel-efficient stoves locally. Distributed 392 stoves to households in 12 villages of Band-e-Amir National Park and stove-use training was given to 440 women in these villages as well as 345 stoves distributed to households in 16 villages and 480 women trained in stove installation and use in lower Wakhan.
- Noshaq trail and a bridge across a large stream (Mandaraz) repaired, a campsite delineated. Trail also rehabilitated at Plos Purshetk on the way to the Little Pamir. Both Kyrgyz and Wakhi men were hired as labour and the project was overseen by WCS and the WPA.
- Facilitated the approval process for the BANP management plan which has gone through Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC) and the Central Management Authority (MAIL). The approval process included the signing of a Collaborative Management Agreement by local stakeholders who are members of BAPAC including the local community representatives, provincial governor, provincial MAIL and NEPA, provincial council, district governor and provincial ATO. Secondly the management plan was approved by the Central Management Authority (presently MAIL) and passed for final approval to NEPA.
- Drafted the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve management plan and translated to Dari.

- Preliminary agreement with the Little Pamir community achieved about establishing and boundary alignment for Teggermansu protected area and a ranger station site at the very eastern tip of Afghanistan.
- The physical demarcation of the strict protection zone of BANP undertaken by BACA with WCS supervision, marking 100 meters from the shoreline and completed in November 2011.
- Conducted a biodiversity survey across the Darwaz region, an initial biodiversity assessment at Shahr-e Buzurg district, and a aerial survey across the Hindu Kush mountains of Wakhan, Badakhshan province.
- The two local Wakhi paravets, trained by WCS carried out a mass vaccination program throughout the Wakhan landscape. 5,976 cattle and yak were vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease. In addition, as part of an effort to decipher the impact of contagious diseases in Wakhan, 1,584 blood samples were collected from 231 cattle, 102 yak, 799 sheep and 452 goats, and analyzed for brucellosis. 153 cattle were also tested for bovine tuberculosis.
- As part of the overall strategy of reducing stock killing by predators, 7 predator-proof corrals were constructed in the Corridor.
- Afghanistan Border Police Conservation Training and The Environmental Education Program (EEP) TMPs and the CITES regulations TMP designed and translated into Dari and submitted to the Natural Resource Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and National Environmental Agency (NEPA).
- The field guide on wildlife disease risk in Afghanistan developed and translated to Dari and Pashto and a slide presentation for NEPA to be used in the 3rd round declaration of protected species, designed a protected species poster and edited the protected species booklet for NEPA for the declaration,
- Continued to facilitate high-level meetings with MAIL and NEPA on a range of issues such as the protected species listing, Band e Amir management plan, Hunting Law and CITES regulations, GEF proposal preparation and similar. Participated in the development of a new National Priority Program on Environmental Conservation, the draft National Rangelands Management Plan completed.

### **Indicator Summary for Second Year**

The full list of project indicators with second year results is provided in Appendix 1. Overall, WCS achieved or overachieved most 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 hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management and/or biodiversity conservation and number of USG-supported initiative/mechanisms designed to reduce the potential for violent conflict over the control, exploitation, trade or protection of natural resources. WCS more than doubled the number of planned livestock vaccinations.

Additionally, WCS had planned to achieve 125,000 hectares in areas of biological significance showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance, which was over achieved due to implementation of “Fuel Efficient Stove” project stove distribution which has covered 80% of BANP and

30% of Wakhan areas so far.

WCS was below its planned target for number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation mainly because as instructed by USAID-DQA, we were only able to count a specific person once even if that person was included on multiple trainings. For instance, the local rangers and game guards are trained in different skills throughout the year and are mentored continuously but they will only count as one person trained even though they are on these multiple training sessions. These are the groups that we continually work with throughout the year to raise their capacity on NRM and wildlife related issues. As for the 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 we did not achieve the target the local communities and the government authorities moved at a slower pace than anticipated. Similarly, regarding the Number of Policies, Laws, Agreements or Regulations Promoting Sustainable Natural Resource Management that are Implemented as a Result of USG Assistance, the process for formally approving the CITES regulations and the Hunting Law was slower than anticipated and in fact is incomplete at year end.

### **Plan versus Results**

The following section describes objectives and activities in the WCS Second Year work plan and compares planned to actual results. A list of products submitted to USAID during the second year is included in Appendix 6.

### **Component 1. Bamyan 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 second year the WCS team will expand the EEP project from one to four schools - Shahid Mahmoodi, Shahrstan – Koikinak, Kopruk and Zard Giyah. Twenty two teachers will receive training. Twelve new Environmental Education Committees will be established, 4 at each new school, for a total of 16 committees. WCS will continue to develop Band-e-Amir specific environmental education materials including posters, pamphlets and brochures. WCS will facilitate the organizing of 4 environmental education “Parents Days” at the 4 schools. These functions will coincide with World Environment Day around the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. Environmental Education Program kits will be distributed to teachers and students. Committees will commence data collection activities including fuel-wood use, livestock surveys, predation and events recording. Evaluation of the data and school committees’ activities will continue. WCS will continue to employ a community EEP extension officer from the local community to work with the local schools.

During Q2FY2012:

- Mrs. Sediqa Hussaini from Jarubkashan village continued to be employed as the community EEP extension officer to work with the 4 local schools in Band-e-Amir.
- EEP committees at Band-e-Amir Schools continued to gather environmental data from their villages.

Second year results:

- The EEP program was continued with the Shahid Mahmudi high school and scaled up to 3 more

new schools throughout Band-e-Amir (1-Shahid Mahmoodi high school, 2-Shahristan, 3-Kopruk and 4-Zard Giya). Educational materials and relevant trainings have been provided for the 16 teachers and 444 students (176 girls and 268 boys) in the 16 EEP committees. 17 teachers and headmasters (4 women and 13 men) were trained. The committees actively collected data on fuel-wood use, livestock numbers, predation and events.

- Environment education materials including educational training kits for the school committees, posters and pamphlets of Band-e-Amir have been developed and distributed to schools, households, public gathering places and government offices.
- 4 Environmentally oriented EEP awareness community parents' day ceremonies were held at the 4 schools. A total of 2295 students, parents, teachers and education officials attended the events.
- Various environmental education stakeholder meetings were held with communities and district officials including both the Provincial and Yakawlang district directors of education and their staff.
- A total of 46 Environmental education program stakeholder meetings were held with the district and province education directors and staff, headmasters and teachers.
- Environmental education posters and student and teacher educational kits were distributed to all schools in Band-e-Amir National Park. A total of 418 students (269 boys and 149 girls) and 60 teachers (16 women and 44 men) received the kits.

### **Activity 1.1.2: Community Conservation Education Outreach**

Education outreach materials will continue to be developed at Kabul level by the TCD team. WCS will initiate community conservation education in the Northern Plateau villages.

During Q2FY2012:

There have been no specific activities during this quarter because of winter weather limiting access

Second year results:

- Two new EEP posters were developed and 4 data formats were revised and distributed to the EEP committees.
- Deh Behbud and Arghusha villages from the Northern Plateau have been included in the Environmental education activities in Zard Giyah secondary school and parents, students and community members of these two villages attended the environmental education Parents' Day ceremony in Zard Ghiya School.
- A meeting was held with the community and Shura of Qaraytaq village in the Northern Plateau to raise awareness of illegal hunting and conservation.

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

WCS will continue coordination with the Central Management Authority (CMA) and NEPA through monthly meetings and the sharing of reports and work plans. WCS will continue to coordinate and work with the Bamyan Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) to coordinate tourism management and facilities in Band-e-Amir National Park and Bamyan province. WCS will continue coordination with UNEP on the Shah Foladi ranger program. WCS will investigate the possibility of an exposure visit for natural resource management staff to a national park in South Africa.

During Q2FY2012:

- We continued our close coordination and cooperation with the Central Management Authority and the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) and other NGOs. Regular coordination

meetings were held with respective agencies and activities reports regularly submitted to MAIL.

- Hosted and facilitated the 30th Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC) regular meeting held at the Visitor Center of the Band-e-Amir National Park.
- WCS representative attended the Tourism Vision Building and Planning Workshop at the venue of the Bamyan Tourism Development Board in Bamyan city.
- A final draft of the signposts for the Band-e-Amir National Park was finalized and prepared for printing.

Second year results:

Our close coordination and cooperation with Afghan government partners have been kept through regular meeting and reports provided for them and followed coordination with national/international NGOs

- In coordination with UNEP, WCS facilitated and hosted a visit to Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP) and the Shah Foladi proposed protected area by the Technical Dep. Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ab.Ghani Ghuriani and Dep. Director General of National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) Mr. Malikyar along with delegations from (MAIL) and NEPA from July 20th to 24th.
- Continued to coordinate with the Central Management authority (CMA) and NEPA at provincial and national level with meetings and regular update reports, and participated in BAPAC meetings.
- Continued to work with the Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation (SWSS) NGO to facilitate construction of latrines for BANP.
- Provided technical advice to Ministry of Water and Energy representatives on the location of a meteorology station in the park.
- Assisted MAIL with planning and preparations for tree planting in the BANP according to the amenities zone plan.

#### **Activity 1.1.4: Expand capacity of rangers, shop owners and communities with English language**

In order to better prepare communities to deal with foreign tourists and associated development, WCS will provide a teacher to Band-e-Amir to continue English language training for the rangers, bazaar shop owners and community members.

During Q2FY2012:

- Per request from the local communities, one mathematics class was set for the winter months of December 2011 to February 2012 for students and some community members at Shahid Mahmoodi high school.

And during the second year of our project:

- English language training course and one mathematics class was set up in Jarubkashan village, Shahid Mahmoodi high school and park visitor's centre provided daily year-round English training to 21 BANP staff and 38 shopkeepers (total 59 which 37 male and 22 female), community members. Winter round mathematics class for 44 students (20 male and 24 female) at Shahid Mahmoodi high school.

***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**

WCS will continue to train existing and new rangers in conservation related topics and continue to support the Northern Plateau game guards. Four new game guards will be recruited in the southwestern part of the Northern Plateau bringing the total to 17. WCS will purchase equipment and uniforms for the Bamyan rangers and facilitate First Aid training for rangers. WCS will initiate a wildlife camera-trapping program in the Northern Plateau with a specific focus on wild cats including Pallas' cat, caracal and possibly Persian leopard. WCS will assist the CMA with the development of a new ranger outpost in Podinatu, Northern Plateau. WCS will facilitate the appointment of the rangers as "inspectors" through NEPA.

During Q2FY2012:

- WCS Bamyan team provided stationeries (notebooks, pens and pencils) for the English classes conducted for the Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP) rangers.

Second year results:

- 1st Aid training was provided to 13 Northern Plateau rangers in a 3 day training program presented by the Malaysian medical team based in the Bamyan PRT in BANP.
- Five New game guards were recruited in the northern plateau in November and December (1 from Sokhta village, 1 from Khawal village, 1 from Now Abad village, 1 from Khurjin Bulagh-e- Bala village and 1 from Khurjin Bulagh-e-Payin village). The 5 new game guards were issued with uniforms, boots and basic field equipment.
- Set up 6 camera traps in the remote and mountainous areas of Azhdarkhu valley and Darre Zerk in the Hindu Kush Northern plateau. The Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus ciscaucasica*) was rediscovered in this area as a result after being thought extinct from the area for over 40 years.
- Delivered equipment such as IDs, boots, uniforms and some cameras to the 13 plateau game guards and 14 BANP new rangers.
- Facilitated an exposure visit to the Kohi Baba proposed protected area (Sumara and Khushkak valleys) for 21 people from Band-e-Amir (16 rangers and 5 Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) members).

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

Following the baseline survey of 2010, WCS will continue to hold meetings with the communities to better understand community needs. WCS will continue to employ a community livelihoods extension officer from the local community to work in Band-e-Amir.

During Q2FY1012:

- The solar lantern monitoring team of the International Resources Group (IRG) with the coordination of the WCS Bamyan team monitored and interviewed the Band-e-Amir community householders who have received the lanterns.

Second year results:

- Facilitated land transfer process from MAIL to MoE for construction of a new school to replace Shahid Mahmoodi.
- WCS facilitated a visit by the land dispute cadastral team to Band-e-Amir national park to meet with communities and to map the facilities zone area which is currently under land dispute. (23rd to the 28th June 2011) The outcome of the land dispute resolution is still pending.
- In coordination with the PRT Malaysian medical team, 1st Aid training was given to 22 (9 women and 13 men) community members in Band-e-Amir on the 27th May 2011.
- WCS coordinated the installation of solar power systems to 2 schools (Shahid Mahmoodi and Shahrstan) by ACEP.

- Distributed 534 solar lanterns to the households in the 12 villages in BANP.

### **Activity 1.2.3 Ecotourism**

WCS will continue to facilitate ecotourism promotion activities in Band-e-Amir National Park. Together with MAIL, WCS will implement tourism management infrastructure including vehicle control barricades and signage. WCS will recruit a world-renowned amenities planning specialist to complete a landscape plan for the Band-e-Amir amenities zone. WCS will supply an advertising board to the Bamyan airport to raise the profile of Band-e-Amir National Park as a tourist destination. WCS staff will continue to attend any Bamyan tourism related meetings, workshops and functions in Bamyan province. WCS will assist the Bamyan PRT-USAID with the Bamyan tourism conference in late May 2011 by facilitating a delegation visit to the national park from Bamyan city.

During Q2FY2012:

- Designed and initiated manufacture of signboards for the Band-e-Amir National Park.
- Facilitated communities clearing the snow to open the branch road between the main Yakawlang, Bamyan road and Jarokashan village inside the Band-e-Amir National Park.
- Facilitated positive publicity of BANP by being aired on the Afghanistan national television channel Shamshaad on Friday afternoon and evening on March 16th. A number of the community and provincial officials, the Park Warden, WCS Project Manager, WCS community representative and Bamyan Provincial Governor were interviewed about the USAID activities in the park. All reflected very positively on the community livelihoods and park development programs.

Second year results:

- The Physical Development Plan for visitor facilities in Band-e-Amir national park developed. WCS recruited a landscape-planning specialist (Jon Coe of Jon Coe design) for this purpose.
- A Bamyan tourism advertising board was installed at the Bamyan airport in coordination with the PRT, AKF and provincial governor's office.
- WCS staff, Park management staff and community members attend the monthly meeting of the newly established Bamyan Tourism Board committee.
- Facilitated the national and international Bamyan Tourism Investment conference held in Bamyan city from the 23rd to 25th May 2011. WCS presented a tourism plan presentation for the national park to the conference and facilitated a visit to Band-e-Amir national park by the delegates.
- Facilitated Afghan Sustainable Water & Sanitation Project (SWSS) to fund and construct 5 ablution blocks each housing 8 toilet booths (4 x men and 4 x woman) in the facilities area of the park.
- Facilitated renovation of the shrine at Band-e-Haibat and construction of tourist walking pathways and seating benches from the main parking area to the waterfalls, shrine and lookout points by MAIL.
- Facilitated a VIP visit by the Pritzker family of Hyatt hotels to Band-e-Amir national park. This visit was organized by the Brinkley Group. (6th June 2011)
- Assisted the national park department to establish two rubbish disposal sites in the park for waste management.
- Hosted a delegation of Afghan national and international media (Voice of America, CBS, Pajwak, Kelid, and Negah TV) including US embassy and USAID representatives for overview of WCS-USAID implemented activities in Band-e-Amir national park.
- Facilitated the Sayara film crew to visit Band-e-Amir national park on the 19th to 21st October.
- Assisted the Bamyan Social Tourism Guide Association (BSTGA) to conduct a two-day environmental awareness workshop and Band-e-Amir cleanup campaign. The workshop attendees

included officials from Bamyan NEPA, the Head of the Band-e-Amir Community Association, students from Bamyan University, members of the AKF first aid delegation and BSTGA's members.

- WSC facilitated a visit from the Turkish Ambassador, members of the Afghan media and USAID and US Embassy representatives to Band-e-Amir National Park. The Bamyan provincial governor accompanied the ambassador and facilitated a CBS news team visit to BANP. The report aired on October 12, 2011, and can be seen at the following link:  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7384483n>
- Assisting construction of a new bridge from the park revenues between Qala-e-Jafar and Sabzel.
- WCS worked with the PRT to facilitate improvements in the road construction leading into the park. The contractor has been instructed to clean up and fill in all the false roads and cuttings that have been made and not used.

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

WCS will recruit a fuel-efficient stove-making consultant to train local tinsmiths in Bamyan city. Seven tinsmiths will receive 3 months of training in manufacturing the fuel-efficient stoves. WCS will purchase and supply the fuel-efficient stoves to 560 households in the 14 villages in Band-e-Amir National Park. WCS will provide training to 400 women in the use of the fuel-efficient stove. To mitigate the excessive use of fuel wood, WCS will assist the local baker in Jarubkashan to convert the local village bakery to gas use.

During Q2Fy2012:

- Distributed 25 fuel-efficient stoves to the householders of Koikinak village, Band-e-Amir.
- Tinsmiths manufactured 110 more fuel-efficient stoves in Bamyan city, ready to be distributed to the Band-e-Amir households.

Second year results:

- 7 Tinsmiths in the local bazaar in Bamyan city were trained in construction of the 560 fuel-efficient stoves to be distributed to the households in 14 villages of BANP.
- Fuel-efficient stoves were distributed to 392 households in 12 villages of Band-e-Amir National Park. The fuel-efficient stove has been very well received in the communities.
- Fuel-efficient stove-use training was given to 440 women in 12 villages of Band-e-Amir National Park and a community livelihoods extension officer from the local community was hired to assist in this process.
- A monitoring and evaluation form was developed for the fuel-efficient stove project in Band-e-Amir. Thirty households that had received stoves were randomly chosen in Khakdow, Abtugak, Abqol and Chishm-e-Pahlu villages of Band-e-Amir. An evaluation was made to see and record the uptake of use of the distributed fuel-efficient stoves.
- WCS purchased and handed over gas equipment to convert the local bakery to gas rather than fuel wood. This activity was monitored throughout the year and is continuing.

#### **Activity 1.2.5 Poultry farming project**

WCS introduced the concept of extreme cold weather poultry farming coops in the villages of Band-e-Amir in 2010. (In Year 1, 24 out of 24 chickens survived the winter. An unusually high survival rate for a very cold area) this activity continues in the form of advice on the best methods of raising and keeping chickens in extreme cold weather. No budget will be allocated to this activity.

During Q2FY2012:

No specific activity in this quarter.

And during the second year of our project:

- Facilitated the chicken and basic poultry facilities provided by MAIL to the local communities in 11 villages of BANP by MAIL, including Koprak, Abqol, Khakdaw, Jarubkashan, Qala-e-Jafar, Dehe Ab Khana, Kotak, Gumab, Sabzel, Shahrstan and Koikinak villages. The project needs to be monitored for results and the number of chickens that survive this winter.

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

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

**Proposed:** WCS will continue to support and build the capacity of the Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) and facilitate with the respective ministries in Kabul to approve a revenue collection and management system for Band-e-Amir national park. WCS will purchase equipment for the setting up of the BACA office and facilitate computer training for BACA staff. Minimal running costs in this initial period will also be provided to the association.

During Q2FY2012:

- Facilitated the 18th regular meeting of Band-e-Amir Community Association.
- WCS Bamyán team facilitated and opened a Bank Account for the Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) for more transparent accountability of their collected income from projects, at the New Kabul Bank in Bamyán city. Three BACA members were formally nominated as the authorized BACA staff to the Bank.

Second year results:

- WCS continued to support, build capacity and hold meetings with Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) representatives regarding all aspects of the management of the national park.
- WCS facilitated two members of Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) in attending the Bamyán Tourism Development Board.
- BACA have also been interviewed in many of the media or film groups that have visited the park.
- WCS continued to work with the legal advisors on the BACA (Band-e-Amir Community Association) bylaws regarding the revenue sharing in the park.
- WCS facilitated a BACA's board of director members exposure visit to Kohi Baba mountains - Shah Foladi proposed protected area.
- Supported BACA in community liaison for fuel-efficient stove & lantern distribution.
- Facilitated BACA involvement in a total of 5 sub-contracts from MAIL and donors into the community including 1) involvement in the construction of the new park headquarters complex (HQ); 2) the canal and pathways in the facilities area; 3) the shrine renovation next to the Band-e-Haibat; 4) the construction of the USAID/SWSS funded latrines in the facilities zone and 5) the demarcation of the strict protection zone boundary around the lakes.

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

WCS will finalize the Band-e-Amir Management Plan, print both the plan and summary document and facilitate the approval of the plan by respective stakeholders. WCS will continue to work in the Northern Plateau and facilitate establishing this as a protected area.

During Q2FY2012:

- The draft management plan was lodged formally with NEPA by MAIL. No further progress reported in this quarter.
- Facilitated a BACA meeting in which 29 representatives of the Band-e-Amir villages attended. Two main issues were discussed. The first was the land issue and the next planned trip of the cadastral team to Band-e-Amir and the second was to clarify details for the representatives regarding the BACA's collected income during the year 2011.
- Coordinated and facilitated the Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) to submit an application to the department of the Agriculture in Bamyan city requesting for 5500 sapling of trees for the facilities zone of the Band-e-Amir National Park.

Second year results:

- WCS facilitated a visit to the park by the Afghan Land Authority, who sent a Cadastral team to survey and map the disputed land in the facilities zone in Band-e-Amir National Park.
- The BANP management plan, collaborative management agreement and management plan support letters were approved and signed by BAPAC members. The management plan was also subsequently approved by MAIL and passed on to NEPA for final gazettelement.
- A meteorological monitoring site for inside the national park was approved by BAPAC members.
- The AKF camp site was officially handed over to BAPAC.
- Facilitated the digging of test wells for the BANP headquarters complex with assistance from the communities.
- A facilities zone plan was completed by Jon Coe of Jon Coe Design for the amenities area of Band-e-Amir National Park. This plan includes a detailed report for tourism facilities including guest houses, camping and picnic sites, vegetation rehabilitation, walkways and ablution facilities. This plan was subsequently approved by BAPAC, MAIL and NEPA.

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

WCS will continue to coordinate with UNEP on establishing the ranger program in the Shah Foladi proposed protected area and creating a social organization.

During Q2FY2012:

No particular initiative during this quarter because of winter weather.

Second year results:

- Continued to act in an advisory role to the staff of UNEP and Shah Foladi communities.
- WCS met with UNEP representatives in Bamyan to discuss the Shah Foladi Social Organization and worked with UNEP to organize a visit to Shah Foladi by Band-e-Amir National Park rangers and Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) members.
- WCS technical advisors met with the Bamyan UNEP to discuss the fuel efficient stoves that will be introduced by UNEP to the communities of Shah Foladi proposed protected areas.

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

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

WCS will coordinate with the CMA to establish regulatory penalties for the National Park according to article 70(2) of the Afghanistan Environment law and to issue a Tarzulemal regarding entry fees for the

park. WCS will endeavor to coordinate with the CMA to get Band-e-Amir National Park declared a “prohibited area” under the Afghanistan Mining Act.

During Q2FY2012:

No activity during this quarter.

Second year results:

- The draft management plan that includes park regulations relating to park management was approved and is now awaiting gazettelement by NEPA.

#### **Activity 1.4.2 Marking of ‘lalmi’ areas within Band-e-Amir National Park to prevent encroachment of dry land farming into rangeland areas**

Pending government agreement, WCS will facilitate the marking of the strict protection zone, the eastern boundary of the park, and all existing lalmi (dry land wheat fields) to prevent the conversion of any further rangeland to lalmi. This will be done using whitewashed stone cairns. Community members will be employed to perform this work.

During Q2FY2012:

No particular initiative during this quarter because of winter weather.

Second year results:

- The physical demarcation of the strict protection zone of BANP commenced in August by BACA with WCS supervision, marking 100 meters from the shoreline and completed in November 2011. Regarding the demarcation for Lalmi (dry land farms), the field team realized that considering the sensitivity of the issue with local people, the amount of lands scattered throughout BANP, and it’s role on local livelihood, this issue was not pursued. Generally the idea was not practically supported by local communities despite their previous approval though BAPAC.

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

No activity is planned for Band-e-Amir during Year 2.

### **Component 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 will continue the EEP in all 14 schools across Wakhan. Fifty-six committees, each addressing one of four environmental topics will be supported and 560 kits issued to the participating students and teachers (340 male and 150 female students, 57 teachers). The environmental message will reach a total student population of 3,450 students (1,850 males, 1,600 females). The district Education Officer will participate in monitoring visits and all 14 schools will hold environmentally themed Parents Day events, attended by 5,000 community members.

During Q2FY2012:

- Schools are closed in Wakhan during the winter, so there were no EEP activities during this quarter.

Second year results:

- The EEP continued in all 14 schools in the Corridor. Educational materials and relevant trainings have been provided for 140 students (100 males, 40 females) who were organized into 14 committees. Since this year's program focused on snow leopards, the number of committees in each school was reduced from 4 to 1 and the total from 56 to 14.
- 140 kits for the Environmental Education Program were distributed to the students (each kit consists of a school bag containing the supplies necessary for the students to collect environmental data, including clip board, note book, pen, etc.)
- Trained school children on drawing wildlife but with a special focus on the snow leopard and its habitat. Eighty-four school students (63 boys and 21 girls from 7 schools of Lower Wakhan) were trained to paint snow leopards, its food and habitat for producing a pictorial storybook for school children. The book will eventually be printed and used as a conservation teaching resource.
- Began taking initial steps to bring the EEP to the Kyrgyz. We supplied 60 students with education kits in the Little Pamir.
- Environmental oriented Parent's Day was conducted in all 14 schools of Wakhan, as planned. A total of 5,220 people attended the events, 1,928 females and 3,292 males attended the event.

### Activity 2.1.2 Capacity Development

Three-month English language training in support of conservation and ecotourism will be provided at 14 schools, teaching 1,000 students (rangers, WCS Wakhan staff, tourism guides and cooks, school students and teachers, and local government officials). WCS Wakhan staff will provide English language training to the community, and the border police in Wakhan will receive a 3-month English training course in Ishkashim. Members of WPA and WCS Wakhan staff will be trained in donor fund proposal writing (7 people trained).

During Q2FY2012:

- Two WCS Wakhan project staff, Zalmai Moheb and Mohammad Naseem Sultani, completed a Geographic Information System (GIS) training course that ran from February 6th to 22nd 2012, in Kabul. The course was given by Afghanistan Information Management Systems (AIMS).
- From December 2011 to March 2012, two Wakhan team members, Ismail Tawhid and Naqibullah Mostafawi, successfully completed a three-month English course at Kardan University. They also successfully completed three months of computer training.

We originally planned to provide English training at each of the 14 schools in the Corridor during winter, however, during the course of 2011 we learned that the previous winter's English training had not been as effective as initially reported to us. It turned out that few people from the tourism industry actually attended the previous training, and for those people who did attend, the level of learning was questionable. Therefore we devised a different approach for the 2011-2012 winter: We decided to give three months of professional English training to a select group of 14 people in collaboration with Aga Khan Education Services, in Ishkashim. But problems were encountered when making final preparations for this training, which forced us to abandon the activity. The problems were, (i) some of the trainees began demanding a daily per diem, and (ii) AKES changed the terms of the initial collaboration agreement and wanted WCS to pay and give other support to their teacher.

Second year results:

- All WCS Badakhshan drivers have successfully completed a three-day advanced safety driving course called "Cross Country" conducted by TOR Company in Kabul.

- Initiated a three-month English training course On June 28<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Ishkashim for the Border Police and other local government stakeholders. 30 people were trained.
- Prepared the English training courses with the cooperation of the Aga Khan Services (AKS) in Ishkashim for 5 Wakhi rangers, 5 tourism guides and the other WCS Wakhan staff.
- The donor fund proposal writing training did not occur because WCS's grants officer who was going to give the training resigned.

### **Activity 2.1.3 Ranger Training**

Eight ranger teams will receive on-the-job refresher training. GIS and GPS orientation training will be provided to the rangers and WCS will develop local capacity in the Wakhan to produce basic maps used to track ranger patrols and in natural resource management planning.

During Q2FY2012:

- All local 37 rangers throughout Wakhan Corridor extended contracts till the end of December 2012 and continued their field work with support and supervision from WCS.

Second year results:

- Rangers from all eight Wakhi ranger teams received on-the-job training while participating in a urial (*Ovis orientalis*) survey across the Hindu Kush Mountains in Wakhan (see report on this activity below in Activity 2.1.4).
- A 5-day on-job training program was given throughout the summer to the Wakhi ranger teams as part of a snow leopard camera trap survey. In total 6 ranger teams were involved in these initiatives.
- WCS distributed 10 new Olympus digital cameras to ten rangers in the Wakhan Corridor and the Little Pamir.
- An informal introduction was given to three people from Wakhan on the basics of ArcMap. Afterwards the trainees then began practicing ArcMap. Unfortunately a short time later Wakhan's desktop computer crashed and was not able to be taken to Kabul until late November. The machine is now fixed and training will continue in 2012.

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

A one-month urial survey will be carried out in Wakhan, as well as a three-month snow leopard camera trap mark-recapture monitoring survey in the Hindu Kush Mountains. Initial field assessments will be carried out in three districts of Darwaz (Mai Mai, Shikai, Nesai) and Shehr-e-Buzurg; and a biodiversity survey will be completed in Zebok district.

During Q2FY2012:

Because of harsh winter in Wakhan and Badakhshan, no field surveys were planned or conducted during this quarter.

- An article entitled "Brown Bear Status and Threats in Darwaz, Northern Badakhshan, Afghanistan" was submitted to URSUS Journal.
- Photos that were taken of reptile species on the recent reconnaissance survey in Darwaz, Badakhshan were sent off to international experts where one of the specimens is a species not seen since its first scientific description and never before photographed.

Second year results:

- A aerial survey was conducted across the Hindu Kush Mountains of Wakhan, from April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. The survey aimed to establish a population baseline for the species in Wakhan as a means of establishing a long-term monitoring program.
- Working with the Wakhan rangers as part of a capacity development exercise, during 2011 WCS deployed 31 camera traps in the Hindu Kush Mountains along the Corridor. The cameras are being used to carry out the first ever snow leopard capture-recapture population study in Afghanistan.
- Carried out an initial biodiversity assessment at Shahr-e Buzurg district, Badakhshan province. The survey was led by two Afghan biologists who WCS has supported and trained since 2006.
- These two Afghan biologists also led a biodiversity survey across the Darwaz region in northern Badakhshan province.

### **Activity 2.1.5 Increase capacity in wildlife/livestock health monitoring and control**

WCS will increase the level of knowledge of regional animal health specialists about diseases shared by domestic and non-domestic animals and the risk they pose to their livelihoods. The training will emphasize the importance of zoonotic diseases and the necessity to consider health at an ecosystem scale. This training effort will focus on two Afghan experts hired by WCS (the trainers), government staff at the Badakhshan branch of the Ministry of Agriculture; two/three paraveterinarians installed in Wakhan and selected members from their communities.

During Q2FY2012:

- Two WCS vets attended the international conference titled “Transboundary Animal Health in Pamirs and Outskirts” in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. All the expenses of the trip have been covered by the WCS New York office (Peace Park Project).

Second year results:

- Conducted the mass campaign of foot-and-mouth disease vaccination, supervised by WCS, across the Wakhan by two local paravets trained by WCS since 2006.
- A large-scale livestock health survey was undertaken during July and August 2011 across the Wakhan Corridor, from Qazi Deh village in the west to the first Kyrgyz settlements in Little Pamir in the east (c. across 250 km of a longitudinal west/east transect). During this survey, blood-samples were collected for further analysis at the laboratories in Faizabad and Kabul. Also during the survey, a technician from the veterinary laboratory in Faizabad, two paravets from Wakhan, and two animal health assistants from the community were trained in disease identification, sample collection and processing, and storage.
- Conducted a health survey of cattle in lower the Wakhan Corridor in October 2011, from Qazi Deh village in the west to Wargand village to the east. During this survey 279 cattle and domestic yaks from lower Wakhan and the Pamir Mountains were examined for clinical disorders and tested for bovine tuberculosis with a skin test. The two local paravets and three local animal health assistants were trained in doing this work.

***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**

Seven tinsmiths from Ishkashim will receive 3 months of training in manufacturing fuel-efficient stoves (the instructor is an expert from Pakistan). Women trainers (with escorts) will travel to villages throughout Wakhan to demonstrate the new technology and create demand, and 600 women from

Wakhan will receive a one-day training in how to install and use the stove. WCS will subsidize the first 600 stove sales, and develop a Training Management Package (TMP) on how to manufacture the stoves.

During Q2FY2012:

- Distributed 37 solar lanterns to the mosques of the upper villages of Wakhan.
- WCS Badakhshan team distributed 148 fuel-efficient stoves to the householders in 6 villages of Wakhan, Badakhshan.
- Equipped three tinsmith shops at Ishkashim, Badakhshan with tools and 186 roles of metal sheets for producing stoves. These tools and metal sheets will be enough to make another 255 fuel-efficient stoves.

Second year results:

- Six local tinsmiths completed a three-month training course on manufacturing the fuel-efficient stoves and six tinsmith shops in Ishkashim and Wakhan equipped with tools and metal sheets for producing stoves.
- A model fuel-efficient stove piloted with the Little Pamir Kyrgyz community for potential design modifications to make the stove more suitable to Kyrgyz cooking practices. The Kyrgyz burn dung and the modified stove design will be piloted with them in 2012.
- 480 Wakhi women in 16 villages from lower Wakhan were trained in stove installation and use.
- A total of 629 stoves have been produced, 345 stoves have been distributed to households in lower Wakhan and 284 stoves are ready for further distribution.
- Sheep, goat and yak wool samples are being taken from Wakhan to Faizabad for quality analysis and potential markets by the Cashmere Project
- 1,680 lanterns were distributed across the landscape through partnership with Afghan Clean Energy Program.

### **Activity 2.2.2 Predator-proof corrals**

WCS will facilitate construction of six predator-proof corrals in Wakhan and two corrals in the Kyrgyz Little Pamir. Four men from the local community will receive on-the-job training in corral construction techniques, and a TMP will be produced about how to construct corrals.

During Q2FY2012:

- Per request from the local communities, co-ordinations continued with WFP and WPA for food for work (or cash for work), and preparations made for more proposals through WPA for construction of more predator proof corrals.

Second year results:

- As part of the overall strategy of reducing stock killing by predators, 7 new predator-proof corrals have been constructed in the Wakhan Corridor. Through these projects 1,200 man-days of labor have been generated, 76 community members were paid and 8 local people have received on-the-job training in construction of predator proof corals.
- Assisted WPA for a Food for Work Proposal to construct 12 more predator-proof corrals across Wakhan. The proposal has been submitted to the World Food Program (WFP).

During consultations with the Kyrgyz Little Pamir community in 2011, WCS discovered that the idea of building two predators proof corrals was not entirely supported by the community. Instead this community proposed other development activities, such as trail rehabilitation, which WCS is currently examining.

### **Activity 2.2.3 Livestock Depredation Insurance**

This successfully piloted project will be scaled up to another two villages (making a total of three), which are all located near to Sarkand village. The aim is to create an insured cluster of villages in order to further test and demonstrate the effectiveness of the insurance program against loss of livestock to wild predators.

During Q2FY2012:

- We kept close contact with the Sarkand community regarding the uncertain situation of the insurance program in their village, but no specific activities were conducted during this quarter.

Second year results:

- The Sarkand insurance program continued this year. However, problems were encountered in the latter part of 2011 when the villagers were due to pay their insurance again. As a result it remains to be seen whether Sarkand will continue their insurance program in 2012.
- Per request from community at Avgarch village, WCS helped them start the insurance program. A signed agreement was made with the Avgach community to start the insurance program. As has been discussed with the community, WCS will help commence the insurance program in Kret village next year.

The problem that occurred with the Sarkand community about the insurance program has delayed the adoption of a new program in the third village (Kret). This will be pursued in 2012.

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

WCS will continue to implement local capacity development for the management of the community ranger program. Rangers will continue patrolling and surveying wildlife across the landscape, and new uniforms and equipment will be issued.

During Q2FY2012:

- All of the local rangers continued their works on NRM and wildlife monitoring with support and supervision from WCS.

Second year results:

- New uniforms were issued to all the rangers in Wakhan. At the same time a uniform agreement was made between each ranger and the WPA, committing the ranger to maintaining their uniform and not to wear it outside of official duty.
- The 37 Wakhi community ranger contracts were renewed and they continued patrolling and monitoring hunting and wildlife across the landscape throughout the year. Starting in June and ending in November, Wakhi ranger teams rotationally carried out month-long patrols to the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve and its surrounding buffer zones.
- The ranger teams were issued with new digital cameras.
- The Little Pamir rangers had their patrolling data collected and they were given tasks for patrolling through the winter months.
- WCS provided a two-day training for rangers, in preparation for the aerial survey that was conducted in Wakhan during spring 2011. The training was given to ten rangers and covered field survey methods and the use of GPS, compass, data-sheets and mapping equipment.

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

The former ranger station at Dara Big grazing settlement, Shikargah valley (in the potential Big Pamir

Wildlife Reserve), will be renovated and fitted out.

During Q2FY2012:

No specific activities conducted during this quarter

Second year results:

- WCS staff travelled to the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve to assess the renovation needs of the old ranger station in the protected area. The renovation did not occur this year because staff resources were too limited. The work has been rescheduled for summer 2012.
- Approximate boundary alignment for Teggermansu Protected Area, and a ranger station site was identified after initial discussions with the Little Pamir Kyrgyz.

### **Activity 2.2.6 Tourism Development**

WCS plans to complete trail formation and campsite establishment for Noshaq base camp, repair the degraded trail along the route to the Kyrgyz Little Pamir at Plos Purshetk, and investigate the feasibility and, if possible, assist WPA in the establishment of a tourism and handicraft centre in Ishkashim. A tourism questionnaire survey will be carried out during summer 2011 to determine how improvements can be made to visitor experiences in Wakhan.

During Q2FY2012:

Continued our assistance to WPA to set up the tourism center in Ishkashim and facilitate the local community based tourism development in Wakhan.

- WCS Badakhshan team had a meeting with the Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA) regarding the tourism center in Ishkashim, Badakhshan. 2 WPA members appointed to find suitable land to build the center.
- Facilitated a delegation of 5 Kyrgyz from Wakhan to Kabul to attend the screening of a documentary film titled "Prisoners of the Himalayas" in Kabul on March 12th at the French Institute in Afghanistan, Esteqlal High School. This film was funded by the Danish Embassy in Kabul and directed by Mr. Louis Meunier.

Second year results:

- Noshaq trail and a bridge across a large stream, Mandaraz, were repaired.
- WCS's Technical Advisor in Wakhan was part of a four-person team that climbed Noshaq in July 2011. The team had been given funding from The North Face Adventure Grant for 2011. The expedition was used as a means to promote the re-opening of Noshaq to the climbing community, as well as to provide exposure and good publicity to Wakhan in general.
- Trail rehabilitation implemented at Plos Purshetk on the way to the Little Pamir. 31 community members from both Kyrgyz and Wakhi employed for 25 days and cash of \$ 7,570 put into the local village economy.
- A trail repair project implemented at Zangkuk, Little Pamir. Approximately 400 meters of trail were repaired. 15 local people were employed.
- Assisted the WPA to apply for a small business grant through GIZ. The application was successful and the WPA are now in discussion with GIZ to receive the funds.
- WCS assisted the WPA to carry out a tourism visitor survey by questionnaire in 2011.
- Assisted PACTEC to establish two airstrips in the Little Pamir, one at Bozoi Gumbaz and the other at Chakmaktin.

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

#### **Activity 2.3.1 Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA) Institutional Development**

WCS plans to assist the WPA to open a bank account and to hold a re-election for the Board of Directors; facilitate Community Development Council (CDC) and WPA meetings and workshops; support and assist the WPA to interact with government and other NGOs; engage the WPA in the planning and management of livelihood development projects; and provide assistance to the WPA in holding the 2011 Pamir Festival in Wakhan.

During Q2FY2012:

- Assisted WPA to apply for a small enterprise grant with GIZ (USD\$5,000) for the establishment of a community-owned tourism centre in Ishkashim. The WPA was successful in being nominated to receive the grant.
- Facilitated the WPA Chairman and Finance Officer to travel to Kabul to re-register the organisation with the Ministry of Justice.

Second year results:

- Facilitated the re-election for the new WPA secretary and their board of directors. All 42 CDC representatives from across the Wakhi community, as well as other community leaders, government, and people from Ishkashim attended. Wali Jon from Goz Khun won the election convincingly, while Merek Sanger from Khundud, was appointed as the new Secretary. Two other changes were made to the rest of the (nine) Board of Directors.
- The new WPA Chairman, Wali Jon, accompanied WCS to Faizabad for introductory meetings with USAID, the Provincial Governor, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Environmental Protection Agency, AKDN, WFP and GIZ.
- Facilitated the Kyrgyz Big Pamir community to join the WPA. The Big Pamir community nominated two representatives to sit on the WPA Board of Directors, Hugam Bardi and Mula Juma.
- Held regular coordination meetings with the WPA and Little Pamir Board of Directors during 2011, mostly for exchange of information about work being done, and planning of activities.
- Facilitated one of the Wakhi Board of Director members, Mr Habib from Futur village, to travel to Baharak to attend a two-week small enterprise training activity that was given by GIZ.
- Assisted Little Pamir WPA and other community leaders to draft a conservation and development strategy for their landscape. Included in this planning was dialogue with this community about the establishment of a second protected area at Wakhjir Valley in the Little Pamir.
- The WPA continued to partner with WCS in the implementation of livelihood development projects in Wakhan (trails, predator-proof corals, livestock insurance and the ranger program).

#### **Activity 2.3.2 Protected Area Establishment**

The WPA, with WCS assistance, will finalize the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management Plan, share the draft of the Management Plan with the government, and hold discussions with the Little Pamir Kyrgyz community about protected area establishment in their landscape.

During Q2FY2012:

No specific activities during this quarter

Second year results:

- Following a management planning workshop in 2011 that WCS facilitated for the WPA, WCS drafted the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve management plan and translated it to Dari.
- Preliminary agreement with Little Pamir community about establishing and boundary alignment for Teggermansu protected area at the very eastern tip of Afghanistan, bordering Tajikistan and China as one of the very few valleys left in Central and South Asia that is completely un-grazed by livestock.

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

**Activity 2.4.1 Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management Planning**

WCS legal team reviews the draft management plan, which was completed the previous year.

During Q2FY2012:

- The Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve management plan Dari translation completed.

Second year results:

- The Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve management plan has been drafted, reviewed by WCS legal team and translated. It will now go back to the communities for approval in early 2012.

**Activity 2.4.2. Benefit Sharing**

Implementing benefit-sharing policies in Badakhshan will be dependent on the progress made in Kabul within the National Program on this issue. As soon as progress is made on the initial benefit sharing contracts for Band-e-Amir, lessons learnt from this will be applied in Wakhan.

During Q2FY2012 and the second project year:

There is no progress in this regard during the second project year.

***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**

A second mass vaccination campaign in mid and upper Wakhan Valley aimed at reducing the clinical prevalence of foot and mouth disease in cattle and yak will be carried out. However, in contrast to last year, the implementation of this campaign will be the responsibility of the local paraveterinarians and their communities with minimal oversight from WCS. WCS will evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccination via questionnaire survey and compare it to the effectiveness of last year's campaign.

During Q2FY2012:

No activities in the field because of winter and lack of access to the field.

Second year results:

- WCS veterinary team supervised, without direct involvement, the vaccination campaign. This occurred along the mid and upper Wakhan Corridor, as well as in the western part of Little and Big Pamirs. The two local WCS-trained paravets and their assistants carried out this activity. A total of 5,976 cattle and yak were vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease.

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

WCS will continue monitoring zoonotic and other animal diseases in Wakhan. We will extend the bovine tuberculosis detection campaign to 300-400 cattle/yak, screen exposure to contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, brucellosis, and Q fever of approximately 400 goats and 400 sheep, and investigate the presence of other infectious agents according to clinical prevalence.

During Q2FY2012:

No activities in the field because of winter and lack of access to the field.

Second year results:

- As part of an unprecedented effort to decipher the impact of contagious diseases in Wakhan, 1,584 blood samples were collected from 231 cattle, 102 yak, 799 sheep and 452 goats, and analyzed for brucellosis, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, brucellosis, and Q fever, and investigate the presence of other infectious agents according to clinical prevalence. We also tested 153 cattle for bovine tuberculosis.

### **Component 3 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**

The WCS Training and Capacity Development (TCD) team performed a needs assessment at the beginning of the program with NEPA and MAIL central government staff, and a list of training needs was developed. Based on that, there will be the following specific trainings for NEPA and MAIL for this year: training on planning principles for protected areas, rules and regulations training for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) (of which Afghanistan is a Party), and training on natural resource management (NRM) proposal writing.

During Q2FY2012:

- Conducted a 3 days training workshop on “Introduction to Biodiversity and Protected Areas” jointly with MAIL and NEPA. 14 MAIL staff and 17 staff from NEPA, from both central and provincial offices were trained.

Second year results:

- Introductory Biodiversity and Protected Area training for 31 MAIL, NEPA and WCS in Main MAIL office. This included an introduction to CITES, NRM proposal writing and principles of planning for protected areas.
- WCS is in ongoing contact with NEPA and MAIL regarding their training needs.

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

The WCS GIS team will continue its technical GIS support to MAIL and NEPA during the course of the project’s second year. WCS GIS technicians will visit MAIL and NEPA GIS labs upon their request for GIS technical support, and also assist with their specific GIS projects. For example, WCS will assist in supervising NEPA’s GIS project on Air Quality Monitoring Equipment Installation in Kabul city. This project will be carried out by the GIS technicians from NEPA under the direct supervision of the WCS GIS specialist. As per a Kabul University request, the WCS GIS specialist will conduct a two-hour GPS training for students at the Faculty of Agriculture, along with an introductory GIS presentation. The

training session will culminate by connecting a GPS receiver into the GIS system to demonstrate the value of GPS and GIS in field projects to the students. The GIS team will also work to train and support WCS teams in the field as required.

During Q2FY2012:

No specific activity during this quarter

Second year results:

- As a routine, the WCS GIS Specialist visited the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) for GIS support with their ongoing GIS projects.
- A GIS and GPS training session for students of the Department of Forestry from Faculty of Agriculture at the Kabul University included a presentation on fundamentals of GIS, Introduction to GPS, a practical session on how to handle/work with a GPS and plotting GPS data on the ArcGIS software interface. 40 students (35 male and 5 female) and Associate Professor Said Ismail Imran (Deputy Director, Faculty of Agriculture) participated in the training.
- Assisted NEPA GIS technicians to finalize GIS project on Air Quality Monitoring equipment installation site selection.
- Continued systematic data collection, spatial integration and analysis of all field activities, to better understand the linkages between geographic, biological, and socioeconomic variables in the conservation context.
- Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve management plan maps were revised based on comments received from reviewers.
- WCS GIS specialist assisted with field survey data analyses for the northern districts of Badakhshan Province (Darwaz). Later mapped their survey findings/results and team routes.

### **Activity 3.1.3 Training Management Package (TMP) Development**

TMPs continue to be developed according to needs assessment results. Four new TMPs will be completed during this year on topics including fuel-efficient stove production, predator-proof corral construction and CITES implementation.

During Q2FY2012:

- Continued working toward translating the CITES regulations TMP from English to Dari.

Second year results:

- Afghanistan Border Police Conservation Training TMP completed and submitted to the Natural Resource Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and National Environmental Agency (NEPA).
- The Environmental Education Program (EEP) TMP designed, translated and submitted to the Natural Resource Management Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and National Environmental Agency (NEPA) after completion.
- The CITES regulations TMP drafted.
- Fuel-efficient stove production and predator-proof corral construction TMP's in preparation.

### **Activity 3.1.4 Enhance capability of the Government of the Islamic Republic Of Afghanistan (GIROA) to deal with human-wildlife-livestock interface issues**

To enhance capability of GIROA to deal with human-wildlife-livestock interface issues, experts from WCS will provide a field guide on wildlife disease risk in Afghanistan. This important guide, produced during Year 1, will be translated into Dari and Pashto and will be approved by the Central Veterinary Laboratory of Kabul (CVLK) and the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA). The WCS TCD team will support the procedures necessary to approve, check, print and distribute the publication to academic institutions, practitioners, and government agencies.

WCS will provide technical lectures to staff at MAIL, University and AVA about avian influenza in wild birds, the concept of ecosystem health, sustainable prophylactic operations, and zoonotic risk.

During Q2FY2012:

- Efforts continued for finalization and approval of the wildlife disease field guide.

Second year results:

- The field guide on wildlife disease risk in Afghanistan developed and translated to Dari and Pashto. It is now being printed.
- Lectures on ecosystem health and sustainable prophylactic operations were provided to the Afghan staff of the General Animal Health and Production department (6 Kabul staff and 2 Faizabad staff).
- Four staff members of the CVDRL under MAIL were invited to attend an international conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on ecosystem health in Pamirs (AAAS-funded) and received training on zoonotic risk of brucellosis, and epidemic risk of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia.

We did not approach the University of Kabul for lectures because our previous experience showed that the academic staff was more interested by per diems we could provide to them than the real content of our lectures. For the same reason the wildlife disease booklet was not reviewed by the approached staff at University of Kabul because we disagreed with their disproportionate payment claims.

### **Activity 3.1.5. Assistance to nongovernmental environmental organizations active at the national level**

WCS is open to providing assistance to non-governmental organizations working to protect the environment or improve natural resource management at the national level. For example, WCS will assist the Green Club of Afghanistan with production and dissemination of an educational environmental calendar throughout Afghanistan on a partnership basis.

During Q2FY2012:

- Liaised with the Asia Foundation, Mercy Corps and AKDN on formulating a project proposal for the Global Environment Facility (see section 3.4.2)
- Formed collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) to develop projects in Wakhan. WFP have experienced problems in finding good field implementers so WCS will now work with the WPA to develop projects for Wakhan that will be funded by WFP under their 'Food for Assets' program and supervised by the WCS field teams. This is an excellent example of USAID funding leveraging other donor efforts.

Second year results:

- WCS facilitated participation of Green Club and the Sustainable Land Management Institute (SLMI) at the April 23 Earth Day celebration in Kabul.

- A meeting was conducted with The Asia Foundation where explanations were given on the WCS Environmental Education Programs (EEP) in schools and additional advice given on Public Awareness Programs, Educational Materials, Teacher Training Programs and development of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment in Kabul University etc.
- WCS subsequently requested by the Asia Foundation to cooperate and collaborate on the preparation of environmental education materials and curriculum for the Ministry of Education.

***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**

WCS will continue to meet regularly with NEPA and MAIL officials to discuss and evaluate strategies and successes that are applicable throughout Afghanistan, as well as to produce and disseminate information materials. WCS will actively continue to promote and support benefit-sharing arrangements for local communities.

During Q2Fy2012:

- Met regularly with senior officials of MAIL and NEPA to encourage continuing efforts on outstanding issues. One of the main efforts was to continue to shepherd through the processes of approving the additions to the protected species list, the Band e Amir management plan and the Hunting Law and CITES regulations.
- Held three briefings with ISAF and USAID on the fuel-efficient, clean cook stoves to explain the process of manufacture, training and distribution. It seems that the stoves initiative has generated a lot of interest and possible future funding for a roll out of such stoves in other areas of the country.

Second year results:

- A representative from WCS and a representative from NEPA attended a Wildlife Survey training workshop in Germany. (Participation was fully funded by GIZ.)
- WCS Monitoring and Evaluation Officer participated in an International Wildlife Training Course (New Trends and Methodology in Animal Ecology and Conservation Biology) organized by the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS), in China.
- A WCS internal Monitoring and Evaluation team inspected schools and local communities in BANP implementing WCS projects as part of the training for WCS staff in M&E procedures.
- Met regularly with senior officials of both NEPA and MAIL to encourage continuing effort on outstanding issues. These included the building of the HQ complex in Band E Amir National Park, keeping the approval process of the Band e Amir management plan moving, following up on the contracts for the new rangers in Wakhan, pushing along the approval process for the Hunting Law and CITES regulations and other issues.
- Developed a slide presentation for NEPA to be used in the 3rd round declaration of protected species
- Designed a protected species posters for declaration.
- Edited the protected species booklet for NEPA.
- Produced an explanatory poster about NPASP (National Protected Area Strategy Plan).

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

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

WCS will complete the finalization and achieve approval of the first official CITES permit template. Subsequently WCS will develop a TMP on CITES implementation and training of relevant NEPA and MAIL staff. WCS will continue to advise on the processes and procedures necessary for Afghanistan to meet its obligations under the environmental conventions to which it is party.

During Q2Fy2012:

- Translation of CITES TMP continuing.

Second year results:

- Provided a CITES permit template in both Dari and Pashtu language for Afghanistan.
- Assisted MAIL in the preparation of a country report to the Near East Forestry and Range Commission 19 (NEFRC-19). This was done in cooperation with UNEP, NEPA, SAISEM, ICIMOD and FAO.
- Assisted NEPA for appointing the focal point for the CBD and for CITES.
- Drafted the CITES regulations, translated to Dari and submitted to MAIL and NEPA.

**Activity 3.3.2 Finalize a Standardized National Ranger Manual.**

A standardized National Training Manual will be finalized by WCS in close cooperation with MAIL and NEPA. This will be translated into the national languages and used as the basis for training future rangers in Afghanistan in conjunction with the already approved Ranger Training TMP.

During Q2FY2012:

- A decision has been made to make the ranger training manual a loose-leaf modular manual. This will allow individual chapters to be written by relevant experts and as rangers are trained in a particular skill they will then be given the relevant chapter as reference material. Over time the individual ranger will build up his own manual with the particular trainings he has received. It will also mean that supervisors will be able to immediately see what training an individual has received to date and which training is still needed by a particular ranger. It will also allow individual training modules to be updated and replaced without the need for expensive re-printing of the entire manual. This manual will now be actively pursued in 2012 with inputs from other WCS trainings from other countries.

Second year results:

- Continued efforts to finalize the ranger training manual. WCS programs in Mongolia and Laos have been contacted to see if the ranger manuals in those countries (where WCS has concentrated ranger training in the last two years) contain useful information that can be adapted for use in Afghanistan.

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

Continue to facilitate meetings and regular communication between local, regional and national authorities concerning NRM issues.

During Q2FY2012:

- Supported the Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA) chairman and deputy chairman to travel to Kabul and facilitated the re-registration of the WPA with the Ministry of Justice.
- Continued support to the BAPAC and liaison with central Government and Provincial authorities.

Second year results:

- WCS continued to carry out meetings with BACA, BAPAC, district authorities, MAIL and NEPA during the course of drafting the BANP management plan.
- Carried out extensive consultations with the Kyrgyz communities of the Little Pamir over the proposals for additional protected areas in Tegermanssu and Waghjir and with WPA and local communities in the drafting of the BPWR management plan.

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

WCS will provide continuing expert legal assistance, facilitate development of Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve management plan, and assist MAIL and NEPA in the gazettelement of Band-e-Amir National Park.

During Q2FY2012:

- Continued to facilitate high-level meetings with MAIL and NEPA on a range of issues such as the protected species listing, Band e Amir management plan, Hunting Law and CITES regulations, GEF proposal preparation and similar.
- Still no move on benefit sharing contracts in Band e Amir. WCS therefore continues to pursue the development of the Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority because it is apparent that without this there will be no progress towards real benefit sharing in protected areas.

Second year results:

- WCS facilitated a high-level meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) where discussions were held on the development of Band-e-Amir, the Hunting Law and CITES regulations and the management responsibilities in protected areas.
- There is still no progress on the implementation of benefit sharing contracts in BANP. These draft contracts were completed over 12 months ago but still there is no move by MAIL to proceed with this process.
- Drafted the Wildlife Management Law and translated to Dari. These legislative documents have been sent to Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) for technical check and approval procedure.

#### **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.**

WCS will continue to assist MAIL and NEPA to finalize the draft Wildlife Management Law and CITES regulations and to submit them to the Ministry of Justice for gazettelement. For the first time in Afghanistan's history, these regulations will give legal authority to these agencies to impose penalties for infringements of the Environment Law related to wildlife and natural resources.

Additionally, WCS will coordinate with the Central Management Authority (CMA) to pass the schedule of penalties for the Band-e-Amir National Park as a Regulation according to Article 70(2) of the

Environment Law. (According to the BANP management plan, no fines can be levied until this regulation is in place.) WCS will then coordinate with the CMA to issue a Tarzulemal for the entry fees and have Band-e-Amir declared as a "Prohibited Area" under the Mining Act.

WCS will assist with the final stages of approval of the Band-e-Amir Management Plan, as well as assist in drafting and approval of the interim Management Plan for the potential Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve.

During Q2FY2012:

- The draft National Rangelands Management Plan completed. WCS was an adviser on the development of this plan that was led by MAIL.
- At the request of MAIL we attended numerous meetings to formulate an 'environmental management' component of an existing National Priority Program (NPP) under the ARD cluster. The protected area part of this component was developed and written by WCS.
- WCS informed that the Hunting Law and the CITES regulations that had been submitted by NEPA to the Ministry of Justice have been sent back to MAIL by the MoJ for their clear ratification. It is not clear whether NEPA made some unilateral changes to these documents after they had first been ratified by MAIL.
- BPWR draft management plan translated to Dari. The local Wakhan communities as required under the Environment Law will now take this back for consideration and approval.
- Largely due to the interest generated by the fuel-efficient stove initiative, NEPA formally joined the Clean Cookstoves Alliance on behalf of the Government.

Second year results:

- The Wildlife Conservation Law and the CITES regulations were finalized, translated to Dari and presented to MAIL and NEPA.
- WCS commented on the 3rd draft of the National Rangelands Plan for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). Also requested to be a member of the implementation advisory team for this plan.
- Requested by MAIL to participate in the development of a new National Priority Program on Environmental Conservation. This is an important initiative as the absence of such a NPP has resulted in many donors not supporting environmental conservation proposals in Afghanistan.
- Draft National Rangeland Management Plan developed.

### **Activity 3.4.2 On-going management and technical support to MAIL and NEPA**

WCS will support NEPA and MAIL in the development of the Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA), dependent on external funding or MAIL/NEPA development budget allocation. WCS will provide regularly scheduled and ad hoc consulting support to NEPA and MAIL on issues of environment conservation and protection.

WCS will assist NEPA and MAIL to focus their message and improve their public outreach at environmentally themed events including Earth Day, Environment Day, and the MAIL New Year celebration. WCS will support the NEPA announcement of the 3rd round of Afghanistan protected species, and assist in organization of the international ECO conference on protected areas and threatened species to be held in Kabul. WCS will also assist NEPA to conduct workshops for 19 police station and the customs department on Afghanistan protected species, wildlife trade, biodiversity in Afghanistan, and the Environment Law.

During the reporting period:

- At the request of NEPA we prepared a project proposal for GEF funding on biodiversity conservation and prevention of land degradation. This required consultations with NEPA, MAIL, Asia Foundation, Mercy Corps, Aga Khan Foundation and UNDP and other agencies.
- GEF proposal approved and cleared for a project preparation phase that will take place in 2012.
- Despite all of the materials necessary for the protected species declaration there has been no move to do this by NEPA and no apparent date set for this to be done. This final listing has now been pending for over 12 months.
- The WCS Country Director and the survey biologist Zalmai Moheb attended a wildlife management workshop in Vilm, Germany at the invitation of, and with the support of GIZ. The Deputy Director of NEPA was also supposed to attend but pulled out shortly before the flight to leave Kabul. The workshop was centered around the Argali wild sheep and the need for these sub-species to be listed on the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Subsequent reports and proceedings have been passed on to NEPA for their action.
- At MAIL request a WCS booth was open at the MAIL Nawroz festival exhibition in Badam Bagh. Similar to last year this was by far the most popular exhibit in the show.
- Conducted a three-day joint workshop March 12th-14th “Introductory protected area and biodiversity conservation training workshop” for new staff members of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) from the Kabul offices and provinces.
- At the request from MAIL, drafted a concept paper for the Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA) and delivered this to MAIL.

#### Second year results:

- Assessed the areas around Pol-e-Malan and Pol-e-Pashtoon (Gozara and Injeel Districts in Herat), jointly with provincial and central MAIL staffs for potential conservation and natural resource management programs.
- Assisted NEPA to celebrate World Environment Day at the Queen’s Palace at Bagh-e-Babur Garden in Kabul. Around 400 people participated including Ministers, US Embassy representatives, the Kabul Governor, parliament members and others.
- Assisted NEPA with Celebrating the International Earth Day, held in Kabul university which representatives from US Embassy, Afghan Islamic scholars, university professors and students, Afghan government representatives from MAIL, NEPA, MoE, MoHE and Ministry of Culture.
- WCS met and consulted with the Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation NGO (SWSS) team about designs of waterless toilets for the National Park.
- Wildlife diseases in Afghanistan booklet was translated and distributed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MAIL) Deputy Minister for Animal Husbandry and to the Faculty of Veterinary Science for review and comment. This booklet is now finalized and will be printed in 2012.
- WCS held regular meetings with the Protected Area Division of MAIL in relation to the construction of the HQ complex in BANP, WCS also monitored the contracts for the new pathways, drainage canals and shrine renovation. These are contracts issued by MAIL who again requested that WCS act as monitors for the work.
- The Amenities Zone plan for BANP was finalized, translated to Dari and delivered to MAIL and NEPA. This was subsequently approved by Government and will now be followed up rigorously because of the need to develop BANP visitor areas in light of the ever-increasing numbers of tourists visiting the park.
- WCS continued to assist NEPA with preparing materials for the 3rd round of protected species declarations.

- On request of NEPA, advised on the UNEP led consultancy to get the Government of Afghanistan to ratify and gazette the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP).

***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 Diagnostic and Research Laboratory in Kabul (CVDRL)**

WCS will analyze animal samples (in-house, CVDRL Kabul, reference laboratory abroad) and contribute to the capacity building of WCS Afghan veterinarians and staff at the CVDRL in Kabul. (The object of these activities is to increase capacity of veterinary professionals to address wildlife disease risk in Afghanistan.)

WCS will cooperate with provincial and national agencies to present a Health and Environmental Education (Hygiene and Sanitation program) that will target 10 villages in the Wakhan, and will be replicable nationwide. The training will raise public awareness on how to deal with zoonotic diseases.

During Q2Fy2012:

No specific works because of winter and lack on access to the field

Second year results:

- We did more than 600 analyses (brucellosis and CCPP) and performed serological analyses on 800 livestock samples collected in Wakhan in summer 2011, supervised by two Afghan vets who were trained in this regard through CVDRL-Kabul. Also provided serological kits to CVDRL-Kabul to perform these tests. We cooperated closely with the foreign expert at CVDRL (their lab trainer) to have them trained at using these kits according to best standards. In addition the two Afghan professionals responsible of the serology laboratory at CVDRL Kabul were trained at using a new ELISA kit for the detection of antibodies against CCPP.

The health and environmental education (hygiene and sanitation program) for 10 villages in the Wakhan was not done because of lack of time, among others the vet team was involved in the urial survey.

**Gender Issue**

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 trainers as only women are able to demonstrate the stove in the home to other women. Training has been provided on installation and use of fuel efficient stove for total of 1040 women throughout Wakhan corridor and BANP

In the WCS Kabul office our previous female cook was discovered to have an excellent grasp of English and capabilities in administration. Subsequently she woman completed an internal training program and was promoted to a finance assistant position. An additional Afghan female student was recruited as a website/photo gallery officer in the Kabul office.