



IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND GOVERNANCE THROUGH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

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Fourth Quarterly Annual Report

Including Q2FY2013 and 3rd Annual Report

Period: 10 April 2012 to 9 April 2013



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Fourth Quarterly Annual Report

This fourth quarterly annual report serves as for the Q2FY2013 of USAID's fiscal year (January, February and March 2013) and the annual report of third ILGNRM project year report (April 10th 2012 to April 9th 2013). Progress and achievements toward objectives of the approved work plan are listed as bullet points separately for Q2FY2013 and third ILGNRM project year under each activity area.

Following recommendations of gender analysis of ILGNRM by USAID on June 2012 and for better reflection of gender related achievements of this program and reporting enrichment, an additional section as "Gender highlights" is included under each activity area

An Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report also included in this report. This table of EMMR is provided based on the relevant EMMP approved by USAID and is attached into this report (see attachment 3).

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List of Acronyms

ACEP	Afghanistan Clean Energy Program (USAID-funded, IRG is implementing partner)
AKDN	Aga Khan Development Network
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
APWA	Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority
AVA	Afghanistan Veterinary Association
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
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
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
NID	National Input Document
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

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I. Introduction

Three decades of war and civil unrest have wreaked havoc on both Afghanistan's environment and the lives of its people. Since over 80 percent of the population live in rural areas and depend economically on the country's natural resource base, effective management of these resources is absolutely critical. The most urgent threats to the Afghan environment include over-hunting, deforestation, dry land farming, water diversion, over-grazing, land encroachment, and climate change, and an ever-growing population that puts additional pressure on essential natural resources. After decades of conflict that destroyed both government institutions and local management structures and left an entire generation of Afghans without appropriate education or experience, there is little to no technical capacity to implement sustainable resource management at either the community or government level. This situation threatens to undermine the entire reconstruction effort in Afghanistan – if people cannot feed and shelter themselves or their families, efforts at improving governance, infrastructure, and overall security will have little chance of long-term success.

Impoverished rural communities, even as they recognize that they are using up their valuable resources at an unsustainable rate, see no option but to continue to do so in order to eke out an existence. Donor programs and Afghan government policies have sometimes exacerbated the situation by focusing on short-term gains over long-term and sustainable benefits. Afghanistan desperately needs programs that can provide immediate economic benefits without degrading the country's natural resource base, and better yet, programs that can provide immediate, medium and long term benefits while improving the natural resource base at the same time.

This project seeks to ensure community tenure over natural resources and involvement in national parks and protected areas in such a way that real tangible benefits flow directly to the communities. This is being done by concentrating on two provinces, Badakhshan and Bamyan, as examples of approaches that could 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 is leading 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 is being 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 plan covers the third year and approved extension period of a three-year cooperative agreement (April 10, 2010 to December 31st, 2013). This plan also incorporates changes to the Afghanistan Mission's Performance Monitoring Plan which was updated in October of 2010 as well as those requested in Modification 7 of 27th August 2012.

The extension period of the ILGNRM program will advance communities' capacity for long-term livelihood and governance independence, push the program towards long-term sustainability and significantly strengthen central institutional capacity and linkages with the communities impacted by national level policies and management activities. The long-term goal of the program is to ensure that Afghanistan develops the capacity to sustainably manage its natural resource base. Moving to the next step in evolution of that longer term goal is the purpose of the expanded program.

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.

II. Program 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.

III. Geographic Areas and Components:

The project is grouped into two geographically defined areas – Bamyan and Badakhshan – and a national capacity building component, united through our five objectives. 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 being 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.

At the subnational level the project will continue to focus on the two geographically defined areas – Bamyan and the Wakhan. However, more program resources will be dedicated to national level institution establishment and capacity building, as well as strengthening the linkages between the national and subnational level in relationship to natural resource management.

Highlights of Third Project Year

- Established the Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA) oversight group with the support of relevant authorities and ministries, . The group will guide the establishment, legal status and organizational structure of APWA and steer it through.
- Secured support from MAIL for the concept of female rangers, as the Band-e-Amir lakes hold special meaning for female visitors. Initiated the recruitment process for four women rangers in coordination with BACA and MAIL. Developed ToRs and some preliminary uniform designs for these rangers in preparation for the tourist season.
- Assisted the women's committee of BACA to establish vendor booths in the Band-e-Amir Bazaar to sell local handicrafts and dairy products to tourists. A total of 22 women from 13 villages volunteered which six women won the right to have booths in Band-e-Amir bazaar.

- Continued the environment education programs, environmental oriented parent's days and community conservation outreach programs in Bamyan and Badakhshan. Students, teachers and local community members totalling 6,365 (3,342 male & 3023 female) participated the programs and new environmental training packages were provided to enrich the program.
- Conducted a winter training programs for a period of three months on English language, computer skills, literacy and management by Foreign Language Institute (FLI). In total 36 participant (29 males and 7 females) from MAIL, NEPA, Wakhan, Band-e-Amir (WPA, BACA) Associations and WCS local staff.
- Supported the arrest of a group of bird of prey trappers by park rangers in the eastern region of Band-e-Amir national park. The trappers were taken to the authorities in Bamyan and with advice from WCS the captured birds were immediately released.
- Completed Fuel Efficient Stove (FES) distribution in Bamyan by providing 158 FESs to the remaining households within BANP, and continued supporting production of FESs by local tinsmiths continued in Badakhshan. Stove making metal and tools were provided to the tinsmiths and 903 stoves were distributed in the Wakhan Corridor.
- Helped secure final approval from NEPA of the management plan from Band-e-Amir National Park by NEPA. A relevant official letter was signed on 1st Dec, 2012.
- Recruited and trained Kyrgyz community rangers in Big Pamir. Six rangers were hired and trained in patrolling and field skills including use of survey equipment.
- WCS hosted a two-week expedition to Wakhan by the National Geographic Society (NGS) for a snow leopard documentary and conservation project. During the project three snow leopards were captured, successfully tranquilized and fitted with a satellite-tracking collars. This project served as a training activity for WCS' veterinary and GIS teams, and rangers from Wakhan. To the end of March 4,354 data points had been collected by the collars.
- Facilitated approval by The Wakhan communities and the District Governor of the Dari translation of the draft BPWR management plan. It is now with the Provincial Governor and being ushered by WCS through the government system to MAIL and NEPA for final approval.
- Vaccinated 3,388 livestock, including 2,998 cattle and 390 domestic yaks against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD); 89 blood samples (and some swabs) were collected from donkeys for the assessment of glanders in horses and donkeys, and tuberculin skin test on 143 cattle in 3 different villages were performed in the Wakhan corridor.
- Trained 47 Afghan paravets and members of Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) from eight different provinces on principles of ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, and wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization.
- Developed, designed and printed approximately 3500 posters (1750 Dari ad 1750 Pashtu), 500 pictures and 5 banners and six minutes educational / promotional video of Biodiversity and wildlife Afghanistan were for public outreach purposes and actively participated in natural resource management booth at the Badam Bagh Agricultural Fair for Nowroz.
- Assisted NEPA with the announcement of the 3rd Round of Protected Species of Afghanistan and developed posters of the new Protected Species in Dari and Pashto with the co-operation of NEPA and MAIL;
- Drafted TMPs on Fuel-efficient Stoves and Predator-proof Corrals and started working on the Ulama's TMP covering Islamic environmental values.
- Dstablished an operational base at Irgail settlement of Little Pasmir, after consultation with the Little Pamir Kyrgyz community, and hired two Kyrgyz men as Community

Facilitator and Cook in this project. Also conducted preliminary management planning and demarcation of Teggermansu.

- Facilitated the construction and registration of an air strip at Chakmaqin which is at 4060m above sea level and which is being operated by PACTEC.
- Facilitated the writing and submission of a proposal to WFP by the WPA, for road repairs at Avgach village.
- Assisted the WPA and BACA to establish libraries in Wakhan and Band-e-Amir. The libraries are registered with the government public library in Kabul, and donations of books will be received from the Asia Foundation.
- Supported repairs to the Wakhan road near Avgach village, repaired the Noshaq Base Camp trail, facilitated WPA on establishment of a tourism centre enterprise and renovated a retaining wall for a footbridge at Qara Jilgha settlement at Little Pamir, providing jobs to local communities from Wakhan corridor and Little Pamir.
- Assisted in the renovation of the ranger station in Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve and building of 4 blocks of dry latrines in Band-e-Amir National Park.
- Developed a new database for use with the Wakhan ranger program, which is likely to become the national standard for ranger data storage by the Afghan government.
- Recruited and trained 6 Kyrgyz community rangers in Big Pamir and who will be patrolling the area.
- Provided hygiene and sanitation training at 10 schools in the Wakhan Corridor. In total, 3,169 (1,747 male and 1,422 female) teachers, students and parents participated the sessions. This training was held in conjunction with some of the Parent's Day activities. An official from the Ministry of Health (Kabul) also participated.

Component 1. Bamyan Province

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

Activity 1.1.1: Environmental Education Program (EEP)

During the third year the WCS team will continue the environment education program at the four existing schools in the park and will expand this activity to one school in the Northern Plateau, depending on accessibility and security in this remote area. Teacher training will take place in the Northern Plateau schools. Environment education program committees will be established at the schools. WCS will continue to develop environmental education materials specific to Band-e-Amir, including posters and pamphlets. WCS will facilitate the organizing of one environment education "Parent's Day" at one school. These functions will coincide with Environment Day in June. EEP kits will be distributed to teachers and students. WCS will continue to employ the present community EEP extension officer from the local community to work with the local schools.

During Q2FY 2013:

- Field activities were suspended during much the winter season owing to the difficulty operating in remote locations under harsh climatic conditions. They will be resumed in the next quarter.
- WCS has been continuing employing the female Environmental Education assistant officer from the local community and brought to Kabul for capacity development and training during winter.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued the environment education program at four existing schools in Band-e-Amir National park and successfully expanded the program to three more schools in the northern plateau. A total of 572 students (204 girls & 368 boys) and 26 teachers (23 men & 3 women) participated the relevant training workshops.
- Based on ideas from teachers and students, and consultation with education departments at national and local levels, the EEP program has been revised from data collection to more informative environment related presentations and film shows based on current Afghanistan education curriculum with lesson material being taken directly out of school's text books. In this regard 26 Environmental Awareness Training Packages containing: power point presentations, lesson plans and relevant posters and films have been provided for teachers, mainly on biology and environmental science subjects.
- Conducted one environmental oriented parent's day workshop in Kushkak-e-Naqshi secondary school of Northern Plateau. 410 people (137 female & 273 male) including parents, teachers, students and provincial council representative participated the event. Notebooks and pens were provided to the involved students and teachers as prize.



Bamyan TCD team is conducting a relevant training for school students in Shahid Mahmoodi school of Band-e-Amir National Park.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- A Technical Brief, Applying the Gender Lens to Conservation Learning, was prepared for the TCD team. They used this guide to review all lesson plans and other EEP materials that will be used in Bamyan during this school year
- During this year, the Bamyan team reached an additional 204 girls and 3 female teachers (from total 572 school students and 26 teachers) through EEP and 134 women (from total of 410 participants) on Environmental oriented parent's day events, strengthening involvement, role and awareness of female members of local communities in natural resource management practices.

Activity 1.1.2: Community Conservation Education Outreach

Education outreach materials will continue to be developed at WCS's office in Kabul by the TCD team. WCS will scale up the community outreach program to other communities in the Northern Plateau villages.

During Q2FY 2013:

- Due to the fact that team was away from field for the winter and heavy snow made the northern plateau areas inaccessible, no field activities were conducted in this term, apart from constant communication with the community rangers if and when they were within reach.
- Continued employing a community conservation assistant officer from the local community.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Six community conservation education outreach workshops were conducted in the northern plateau villages and summer grazing encampments (Ailaq). Environment-related films were also shown to the participants. In total 483 participants (219 male and 264 female) attended, consisting of local parents, preachers, elders, and school children. Also delivered 50 posters of Afghanistan protected species to Bamyan University.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- During this year, the Bamyan community outreach program was delivered to 572 community members, of whom 264 were female.

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

WCS will continue coordination with the Central management Authority (CMA) and NEPA, including having monthly meetings, and sharing reports and work plans. WCS will continue to work with the Bamyan Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) to coordinate tourism management and facilities development in Band-e-Amir National Park, and at other sites within Bamyan province. Monthly BAPAC (Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee) meetings will continue to be held.

During Q2FY2013:

- Facilitated the Bamyan MAIL and NEPA directorates by organizing a 3-month English language and Computer skills training programs, held in Bamyan town. 53 MAIL and NEPA staff (47 male and 6 female) were trained in Microsoft Windows, MS Office, and Basic English Language program. Teaching materials and stationery were provided for trainees (see activity 3.1.1).

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued regular coordination meetings with provincial MAIL, NEPA, the Provincial Governor's office and the district government offices in Saighan and Yakawlang. Work plans, activities and reports were continuously shared with all these authorities.
- Exposed Band-e-Amir development plan to donors, by assisting the Central Management Authority (CMA) to host senior NEPA officials, and high level delegations from the UN, UNESCO, BBC, UNEP and UNDP, and Indian Embassy on their visits to Band-e-Amir National Park. Also facilitated a UNDP delegation to meet with local community representatives and national park authorities. During these visits the delegations were briefed on WCS activities, national park management issues and concerns of local communities.

- Attended the regular monthly meetings of BAPAC at which all park management and development issues are discussed, and often hosted the meetings.
- Provided technical assistance for; fencing around the park ecological restoration zone, tree planting and park signage activities, implemented and funded by MAIL in Band-e-Amir national park.
- Facilitated training courses on computer skills, literacy, management and English language for three months during winter in Bamyan city for 53 MAIL and NEPA staff (47 male and 6 female) and in Kabul for 3 members of BACA and 4 park rangers.
- Facilitated a four day visit to the northern plateau for provincial NEPA to be more familiar with the community rangers tasks and EEP activities and training in the basics of wildlife surveys was given to him using the ranger data sheet and GPS.
- Provided the Dari version of the Band-e-Amir amenity zone plan to the Bamyan NEPA.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- During this year, 6 female official staff of provincial MAIL and NEPA in Bamyan (from total 53 person) were trained in Microsoft Windows, MS Office, and Basic English Language program.

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 rangers in conservation related topics, and continue to support the Northern Plateau game guards. WCS will also advocate the recruitment, training and appointment of female rangers for use within Band-e-Amir National Park and seek MAIL approval and support for these salaries. This includes purchasing equipment and uniforms for the Bamyan rangers. WCS will continue the wildlife camera-trapping program in the Northern Plateau with a specific focus on cats, including Pallas cat, Caracal and the Persian leopard. WCS will assist the Central Management Authority (CMA) of MAIL with the development of a new ranger outpost in Podinatu in the Northern Plateau. Lastly, WCS will design ranger-training modules to be inserted into a ranger training manual, used for training rangers at the field level.

During Q2FY2013:

- Continued facilitating English language training for Band-e-Amir's rangers. 4 rangers participated the class during winter. Stationery and teaching materials distributed to the students regularly. In addition, another 4 Band-e-Amir rangers were brought to Kabul for three months winter training on management, English language, and computer skills.
- The ranger training manual, used for training rangers at the field level, is currently being devised.
- Continued process of recruiting of female rangers for the national park and establishing a new ranger outpost in Pudinatu in the northern plateau. MAIL has agreed to support the idea but actual progress on the ranger outpost has been slow.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued regular meetings with park officials about all aspects of day to day management of the national park and worked with both Band-e-Amir and northern plateau rangers building their capacity in terms of tourism management, community awareness raising, wildlife and environment protection by regular visits and on-the-job training. Mentoring included GPS use and revision, camera trapping, wildlife data sheet compilation. Monthly per diems were paid and boots and uniforms issued to all plateau community rangers.
- Accompanied community rangers on two separate camera trapping expeditions to the remote Dar-e-Zirk and Azhdarkhu canyons of the northern plateau for wildlife monitoring and survey.
- Secured the unanimous support of BAPAC, BACA, the provincial governor and all district authorities for the recruitment of 4 female rangers for the national park and initiated the process with with MAIL. These woman rangers would mainly deal with tourism management related works to deal with the high number of woman visitors to the park.
- Continued assisting the Band-e-Amir community members and rangers with English language courses and thereby improving their skills to deal with tourists, NGO's and other visitors to the area.
- As part of the enforcement efforts by the park rangers with support from WCS, a group of bird of prey trappers were arrested in the eastern region of Band-e-Amir national park. The trappers were taken to the provincial authorities in Bamyan and with advice from WCS the captured birds were immediately released.
- Provided technical GIS information on the location of the park boundary, in an effort to solve a conflict between the park management and outsiders wishing to collect shrubs for fuel wood from inside the park (The BANP Management Plan forbids collection of shrubs by people living outside the park).



Accompanying one provincial official from Bamyan NEPA office, Bamyan team is checking reports and arranging work plan with local ranger in Bamyan plateau (Hazarchishma area).

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- WCS gained verbal support of MAIL for the concept of female rangers as the Band-e-Amir lakes hold special meaning for female visitors.

Activity 1.2.2 Ecotourism

WCS will continue to facilitate ecotourism promotion activities with all stakeholders in Band-e-Amir National Park. The development and installation of information and rules and regulation signage in the park should be completed this year. Together with MAIL, WCS will implement a tree-planting project which has been outlined in the Facilities Development Plan. Trees and labour will preferably be sourced from the local communities. The project will be managed by BACA who under the guidance of WCS will be encouraged, where ever possible, to consider the creation of economic opportunities for all women. Special attention should be given to those women who may be economically vulnerable due to the absence of a male breadwinner. Subject to support from MAIL, WCS will facilitate the construction of a semi-permanent, domestic animal-proof fence around the ecological restoration zone, which surrounds the overflow area of Band-e-Haibat (Lake).

During Q2FY2013:

- Continued providing technical advice to MAIL regarding the fencing project and tree planting of the ecological restoration zone.
- Helped MAIL to design and initiate manufacturing of park signage for the amenity zone of Band-e-Amir. Approximately 100 signposts provided, and these are in the process of being installed.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued to facilitate ecotourism promotion activities with all stakeholders in Band-e-Amir National Park and facilitated the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in the tree plantation program with cooperation of Band-Amir Community Association (BACA).
- Designed the signage rules for the facility zone and helped MAIL manufacturing of park signage, provided technical assistance for fencing around and tree-planting program inside the ecological restoration zone of Band-e-Amir National Park.
- With reference to the development plan for the facility zone of Band-e-Amir national park, WCS facilitated BAPAC and BACA to identify a location for a community member who applied to construct a guest house in the current bazaar. Location for the woman's booths in the bazaar was also facilitated. Also assisted BACA and the District municipality to draft a regulatory document for the operation of swan pedal boats on the Band-e-Amir lakes.
- Provided advice and recommendations to SWSS (ARD) to build four latrine blocks in the facility zone of BANP. These latrines were funded by USAID and are constructed.
- Assisted the tour guide association of BACA by providing and publishing brochures, pamphlets, and other tourist's awareness publications. This association is made up of community youth members from the park.
- Facilitated numerous visits from the national land resolution team from the Land Authority in Kabul who continued to visit the park regarding the land ownership issues with the communities.
- An assessment was conducted on the gas bakery in Band-e-Amir bazaar which was equipped by WCS last year. The outcome of this project has been satisfactory and is providing tourists with bread (Naan) during the high season in the park

- A detailed proposal and budget has been compiled for the facilities zone development plan to be used for submission to donors.
- Assisted a CBS film crew who visited the program at Band-e-Amir and a clip was aired on CBS news in March 2013.



Technical adviser (David Bradfeild) is assisting and providing guidance to the park rangers on how to set the fence around the park ecological restoration zone.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- A training curriculum (AKDN Bamyán women's Social Savings Groups) was reviewed. The curriculum, with adaptation, has great potential for Band-e-Amir (and Wakhan) use with male and female entrepreneurs to teach the basics of livelihoods and access to micro-loans.

Activity 1.2.3 Fuel Efficient Stoves Project

WCS will finish delivering fuel-efficient stoves to the remaining households within the park. As discussed earlier these stoves have direct health and economic benefits for women by reducing the dangers of respiratory diseases and increasing their time available for other economic activities. The WCS staff will initiate a monitoring and evaluation programme in the communities where the stoves have been distributed in order to see the take up of this technology in the villages. These evaluators will be females from the community trained by the WCS Gender team.

During Q2FY2013:

- Because of the heavy snow and frozen winter, it was difficult to access to those villages where stove were distributed; therefore, no stove evaluation was done in this quarter.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Completed delivering fuel-efficient stoves to all households in park villages. A preliminary monitoring and evaluation of fuel-efficient stove use has been conducted by two female local staff that were trained for this purpose. Households were selected randomly throughout the park where interviews with data sheets was the method used and distributed 220 solar lanterns to 8 communities in the Northern Plateau

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- During this year in total 158 FESs were distributed (one per household) and the same number of women received training in their use. FES is designed to reduce fuel consumption and internal smoke, effecting more directly women's life quality and efficiency. Reduction in the time burden opens up possibilities for education or income generation and reducing the amount of smoke produced inside the dwelling unit can improve the health of women who do most of the cooking. The FES use training was conducted by local women, under the guidance of the female Bamyan EEP Assistant.

Activity 1.2.4 In cooperation with MAIL, recruit and train cleaners for the national park. Facilitate MAIL to employ, train and equip at least 8 permanent cleaners for the national park. (Covering the cost until MAIL's budget cycle kicks in)

During Q2FY2013 and 3rd Project Year:

- A request has been sent to MAIL to facilitate recruitment of 8 park cleaners. WCS has emphasized the issue of gender balance in this process by recommending of 4 male and 4 female cleaners. Recruitment is pending due to approval and commitment of MAIL on sustainability of these jobs on their budget cycle.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- WCS has promoted and gained approval of MAIL for initial recruitment of 4 female cleaners for the national park.

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

Activity 1.3.1 Support the Band e Amir Community Association (BACA) and the Band e Amir Protected Area Committee (BAPAC)

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.

During Q2FY2013:

- Assisted Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) on its regular meetings, and arranged for BACA's chairman to meet the GEF and UNDP's representatives to discuss potential projects for Band-e-Amir national park. Took four BACA members to Kabul for three months winter training on management, English language, and computer skills. (see activity 1.1.3).
- Facilitated BACA in organizing three months English language training classes for 33 community students (26 boys and 7 girls) and 25 women of Band-e-Amir communities.

Four members of BACA were brought to participate in English language and management classes in Kabul for three months.

- Facilitated BACA to register with the Afghanistan Public Library and to receive donated books from Afghanistan Public Library to establish community public library in Band-e-Amir national park. Also supported them to develop two funding proposals to the GEF Small Grant Program, one for non-fruit trees nurseries and one for shop construction for community women who aim to start handicrafts and dairy-product businesses in Band-e-Amir bazaar.
- WCS facilitated BACA's board of directorate meetings with both MAIL and NEPA at national level regarding revenue sharing to be managed by BACA for the benefit of local communities. Consequently, both NEPA and MAIL agreed to support the principal of benefit sharing. However, the mechanism for this still need to worked out at national and provincial level.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued to support the Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) with regular meetings, logistical support, day-to-day assistance, attending meetings, and advising on plans for further development activities.
- Facilitated the BAPAC to authorize Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)funded camping site to be managed by BACA through a lease contract.
- Facilitated an economic development delegation and Bamyan PRT - USAID to visit BANP for potential small community income generation projects. Following the visit WCS staff assisted BACA with fund raising proposals that have been submitted to Bamyan PRT – USAID for a community poultry farm, community handicrafts, carpet weaving, a community public bathroom, establishment of a tourist information centre, constructing community guest houses in Band-e-Amir villages and constructing a new public bakery.
- Assisted BACA for developing two funding proposals, one for non-fruit trees nurseries and one for shop construction for community women to establish vendor booths in the Band-e-Amir Bazaar to sell local handicrafts and dairy products to tourists. A total of 22 women from 13 villages volunteered which six women won the right to have booths in Band-e-Amir bazaar.
- Provided training and capacity development opportunities for 25 local women, 4 BACA members and 33 community students (26 boys and 7 girls) during the winter training program on English language, computer and managementare skills.
- Facilitated BACA to register with the Afghanistan Public Library and receive donated books from Afghanistan Public Library to establish community public library in Band-e-Amir national park. WCS has also facilitated meetings for BACA's chairman to meet the GEF and UNDP's representatives discussing potential projects for Band-e-Amir national park.
- Helped the board of directors of BACA to meet with MAIL and NEPA at national levels regarding revenue sharing to be managed by BACA for the community's priorities. Consequently, both NEPA and MAIL agreed supporting BACA with the matters of benefit sharing. However, this still needs national and provincial government approval.



Assisted BACA to hold regular meetings in Band-e-Amir National Park

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- During this year, BACA and its women's association agreed to allocate six booths in the bazaar to female entrepreneurs. A competition was held among 22 potential booth operators and six were selected. Women's product such as dairies and handcrafts will be sold by women to tourists.
- The funding proposal to GEF small grants will directly benefit women as the money will be directly controlled and managed by women (women sub-committee of BACA) for women beneficiaries (booth owners).
- 32 female members for local communities received training in English and computer skills, providing them better abilities for managing tourism and entrepreneurs.

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

The National Program will lead efforts to get final approval for the Band-e Amir National Park Management Plan, and subsequent gazetting of the park by government. After this, copies of both the management plan and a summary management plan document will be distributed to communities in the park and officials. Revenue sharing activities will continue to be facilitated through the Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) in Band-e-Amir National Park.

During Q2FY2013:

- With technical assistance and the persistent follow up from WCS, the final management plan of Band-e-Amir national park was approved by NEPA and relevant official letters has sent to provincial authorities in Bamyan for authorization.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Following earlier consultations and preliminary approval of the draft management plan for Band-e-Amir National Park through local communities, district and provincial authorities in Bamyan and central MAIL in Kabul, WCS was informed that this 5 years

management plan was approved by NEPA and official letters sent to provincial authorities in Bamyan for authorization.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- The gender specific component of this activity was not considered as a separate initiative, nor female members of local communities involved in management planning process due to the cultural context limits but issues reflected in the management plan are considering gender balance as principles.

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 pass penalties for the National Park as a regulation according to article 70(2) of the Afghanistan Environment Law and coordinate the issuing of a “Tarzulemal” for the entry fees from the park once this process is ready to be implemented. WCS will endeavour to coordinate with the CMA to get Band-e-Amir national park declared a “prohibited area” under the Afghanistan Mining Act.

During Q2FY2013 and 3rd Project Year:

- The final management plan for Band-e-Amir national park has been signed by national authorities recently (including penalties). The penalties for violation of the national park rules which is approved by central authorities (MAIL and NEPA) requires appropriate approval from ministry of justice for these penalties.

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)

Environmental education will be given to students in the 14 schools of the Wakhan Corridor. Additionally, an education kit (notebook, pen, pencils) will be provided to Kyrgyz students at the newly established school at Bozoi Gumbaz in the Little Pamir. Lastly, the Parent’s Day environmental education event will be held at 14 schools in the Wakhan Corridor. The high number of girls in schools in Wakhan is a deep source of pride to the local community. WCS believes that by promoting the EEP program, a positive change can be effected in this rural society with regard to the expectations and role that women can play in modern society.

During Q2FY2013:

- Field activities were suspended during much the winter season owing to the difficulty operating in remote locations under harsh climatic conditions. They will be resumed in the next quarter.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued the environmental-education art training with focused on six schools in the upper Wakhan Corridor (schools in the lower corridor were covered in 2011). 64 students (26 female and 38 males) were trained.

- Conducted environmentally orientated Parent's Day celebrations in the 14 schools of the Wakhan Corridor. In total 4,810 (2,585 male and 2,225 female) teachers, students and community members participated in the program.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- A Technical brief, applying the gender lens to conservation learning, was prepared for the TCD team. They used this guide to review all lesson plans and other EEP materials that will be used in Badakhshan during this school year (see activity (1.1.1))
- During this year, the Badakhshan team trained an additional 26 girls (from total 64 school students and 26 teachers) through EEP and 2,225 women (from total of 4,810 participants) on Environmental oriented parent's day events.

Activity 2.1.2 Capacity Development

Two Afghan veterinarians trained by WCS since 2006 will gain hands-on training experience in wildlife tranquilization as part of a snow leopard satellite collaring project that is being co-funded by The National Geographic Society, which will start this year. Secondly, two Kyrgyz men from the Little Pamir - one cook and one community facilitator - will be hired by WCS and given on-the-job training.

During Q2FY2013:

- During winter WCS provided three months of training in English, computer, management and mechanic training to 51 people (local WCS staff, government and community counterparts) in Kabul, Faizabad and Wakhan (see activity 3.1.1).
- A two-day 1st aid training was provided to WCS Badakhshan staff by RMSI. 7 people attended from Badakhshan team in this workshop.

During 3rd Project Year:

- The two Afghan veterinarians employed by WCS since 2006 received over two weeks of theoretical and practical training in wildlife immobilization. They were involved in Afghanistan's first ever capture of a snow leopard in the Hindu Kush Mountain Range of Wakhan. They also independently carried out the chemical immobilization, monitoring and supervised the recovery of a second captured snow leopard in the same locality. In addition, four biologists from WCS (2), MAIL (1) and NEPA (1) were also given practical training in this topic.
- Provided practical start-up Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training to the MAIL Protected Areas Officer from Wakhan and one WCS staff and funding proposal writing training to 6 people from Wakhan district government office, WPA, and WCS local staff.
- Provided hygiene and sanitation training at 10 schools in the Wakhan Corridor. In total, 3,169 (1,747 male and 1,422 female) teachers, students and parents participated the sessions. This training was held in conjunction with some of the Parent's Day activities. An official from the Ministry of Health (Kabul) also participated.
- WCS conducted a three-day GIS training session for 14 people, including WCS staff from Badakhshan, Kabul and Bamyan, local community members from Wakhan, and one Ministry of Agriculture official from Wakhan.

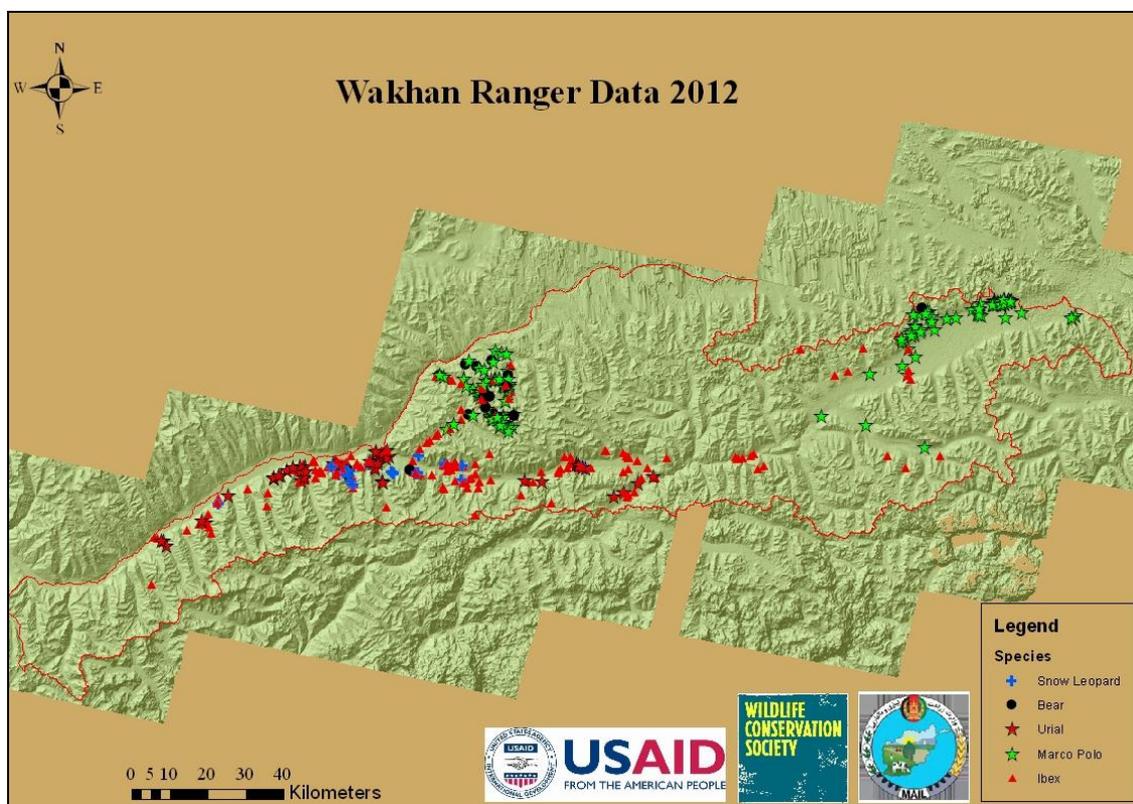
Activity 2.1.3 Ranger Training

Five of the Wakhi ranger teams will receive on-the-job refresher training in wildlife survey techniques as part of the snow leopard capture-recapture camera trap survey that WCS is continuing this year. The ranger program will also be established in the Kyrgyz Big Pamir

this year. Six community rangers will be recruited and receive start-up training. On-the-job training will be given to the three Little Pamir Kyrgyz ranger teams this year too.

During Q2FY2013:

- Entered Ranger survey data from 2012 into the new Microsoft Access database during this Quarter. WCS developed the database earlier in 2012.
- Monitoring and wildlife survey by the community rangers in Wakhan during winter. This work occurred across the landscape including the Big Pamir, Little Pamir and Corridor.



Surveys and data collection by local rangers continued in Wakhan corridor and Pamirs.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Recruited and trained Kyrgyz community rangers in Big Pamir. Six rangers hired and trained on essential equipment such as GPS, binocular, data sheet and spotting scope, etc (see activity 2.2.4).
- The rangers continued to patrol, monitor and survey wildlife across the landscape including the Big Pamir, Little Pamir and Corridor and data from these patrols was entered in the new Microsoft Access database.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- WCS and WPA have discussed the role of female rangers. At this time, WPA has no plans to develop a female ranger program, as patrol requirements are not compatible with cultural considerations.

Activity 2.1.4 Natural Resource Monitoring

The snow leopard camera trap capture-recapture monitoring survey that WCS initiated last year will be continued. Linked to this survey, WCS will endeavor to capture four snow

leopards this year and fit them with satellite collars as part of a National Geographic Society documentary film. Satellite collaring snow leopards will enable WCS to refine habitat preference models produced in 2010 as part of the Living Landscapes Approach. In coming years, these models combined with the population estimate obtained from the camera trap survey, will enable WCS and USAID to develop Afghanistan's first ever broad-scale snow leopard population estimate. Finally, two biodiversity assessments will be carried out in northern Badakhshan, in the Darwaz and Maymai regions.

During Q2FY2013:

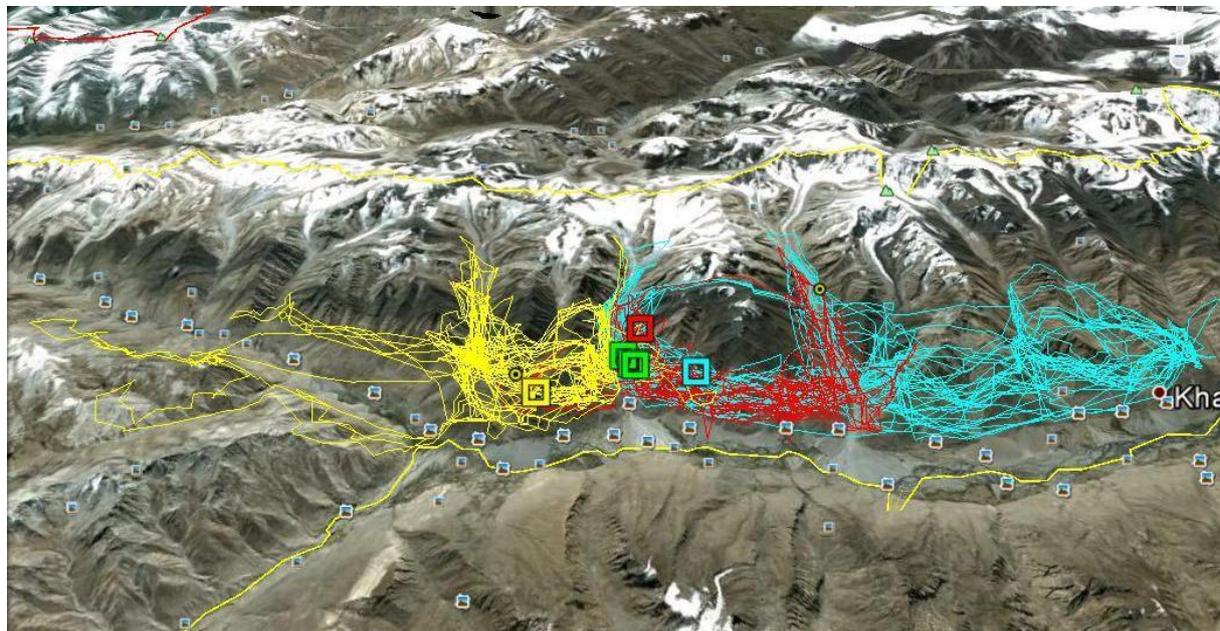
- Continued snow leopard capture-recapture survey during the winter. For two months during January and February the snow leopard rangers changed SIM cards and batteries of camera. Analysis of these photos will be used later in 2013 to provide the first population estimate of snow leopards in Afghanistan.
- Published a WCS article entitled "Brown bear status and threats in Darwaz, Northern Badakhshan, Afghanistan", this Quarter by the International Association for Bear Conservation and Management (IBA) and another article entitled "Status of urial (*Ovis vignei*) and ibex (*Capra sibirica*) in the Hindu Kush Range in the Wakhan Corridor, Badakhshan, Afghanistan" was drafted (see attachment 4).
- Liaised with the Zebak District Governor and Badakhshan Director of NEPA regarding hunting incidents that occurred in Zebak during the winter. WCS had received reports that Afghan Border Police officials and local community members had hunted a large number of ibex and urial in this area.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued technical support and facilitation for the snow leopard capture-recapture camera trap survey across the landscape. Twenty-nine camera traps were checked, and had SIM cards and batteries changed. A total of 19 people from across the survey area were given on-the-job training as part of this work aiming at better understanding snow leopards in the landscape and in turn how local livelihoods can be better protected against this predator.
- WCS hosted a two-week expedition to Wakhan for the National Geographic Society (NGS). The expedition formed part of an NGS snow leopards documentary and conservation project. During the project two snow leopard was captured, successfully tranquilized and fitted with a satellite-tracking collars. Snow leopard satellite collaring continued in September and successfully captured a third snow leopard. This project is a training activity for WCS' veterinary and GIS teams, and rangers from Wakhan. To the end of September 1,599 data points had been collected by the collars. This is a very significant finding in Wakhan in terms of range extension for this species, and is a likely indicator of successful wildlife conservation.
- A biodiversity assessment of Maymai District in Darwaz region has been completed. The survey, finished in July, recorded many mammals and 101 birds' species. During interviews, the people reported tiger, brown bear and many other conservation value species in the area. The existence of tiger has not been confirmed, however.
- Three rangers trained by WCS implemented a mammal survey in Ishkashim and Zebak Districts mountains that are contiguous with Wakhan. It was a practical training for community rangers and will help with conservation planning beyond Wakhan District. 338 ibex, 67 urial and a number of indirect sign (tracks and scats) of snow leopard were observed.
- Completed urial feces collecting in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Wakhan and Zebak Districts. This has been done for future DNA analysis, aimed at determining which sub-

species of urial is present in Wakhan (which could carry significant livelihood benefits for the community). Some of the samples collected will also be used for parasite and disease testing by the WCS vet team.

- Two WCS staff attended a snow leopard conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from 1st – 3rd December 2012 funded by the World Bank.
- Continued liaison with local authorities for relevant enforcement and scientific monitoring leading to articles on wildlife situation and monitoring methods in Wakhan.



WCS keeps track of 3 collared leopards updated using satellite service.

Activity 2.1.5 Wildlife/livestock health

Two WCS trained paravets from Wakhan and their assistants will carry out a Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and tuberculosis vaccination program in the Wakhan Corridor. This program will be the first completely unassisted (by WCS) activity implemented by the Wakhan paravets – an important step for future sustainability. The quality of work carried out by the paravets for this activity will later be evaluated - via questionnaires and direct examinations - by WCS, as a means of monitoring performance. WCS also will develop a database to record identified/vaccinated yaks in Wakhan, and Afghans will be trained to manage the database.

During Q2FY2013:

- Because of the heavy snow and frozen winter, access to the field was difficult for further activities.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Conducted training for the two local Para vets from Wakhan, Badakhshan and one vet from Kabul Zoo on autopsy techniques (handling and sampling), usage of surgical tools and preserving of samples prior to laboratory processing and the use of simple surgical tools with which the trainees were supplied.
- Conducted livestock blood sampling in Wakhan for disease testing at the Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CVDL) in Kabul. A total of 309 sheep and goat samples were collected from different places in the landscape - upper, middle and lower Wakhan.

- Two Wakhan paravets, supported and trained by WCS, successfully carried out by their own a mass vaccination campaign of cattle and yak for foot-and-mouth disease. 3,388 animals were vaccinated, including 2,998 cattle and 390 domestic yaks. The quality of their work was evaluated by conducting a questionnaire on 171 randomly selected households six month after vaccination.
- WCS staff performed in collaboration with paravets tuberculin skin test on cattle in 3 villages of Wakhan (Qala-e Panja, Sarkand and Abgarch). The two Wakhi paravets were trained at using and interpreting tuberculin skin test (See also activity 2.5.2).

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- The issue has been discussed and agreed that for the future animal vaccinations, number of vaccinated livestock owned by, or under the control of female-headed households (where women were the primary breadwinner) will be collected (to the extent possible) for gender balanced future planning (see activity 2.5.1).
- A concept statement and survey instrument were designed to assess the long term impact of a professional veterinary training held in 2007. A majority of participants at the training were women. The assessment will be conducted in Q3 (April-June) 2013.

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

Fuel-efficient stoves will continue to be manufactured by local tinsmiths and distributed throughout the Wakhan Corridor by WCS and the WPA. In 2011, WCS piloted a fuel-efficient stove with the Kyrgyz in the Little Pamir. The stove was then modified slightly. In 2012 this modified stove will be piloted in the Little Pamir. WCS hopes the piloting will go well and stoves can begin being distributed to the Kyrgyz in 2013. In 2012 WCS will also commence monitoring the use of fuel-efficient stoves in households that have purchased it. As in other areas female members of the community will be trained and sent into the communities to do these evaluations under the supervision of the WCS Gender team.

During Q2FY2013:

- Further development for this activity was not achieved due to winter and lack of access to the area.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Fuel-efficient stoves are continuing to be produced by local tinsmiths. Stove making metal and tools were provided to the tinsmiths and 903 stoves were distributed in the Wakhan Corridor.
- Conducted stove-use and installation training in Upper Wakhan villages and 335 women in 16 villages received the training.
- Distribution of stoves to the Little Pamir Kyrgyz community is pending due to difficult access to the area during winter.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- During the year in total 903 stoves (one per household) were distributed and at least the same number women were trained in their use. FES is designed to reduce fuel consumption and internal smoke, effecting more directly women's life quality and efficiency. Reduction in the time burden opens up possibilities for education or income generation and reducing the amount of smoke produced inside the dwelling unit can

improve the health of women who do most of the cooking. The FES use training was conducted by local women, under the guidance of the female Bamyan EEP Assistant.

Activity 2.2.2 Predator-proof corrals

WCS is attempting to develop a long-term partnership with the World Food Program (WFP) as part of a watershed initiative. This partnership would see WCS building capacity of the Wakhan-Pamir Association (WPA) to implement and manage Food-for-Work projects in Wakhan. WCS hopes that WFP will begin giving support to the WPA to begin building predator-proof corrals across the landscape.

During Q2FY2013:

- Assisted the WPA to write a funding proposal to WFP for further predator-proof corral construction in 2013 and to purchase timber and wire to complete the 12 corrals that were built in the latter part of 2012 under WFP funding.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Facilitated the establishment of a partnership between the Wakhan-Pamir Association and the World Food Program to submit funding proposals requesting assistance for the construction of predator-proof corrals in Wakhan and building a ranger station in Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve. The proposals approved and 12 corrals and the ranger station were constructed under supervision and continual onsite monitoring of WCS. It is anticipated the WPA-WFP partnership will be long-term, aimed at implementing livelihood projects across the landscape.
- Continued facilitating the partnership between WPA-WFP and helping draft further proposals for development issues such as predator proof corrals, ranger station in Little Pamir, trails and access routes etc.

Activity 2.2.3 Livestock Depredation Insurance

WCS will continue to monitor the livestock insurance projects at Avgach and Sarkand villages. It is uncertain whether the Sarkand community will continue their insurance in 2012. WCS will also endeavor to establish the insurance program at a third village in the Wakhan Corridor, namely Kret.

During Q2FY2013:

- Decided to discontinue this activity.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Avgach and Sarkand villages, the two villages where WCS has piloted the insurance program, said they do not want to proceed with the program unless WCS continues contributing money in annually. Aside from this there were various other complications with the insurance program, most related to money. Based on everything that has happened and the community's demands that they will only continue if WCS continues putting in money, WCS has decided to discontinue this activity. Continuing on the basis of what the community has demanded is neither sustainable or a satisfactory way for WCS to be engaging with the local people.

Activity 2.2.4 Support Community Rangers

The Wakhan ranger program will be initiated with the Kyrgyz Big Pamir community. This is the last community in Wakhan to join the ranger program. The existing rangers will continue patrolling and monitoring across the landscape. Uniforms will be issued to all of the rangers,

and at the same time all field equipment (GPS, cameras, etc) used by the ranger teams will be inspected. Tents will be issued to the Wakhi ranger teams. These will enable the teams to carry out long-range patrols, as well as making it safer for the rangers to carry out fieldwork during the cold months of the year.

During Q2FY2013:

- Continued logistical, technical, and per diem support to the community rangers for Wakhan patrolling and monitoring biodiversity during this Quarter. Data collected has been submitted to the WPA office in Qala-e Panja.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Recruited and trained 6 Kyrgyz community rangers in Big Pamir.
- The Wakhan rangers continued their work during the third year of the program and new uniforms were distributed to the community rangers in Wakhan Corridor and Little Pamir.
- Facilitated the re-recruitment of three Wakhi rangers by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). Three of the five rangers who were recruited in early 2012 resigned . They felt patrolling the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR) was too difficult for them. The MAIL Protected Areas Officer from Wakhan then dismissed them and immediately began a new recruitment process.
- Developed a new database for use with the Wakhan ranger program. This could become the national standard for ranger data storage by the Afghan government.

Activity 2.2.5 Protected Area Development

Ranger patrols will again resume in the BPWR this summer. A building at Shikargah Valley in the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve will be renovated this summer. This structure was a ranger station and trophy hunting facility back in the 1970s prior to the Soviet invasion. Renovating the ranger station will enable the current rangers to stay on site for longer each year, thus strengthening protection of the area. The Little Pamir Kyrgyz rangers will begin patrolling Teggermansu protected area in 2012.

During Q2FY2013:

- No further activity due to winter and lack of access to the field, and the presence of the team in Kabul for capacity development purposes during winter.

During 3rd Project Year:

- WCS facilitated patrolling to the BPWR and liaised with MAIL senior management in regard to renovation of the BPWR ranger station.
- Assisted in the renovation of the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve ranger station. WCS helped the WPA to write a proposal to WFP for this project, as a food for work initiative. MAIL and WCS contributed some money to this project. The work on this project took two months and involved all 42 Wakhi rangers, one supervisor from WPA and one Advisor from WCS.



The ranger station had been renovated in Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve.

Activity 2.2.6 Tourism Development

WCS will continue developing Mount Noshaq for tourism. This year the trail to base camp will be repaired and existing structures at base camp (toilets etc) will be upgraded. In 2011, WCS carried out a Wakhan tourism questionnaire survey in order to help the Wakhan community get a better understanding of their tourism industry. Trained females from the communities will be used for the surveys. The survey will be run again this year. WCS will continue to assist the WPA to raise funds for the development of their Tourism Centre business in Ishkashim. Female entrepreneurs from Wakhan will be able to sell handicrafts at this Tourism Center. The Gender Team will also provide recommendations for further female involvement in all possible aspects of tourism development in the Wakhan.

During Q2FY2013:

- Continued supporting WPA on drafting funding proposals for WFP and GEF Small Grants for development and livelihoods.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Repaired the Noshaq Base Camp trail, established a dirt airstrip in Chaqmaqin in Little Pamir and renovated a retaining wall for a footbridge at Qara Jilgha settlement at Little Pamir, providing laboring jobs to the local communities from Wakhan corridor and Little Pamir. The 4060m above sea level strip has been used by PACTEC and is registered with the Ministry Of Transport. Also facilitated the writing and submission of a proposal to WFP by the WPA, for road repairs at Avgach village. Subsequently the proposals were approved and the projects implemented by WPA successfully.
- Participated and facilitated meetings related to tourism issues, which involved the Wakhan-Pamir Association and district government and discussed tourism porter rates from Qazi Deh village to Noshaq Base Camp and other tourism-related issues.
- Facilitated WPA to establish a Tourism Centre enterprise. The Centre is co-funded by the WPA and GIZ. Assistance was provided by WCS throughout the entire process including selection and purchase of land in Ishkashim and helping the WPA secure the funding

from GIZ. The Wakhan community is selling handicrafts and local rugs in the shop at the centre as part of a livelihood improvement enterprise.

- A tourism questionnaire survey was conducted in Ishkashim but the questionnaire tourist survey finished at the end of September in Khorog as security problems were deterring tourists from coming to Wakhan. Most of the tourists came from Tajikistan.
- Facilitated the construction of a 15 KWH hydro-electric plant at Kret village. This project is linked to an agreement with the Kret community to allow PACTEC humanitarian air service to continue using their airstrip.
- Supported repairs to the Wakhan road near Avgach village. Forty one villagers from Avgach were employed for 11 days. WCS contracted the WPA to supervise the project.



Community gathered around the PACTEC flight at the Little Pamir airstrip near Lake Chaqmqatin.

Activity 2.2.7 Support Kyrgyz Little Pamir Community

WCS will a center for community livelihood support in Little Pamir, facilitate WPA to implement livelihood projects for LP community. Also WCS will conduct workshops on business planning and enterprise development for LP community.

During Q2FY2013:

- WCS assisted the WPA to write and submit a proposal to WFP for development projects in the Little Pamir Kyrgyz community. The projects are, (i) the construction of three bridges, and (ii) the construction of a development centre (see activity 2.2.6).

During 3rd Project Year:

- Further development is pending to the process of funding proposals by WFP

Activity 2.2.8 Gender

WCS will conduct feasibility assessment for women's activities in Wakhan.

During Q2FY2013:

- WCS has started consultations with WPA and Wakhan communities assessing ways to involve women in protected area and natural resource management activities in Wakhan and initial support is obtained for further effective involvement of women.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Further progress is expected to be made during upcoming field season.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- Process for recruitment of two female Education and Community Outreach Officers began. These officers who will be hired in Q3FY2013, will conduct the feasibility study.

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

Activity 2.3.1 Wakhan-Pamir Association Institutional Development

WCS will continue to advise the WPA on day-to-day issues, and provide technical assistance to their operations. WCS will also establish full-time operations in the Kyrgyz Little Pamir. This will be the first time that any organization has made a full-time commitment to the Kyrgyz. As part of this WCS will also provide on-the-job training and advice to the Little Pamir WPA.

During Q2FY2013:

- Assisted the Wakhan- Pamir Association to coordinate and meet with provincial government and WFP in Faizabad and draft and submit Food for Work proposals to WFP and f GEF Small Grant Program regarding local development and livelihoods. This includes construction of predator-proof corrals, watershed management, construction of irrigation canals, community tourism center, and forestry development in the Wakhan Corridor and Little Pamir Kyrgyz community.
- Provided assistance to the WPA to establish libraries in Wakhan. The WPA has registered with the government public library in Kabul, and donations of books will be received from the Asia Foundation.
- Submitted semi-annual report to MAIL, NEPA and the Department of Economy in Faizabad, Badakhshan Province for coordination and information sharing.
- Facilitated the district office of MAIL in Wakhan to conduct survey which collected data about agriculture, livestock, human population, etc., were collected from the entire Wakhan Corridor. It was the first such survey ever carried out in Wakhan. Once compiled the data was submitted to MAIL in Faizabad.
- Preparations including recruitment of the team leader for WCS permanent operational sub-base in Little Pamir completed. The team is ready in Qalai Panja to move to the site when access through Dehlez is possible and snow is cleared. This will facilitate further development and livelihood support, and the integration and involvement of Kyrgyz community to the protected area programs and WPA.
- A literacy course was delivered for 5 members of WPA for the period of 3 months.

During 3rd project Year:

- Continued assisting WPA (both for Wakhan and Kyrgyz communities) in day-to-day activities, capacity development and establishing sustainable communications and relationships with local government and donors. Also assisted WPS to open AFG and US Dollar bank accounts in Faizabad. This was done as part of establishing the organization as a functional partner to donors such as WFP. Organization like WFP, GEF and GIZ are now able to transfer money to WPA accounts.
- Assisted WPA to draft and submit Food for Work proposals to WFP and GEF small grants program regarding local development and livelihoods such as construction of predator-proof corrals, ranger station, watershed management, improving trails and access routes, development of irrigation canals, a community tourism center, and forestry development in the Wakhan Corridor and Little Pamir Kyrgyz community (see also 2.2.2).

- Assisted WPA to recruit an office Manager, tourism centre Manager and drivers. From 14 candidates three people were selected .
- Purchased website name for the Wakhan-Pamir Association's tourism centre enterprise
- After consultation with the Little Pamir Kyrgyz community, WCS established an operational base at Irgail settlement and will move to the site when access through Dehlez is possible and the snow has cleared. Hired two Kyrgyz men as Community Facilitator and Cook for this project.
- Facilitated the WPA to be partner with a BBC film crew who are producing a documentary about Wakhi livestock grazing and culture in the Big Pamir and Wakhan Corridor.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- The idea of establishing a women sub-committee under WPA has been agreed by WPA and WCS will continue facilitating progress of this establishment.

Activity 2.3.2 Protected Area Establishment

Following on from progress made in 2011, this year WCS will help the Kyrgyz Little Pamir community and government to demarcate the boundary of Teggermansu protected area. WCS will also facilitate a Teggermansu management planning workshop for the Little Pamir WPA.

During Q2FY2013:

- Field activities were suspended during much the winter season owing to the difficulty operating in remote locations under harsh climatic conditions. They will be resumed in the next quarter.

During 3rd Project Year:

- In a public meeting with Kyrgyz community in the Little Pamir, demarcation of Teggermansu, preliminary management planning and other development projects in the landscape, such as airstrips were approved for this year. The airstrip project was implemented and it is currently operational (see activity 2.3.1). Dr. Chris Shank, a management planning specialist who has worked in Afghanistan for many years, has been contracted to oversee demarcation and management planning . However, both have had to be delayed until 2013 because Dr. Shank could not attend at the time WCS requested him and the airstrip at Lake Chaqmaktin (government delegates were to be flown in for the activity) was not ready.

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

Activity 2.4.1 Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management Planning

Based on a set of rules and regulations developed by the WPA in 2010, WCS wrote a full management plan for the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR) in 2011. This plan has recently been translated into Dari. In 2012 the translated plan will be given to the Wakhan community for final review, and in summer 2012 it will be submitted to the government for review and gazetting as a provisional national protected area. This will make it Afghanistan's second national protected area.

During Q2FY2013:

- WCS facilitated government to process and approve the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management Plan. During this Quarter the plan was being reviewed by the Provincial Governor and will be sent back to the Wakhan District Governor who will give it his final

approval. Then it will return to the Provincial Governor who will in turn forward it to MAIL in Kabul for approval. Once MAIL has approved, it will be given to NEPA for final approval.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Gave copies of BPWR Management Plan, translated Dari to the WPA to review and share with their community, and amendments were incorporated.
- Held workshop, following the management planning steps mentioned above, with the Wakhan community and local government on the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management Plan. The Management Plan was thoroughly reviewed, discussed and ratified by all 47 attendees of the workshop and then submitted to Wakhan District Governor office and then to Badakhshan Provincial Governor for formal processing. The plan is submitted to Central Government (MAIL) for final process.

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

Activity 2.5.1 Capacity Development

WCS will train WCS Afghan veterinarians, Wakhan paravets and rangers in wildlife tranquilization and capture; implement FMD vaccination of yak and cattle in mid and upper Wakhan Corridor and organization of vaccination database, will train paravets at assessing fecal parasite loads in urials and sympatric livestock in Wakhan and will carry out serological investigation of disease prevalence in livestock sympatric with urials.

During Q2FY2013:

- Conducted a training workshop on Ecosystem Health for 1 day in collaboration with the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) in Kabul. 26 Afghan veterinarians and para veterinarians were trained in principles of ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, and wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization. Also the wildlife disease book, published in 2011 by WCS was distributed to the attendees.

During 3rd Project Year:

- WCS continued training and capacity development for local Wakhi paravets, members of AVA and relevant technicians from MAIL by conducting workshop on Ecosystem Health for Afghan veterinarians and par veterinarians. Principles of ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, and wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization were presented.
- Urial and domestic sheep feces samples that were collected earlier by local rangers and WCS veterinarian team were analyzed in WCS veterinarian lab for shared parasites (sympatric parasites). Resulting from this assessment we identified two likely shared parasites between Urial and domestic sheep, "Coccidia" and "Trichuris". More samples were collected by rangers for assessment of parasites that may be sympatric with Wakhan livestock.
- 3,388 livestock, including 2,998 cattle and 390 domestic yaks were vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in mid and upper Wakhan Corridor. Another vaccination campaign was delayed and will be performed in 2013 because WCS was unable to secure stocks of validated FMD vaccines in Afghanistan.
- As part of on-job capacity development practice for Wakhi paravets, 309 blood samples were collected from sheep and goats of mid, lower and upper Wakhan for serological investigations of diseases that are sympatric with urial.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- The issue has been discussed and agreed that for the future animal vaccinations, number of vaccinated livestock owned by, or under the control of female-headed households (where women were the primary breadwinner) will be collected (to the extent possible) for gender balanced future planning.

Activity 2.5.2 Control disease spread at wildlife/livestock interface in Wakhan and Pamirs

Foot-and-mouth disease vaccinations will be given to yaks and cattle in the mid and upper Wakhan Corridor. In conjunction with this activity, WCS will develop a system to identify yaks as part of stock management for the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve. An assessment of urinal faeces will be carried out to determine the presence of parasite loads that may be sympatric with Wakhan livestock. Additionally, serological investigations of Wakhan livestock will be carried out, for diseases that are sympatric with urial.

During Q2FY2013:

- Suspended activities in the field owing to winter, the vet team spend the winter in Kabul while conducted training programs for Afghanistan veterinary Association members and participated in capacity development practices for themselves.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Sent 4 swap samples collected from donkeys in Wakhan to a reference laboratory in Dubai to be tested for glanders. The results were negative for all samples.
- In order to evaluate the presence of diseases evocative of glanders in horses/donkeys, a questionnaire survey was carried out across the Wakhan Corridor by the WCS veterinary team this Quarter. The survey team interviewed 172 randomly selected households possessing donkeys/horses, living across the Corridor between Qazi Deh village and Sarhad-e Brogil. Twenty-nine percent (n=50) of the interviewed donkey/horse owners reported the occurrence of a disease with clinical symptoms suggestive of glanders in their animals. The majority of cases occurred in winter. Cases were reported throughout the valley.
- Eighty-nine donkeys were blood-sampled and will be evaluated for serological exposure to glanders.
- Performed tuberculin skin test on 143 cattle in 3 different villages of Wakhan corridor and found only 2 cattle doubtful and the rest showed negative reaction against the test. (see activity 2.1.5)

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- Agreed that for the future animal vaccinations and blood sampling, data about vaccinated or monitored livestock owned by, or under the control of female-headed households (where women were the primary breadwinner) will be collected (to the extent possible), for gender balanced future planning (Also activity 2.5.1).

Activity 2.5.3 Monitor Zoonotic and other animal diseases in Wakhan/Pamirs

An assessment of glanders in horses and donkeys in Wakhan will be carried out. WCS will also continue screening of cattle and yaks for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis.

During Q2FY2013:

- Suspended activities in the field owing to winter, the vet team spend the winter in Kabul while conducted training programs for Afghanistan veterinary Association members and participated in capacity development practices for themselves.

During 3rd Project year:

- 4 swap samples collected from donkeys in Wakhan were sent to a veterinarian lab in Dubai to be tested for glanders. The results were negative for all samples and 89 donkeys were blood-sampled and will be evaluated for serological exposure to glanders.
- In order to evaluate the presence of diseases evocative of glanders in horses/donkeys, 172 questionnaire were completed across the Wakhan Corridor. The survey team interviewed randomly selected households possessing donkeys/horses which wenty-nine percent (n=50) reported the occurrence of a disease with clinical symptoms suggestive of glanders in their animals.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- Agreed that for the future animal vaccinations and blood sampling, data about vaccinated or monitored livestock owned by, or under the control of female-headed households (where women were the primary breadwinner) will be collected (to the extent possible) for gender balanced future planning (Also for activities 2.5.1. and 2.5.2).

Component 3. National Programs

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

Activity 3.1.1 Training support for NEPA and MAIL

A training needs assessment of NEPA and MAIL was carried out at the beginning of the program, and a list of needs developed. Since that time WCS has responded to requests for training assistance from MAIL and NEPA on all aspects of biodiversity conservation and protected areas. This will continue in the third year of the project including.

WCS's GIS unit will follow up GIS and GPS training, provided to the Department of Agriculture students (Kabul University), by providing a GIS/GPS introductory orientation presentations for the Faculty of Agriculture upon their request. This will help students from the Agriculture Department in their fieldwork, and will enable them to begin using GPS and GIS. The GIS team will also work to train and support WCS teams in the field as required.

Training Management Packages (TMPs) will continue to be developed according to needs assessment results and requests from MAIL and NEPA. TMPs to be developed this year will include (i) fuel-efficient stove production, (ii) predator-proof corral construction, and (iii) CITES implementation.

If the declaration of the 3rd round of protected species is made by NEPA, then WCS will assist NEPA to conduct a workshop for the 19 police stations in Kabul, focused on Afghanistan protected species, wildlife trade, biodiversity in Afghanistan, and the Environment Law.

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 tool for

training future rangers in Afghanistan, in conjunction with the already approved Ranger Training TMP.

During Q2FY2013:

- Conducted a winter training programs for a period of three months to teach English (Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate and TOEFL), Basic Computer and Management by Awista Group's Foreign Language Institute (FLI), In total 36 participant (29 males and 7 females) from MAIL, NEPA, Wakhan, Band-e-Amir (WPA, BACA) Associations and WCS local staff were trained. A performance evaluation of the winter training courses at Foreign Language Institute (FLI) was also conducted.
- Prepared a training package and materials for the environmental religious workshop in cooperation of NEPA and Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) to raise environmental awareness and capacity among religious scholars (Mullah) in order to make men and women aware about the environment and natural resources importance from Islamic point of view by them (training of trainers).
- Four day First Aid training was conducted by RMSI at the WCS office a total of 20 participants took part in this training (17 males and 3 females);
- Based on the request from ministry of justice and NEPA, WCS and NEPA initiated meeting with the director of the Juvenile Offenders to assess their needs and the possibility of implementing an environmental education program at the Kabul's Juvenile detention center.
- Continued developing the outreach programs for 2013 with focus on enrichment of the Environmental Education Program. A new environmental education program package including presentations, assignments, practical works, and games based on the current curriculum of Afghanistan was completed and submitted to the field officers to be tested for implementation (see activity 1.1.1).
- The CITES implementation Training and Management Package (TMP) is under review and training to be rescheduled at a later date; a three-day training session was held for 10 staff members of WCS (7 males and 3 females);
- Met with the Killid Group to develop a national campaign on environmental issues, waiting to get quotes from other radio and TV channels.



Implementing a three days training on CITES implementation and review of the relevant Training and Management Package (TMP).

During 3rd project Year:

- Conducted an Orientation GIS and GPS training for the university students in the faculty of agriculture. 32 students (28 male and 4 female) and 2 teachers participated the training session.
- Completed, drafted and finalized the English and Dari version of a Training Management Package (TMP) about the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES); a three-day training session was held for 10 staff members of WCS (7 males and 3 females); the translated documents are being reviewed;
- Completed TMPs on Fuel-efficient Stoves and Predator-proof Corrals and started working on the Ulama's TMP covering Islamic environmental values.
- Assisted NEPA with the announcement of the 3rd Round of Protected Species of Afghanistan and developed posters of the new Protected Species in Dari and Pashto with the corporation of NEPA and MAIL;
- Continued working to finalize a PowerPoint Presentation focused on Afghan Protected Species, Wildlife Trade, Biodiversity and Environment Law for 19 police stations;
- As per request of NEPA, WCS has provided a summary of all its relevant research papers to NEPA, so that they can be used in the 3rd round of 'Afghanistan's national State of Environment Report';
- Arranged courses in English (Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate and TOEFL), Basic Computer, Management, Literacy and First Aid trainings over the three months of winter period for MAIL and NEPA officials at national, provincial and local levels in Kabul, Bamyán and Badakhshan.
- Received ranger training material inputs from WCS programs in Lao PDR and Mongolia; WCS is working on development of a ranger handbook with the context of Afghanistan;
- Facilitated two government staff from the Agriculture and Protected Area Department, MAIL, to carry out a livestock and agriculture survey in the Wakhan Corridor Facilitated the heritage and national park manager to visit WCS activities in Wakhan District and submitted 2012 semi-annual report of WCS activities to Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock Department (MAIL) in Faizabad.



Provided an Orientation GIS and GPS training for the students in the faculty of agriculture in Kabul University.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- TCD team is using a Technical Brief, Applying the Gender Lens to Conservation Learning, to review training and management plans, as well as other learning materials (posters, guides, banners, etc.) to ensure gender equitable representation;
- Seven female WCS local staff (from total 36) participated the winter training programs for a period of three months on English (Beginner, Elementary, Intermediate and TOEFL), Basic Computer and Management by Awista Group's Foreign Language Institute (FLI) and 3 females participated in the first aid training. .
- A total of 4 female university students (from total 28 people participated) were trained in basic use of GIS and GPS.

Activity 3.1.2. 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.

During Q2FY2013:

- Continued active support to the WPA, BACA and BAPAC through technical assistance, logistical support and numerous meetings in Bamyan and Badakshan (see activity 1.1.3, 1.3.1 and 2.3.1).

During 3rd Project Year:

Coordination and efforts in relation to donor community is reported in this section due to lack such specific activity area in the work plan as:

- Collaboration with WFP, GIZ and GEF continued and developed in Wakhan and upon request of UNDP, UNODC and ADB, briefed their managers on environmental programs currently underway by the WCS-ILGNRM; and presented WCS's Environmental Education program to UNEP, NEPA, ICMOD and USAID.
- Continued to liaise closely with UNOPS to facilitate the inclusion of the car parks construction as per the amenities zone plan for Band e Amir in the contract to be let by the Embassy of Japan for the road into Band-e-Amir national park.
- Continued meetings with Mercy Corps, PEACE and others with the view to finalize the list of plant species suitable for rangeland restoration in Afghanistan; and with DfID for development of National Environmental Education Strategic Action Plan (NEESAP).
- Provided technical support to WPA's community rangers to successfully carry out a field survey of Zebak and Ishkashim districts of Badakshan. This was the first ever survey carried out by community rangers led by the Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA), (see activity 2.1.4).

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- FAIDA does offer business and credit training to small scale groups. The Gender Advisor met with FAIDA's Gender Team, to discuss the outcome of a women's training held in Bamyan in May 2012. The curriculum, according to FAIDA, was too advanced for many members of the audience. FAIDA is in the process of revising its curriculum. There are aspects of the FAIDA program that may be a good fit for male and female entrepreneurs in BAPA or the Wakhan corridor, and this will be explored more thoroughly in the next quarter.

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 Q2FY2013:

- Regularly met with the PA division in MAIL and provided technical assistance as required relevant to protected areas, relevant budgeting issues, and Band-e-Amir national park.
- Coordinated with MAIL, NEPA and develop an agenda for celebrating the Earth Day and cooperated with MAIL on Nawroz festival for public outreach and public awareness rising on wildlife conservation and natural resources using posters and wall/table calendars.
- The Dari translation of the Amenities Zone Plan for the Band-e-Amir National Park was shared, discussed and reviewed by Protected Area department in MAIL and the new head of department was briefed on WCS activities and APWA and BACA development.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Met regularly with the senior officials of MAIL and NEPA to encourage continuing efforts on outstanding issues. Some of the main efforts continued to be shepherding through the processes of approving the additions to the protected species list, the Band-e-Amir management plan, the Hunting Law and CITES regulations. The final management plan for BANP approved by NEPA and authorization letters have been sent to provincial authorities in Bamyan (see activity 1.3.2).
- Assisted BACA to meet senior authorities in MAIL and NEPA with the aim of promoting benefit sharing and contracting BACA for collecting park fees. Unwritten support and backing of the central authorities obtained but actual progress on the ground yet to be seen during up-coming tourism season.
- Met with H.E. Shafiq Qarizada Deputy Minister of Finance to seek advice on benefit sharing mechanism for Band-e-Amir NP

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- Promoting benefit sharing and contracting BACA for collecting park fees will provide benefits for both male and female members of local communities and WCS will continue supporting women to benefit from such revenues.

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

Activity 3.3.1 Support Local Communities to create Linkages to Regional and National Government concerning Natural Resource Management (Including Protected Area Management)

WCS will continue to facilitate meetings and regular communication between local, regional and national authorities concerning NRM issues. This will entail support to the WPA, BACA, BAPAC and the BPWR committee (should the BPWR be successfully established this year), with the central Government in Kabul.

During Q2FY2013 and 3rd Project year:

- Facilitated and continued BACA and WPA to meet high ranking authorities in MAIL and NEPA about benefit sharing and relevant communities concern and met them regularly and occasionally (see activity 3.2.1).

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- In addition to the results listed under other activities, WCS undertook a series of gender-related actions that are described more completely under Gender Issues, below and are toward supporting women's role in regular communication between local, regional and national authorities.

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 provide continuing expert legal assistance, facilitate approval of Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve Management Plan, and assist MAIL and NEPA in the final gazetting of Band-e-Amir National Park.

WCS will continue to assist MAIL and NEPA to finally gazette the draft Wildlife Management Law and CITES regulations. 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 continue to 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 also will draft a management plan for the Teggermannsu protected area and assist in the drafting of a National Forestry Management Plan.

DurinQ2FY2013:

- Secured final approval of the 5 year management plan for Band-e-Amir national park. The official letter to Bamyan is signed on Dec 1st, 2012 (see activity 1.4.2).
- During this Quarter the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR) Management Plan was being reviewed by the Provincial Governor. Next Quarter it will be sent back to the Wakhan District Governor who will give it his final approval. Then it will return to the Provincial Governor who will in turn forward it to MAIL in Kabul for approval. Once MAIL has approved, it will be given to NEPA for final approval (See activity 2.4.1).
- Met with the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Justice to discuss APWA legal structure and the Hunting Law and CITES regulations.

During 3rd Project Year:

- MAIL requested the support of WCS in development of the amendments to National Priority Plan1 within the Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) cluster of the National Development Strategy (NDS). WCS largely drafted the Biodiversity part of this NPP. Also MAIL requested WCS to be member of the technical oversight committee for

the preparation of the National Forestry Management Plan (NFMP) and WCS provided technical inputs. This plan was subsequently accepted by Government.

- The CITES regulations were refused by the Taqneen on the grounds that it would duplicate the Environment Law.
- The Hunting Law is currently in discussion between MAIL and MoJ.
- The Wakhan communities and the District Governor approved the Dari translation of the draft BPWR management plan. It is now with the Provincial Governor and being ushered by WCS through the government system to MAIL and NEPA for final approval (see activity 2.4.1).
- Assisted with National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) at NEPA. This NBSAP was developed by ECODIT with support from USAID. This NBSAP is a required action for all members of the CBD and directs the actions that Afghanistan must follow for the conservation of biodiversity within the country.

Activity 3.4.2 ongoing management and technical support to MAIL and NEPA

WCS will continue to advice on the processes and procedures necessary for Afghanistan to meet its obligations under the environmental conventions to which it is party.

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 related to conservation and natural resource management. On request 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. Also WCS will support the NEPA announcement of the 3rd round of Afghanistan protected species.

The WCS GIS team will continue its technical GIS support to MAIL and NEPA during the course of the project's third year. WCS GIS specialist will visit MAIL and NEPA GIS labs upon their request for GIS technical support, and will also assist with their specific GIS projects.

The GIS specialist will work with the WCS teams in Badakhshan and Bamyan, and will provide technical GIS and remote sensing support to analyze data from ranger and other field efforts, preparing field maps for their visits, working on specific projects as per their need. Furthermore, the GIS specialist will assist with

The Badakhshan and Bamyan teams by providing field survey maps prior to their surveys, process their field survey data once they have carried out their surveys and will map the processed data for their field survey reports.

During Q2FY2013:

- Held the first APWA oversight group meeting at the Serena Hotel in February 2013, where the idea APWA was discussed. The oversight group strongly supported the idea . . . Developed and/or presented the following documents to the Oversight Group; the National Protected Area System Plan (NPASP), the Afghanistan's Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA) Concept Document and ToRs for the APWA oversight committee

- As a routine, the WCS GIS section visited Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) for GIS support with their ongoing GIS projects.
- Had a series of meetings with MAIL and NEPA regarding the provision of GIS Living Landscapes training to MAIL and NEPA GIS technicians. However, based on some assessments and the outcomes of these meetings, it became clear that the Landscape species selection (LSA) element of the Living Landscapes training was too advanced for the GIS technicians in these agencies. And so it was decided to develop an intermediate level GIS training instead of the systematic Living Landscape training for MAIL and NEPA staff.
- Assisted MAIL to design the Natural Resource Management (NRM) booth in Badam Bagh for Nowroz and actively participated in this event. Also printed 500 wall calendars and 500 table calendars for 1392. The event was held for three days (21 – 23 March, 2013). Around 2000 visitors visited the booth during the celebration and assisted NEPA to arrange Earth Day celebration.
- Assisted NEPA in its branding and publication design. WCS provided samples of three designs from three different companies so that NEPA could select one of the companies to work with them on its branding.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Continued systematic data collection, spatial integration and analysis of all field activities, to better understand the intersections between geographic, biological, and socioeconomic variables in the conservation context and added more datasets to the centralized GIS database during this year. The bulk of these datasets focusing on the Big Pamir and the Teggermansu Wildlife Reserves.
- Assisted with the Badakhshan and Bamyan teams by providing field survey maps prior to their surveys, processed field survey data and produced maps for technical reports after the surveys were carried out and the GIS manager visited MAIL and NEPA to provide support to their ongoing GIS projects.
- An orientation to GIS and GPS training was conducted for 14 WCS field staff, and community rangers (MAIL). Introduction to Geographic Information System (GIS), introduction to Global Positioning System (GPS) and GPS Practical Exercise were covered by the training.
- About 3500 posters (1750 Dari and 1750 Pashtu), 500 pictures and 5 banners and six minutes educational / promotional video of Biodiversity and wildlife Afghanistan were developed, designed and printed for NEPA, MAIL, BACA, WPA, selected schools, universities, other government agencies and some donor agencies.
- WCS supported MAIL and NEPA to organize events to celebrate Earth day, Environment day and the Agricultural Fair for Nowroz.

Gender Highlights of this activity:

- 3 members of APWA Oversight Committee (total 20 people) are female. WCS expects to work closely with these members to promote gender inclusive legal structures and policies.



The first APWA oversight group meeting where held. The concept of the APWA was discussed including APWA legal structure and the Hunting Law and CITES regulations.

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 promote the analysis of animal samples (in-house, CVDRL Kabul, reference laboratory abroad), contribute to the capacity building of WCS Afghan veterinarians and staff at the CVDRL in Kabul, and foster the dissemination of results at local, national and international levels.

The object of these activities is to increase capacity of veterinary professionals to integrate wildlife disease risk in Afghanistan within a one-health concept

WCS will deliver livestock samples and serological kits to CVDRL and collaborate with EU trainers at CVDRL to improve the capacity of serology lab. In collaboration with the General Director for Livestock and Animal Health at MAIL, WCS will foster the publication of disease screening results from Wakhan in a peer-reviewed journal. WCS will also provide to Afghan authorities a document in Dari and Pashtu that summarizes results of 4 years of animal health screening in Wakhan, emphasizing on the methodology used so as the approach could be replicated to any other area in Afghanistan.

During Q2FY2013:

- Provided one day training for 21 veterinarian and para veterinarians from eight different provinces, in collaboration with the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA). Topics including principles of ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, and wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization were presented.

During 3rd Project Year:

- Submitted 309 blood samples together with the ELISA kits to the CVDRL for diagnosis of Blue Tongue, Q-fever, PPR and Brucellosis.
- Submitted a scientific paper including as co-authors staff of CVDRL and WCS and reporting results of CCPP surveillance in Wakhan to Veterinary Microbiology. The team has also initiated discussions with one of the reference laboratories for CCPP in Europe to

write a second scientific publication on CCPP involving CVDRL. Eventually a Q-fever ELISA kit has been purchased and will be donated to CVDRL after Ramadan for them to continue researchers on "reproductive failure" syndrome in livestock of Afghanistan.

- Trained 21 members of Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) from eight different provinces on principles of ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, and wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization were presented.



Conducted the training for veterinarian and para veterinarian members of Afghanistan Veterinary Association (AVA) from eight different provinces.

Gender Balance and relevant efforts

The reporting format for this Quarterly/Annual Report is slightly changed. Adding a gender highlights under each relevant activity is to identify gender related achievements, progresses or challenges specific to each activity area and under this section we present a comparably stronger gender report which generally reflects our initiatives toward better gender balanced planning and implementation and effective considerations toward recommendations from USAID gender analysis of ILGNRM.

- **Gender Advisor and WCS-Gender Strategy Staff Briefing:** An international Gender Advisor was engaged in early February through December 31, 2013. She works remotely and in Afghanistan. She was in Kabul for 3 weeks during this quarter. Under the direction of the Country Director and Country Manager, the Gender Advisor gave a presentation to all staff and held in-depth meetings with each of the six activity-level teams on WCS-Afghanistan and Gender Mainstreaming. Mainstreaming requires that the perspectives, concerns and experiences of men, women, boys and girls are considered an integral part of all activities, and that all staff are prepared to take responsibility for their part. The gender terms in the context of WCS global programming; WCS-Afghanistan's gender focus; and the concept of team-level gender focal points were presented, and outlined gender activities over the life of the current work plan.
- **TORs:** All TORs being revised and in future, will include a bullet point "Support WCS-Afghanistan's commitment to gender mainstreaming in all its program activities". This is

designed to ensure that anyone working at WCS-Afghanistan is alert to his or her part in gender work.

- **WCS Gender Team:** The WCS-Afghanistan Gender Team has been strengthened and mainstreamed. Each of its six activity-level teams, in consultation with the Gender Advisor has designated one gender focal points. The responsibilities are assigned to an existing position as the gender focal point to act as a gender resource for the team, and a source of gender information for other teams as well as for the national Gender and Livelihoods Manager and the international Gender Advisor. Gender focal points will track the extent to which activities within the team consider gender factors, and makes special efforts to include women. A simple Technical Brief WCS Gender Focal Points, was developed and circulated to all staff so everyone understands the role and the person (or persons) holding the position.
- **Gender and Livelihoods Manager:** During this quarter, a draft TOR and interview process was developed for a new national position, Gender and Livelihoods Manager. The position will be recruited and filled in Q3FY2013. The Manager is expected to guide the overall gender and livelihoods program for WCS-Afghanistan, which includes programming specifically directed at women, and ensuring that women and men, boys and girls have equitable opportunities to participate in, and benefit from program activities. The recruitment process was delayed in order to align the timing of the position with that of the international Gender Advisor.

In Q3FY2012, WCS reported that Ms. Sadaf Arif, Training and Development Officer, had accepted the designation of gender officer. Upon reflection, WCS determined that designating a gender focal point for each team was a more powerful way to ensure that each team took responsibility for gender activities, and to mainstream gender. Ms. Arif is better positioned to be the gender focal point for her team (TCD).

- **Additional Female Staff:** The TORs of two female Education and Community Outreach Officers for the Wakhan corridor (Badakshan) were completed in this quarter. The positions are expected to be filled early in Q3. Recruiting will take place in Wakhan. Candidates are expected to be Wakhan females with at least a 12th grade certificate who reside in one of the 42 Wakhi communities represented by the Wakhan-Pamir Association. The positions will implement this school year's Environment Education program as well as investigate ways to increase livelihoods opportunities for Wakhi women.

One of the female staff members hired for the Kabul office (Education Assistant - TCD team) has received clearance from her family to travel to the field for short assignments. WCS expects to send her to Bamyan in the next quarter to shadow the Environmental Education Officer, also the team continue employing a female Environment Education Assistant.

- **Procurement:** During this quarter, WCS-Afghanistan initiated an effort to identify and purchase goods and services from qualified women-owned businesses.
- **Gender Analysis of Indicators** During this quarter, WCS-Afghanistan Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Team and Gender Advisor conducted a thorough gender analysis of the thirteen indicators used to report results of ILGNRMP. Recommendations of the

Gender Analysis; basic information on data (definitions, collection, analysis, reporting); and gender-neutral/gender-inclusive language were discussed; and briefly outlined the USAID GNDR indicators (adopted Nov 12, 2012). The objective of the analysis of thirteen indicators was to determine which indicators could be disaggregated by gender, using affordable, practical methods, and producing meaningful information. WCS gender disaggregation would be reflected in narrative and, to the extent, numerically.

Of the thirteen indicators, two (#5 and #9) are currently disaggregated and gender disaggregation will be incorporated into six additional indicators (#1 (5b) - # households (male/female-headed households); #4 (5.2.3b) - # initiatives (specifically incorporating women's perspectives; #7 - # policies drafted (procedures with gender component; #8 - # policies adopted procedures with gender component; #11 - # livestock vaccinated (under M/F ownership or economic control); #13 – APWA policies drafted with gender component. Gender factors for five indicators will be discussed in the narrative but not numerically disaggregated. WCS is taking steps to capture retrospective gender disaggregation, to the extent possible.

- **Impact Assessment.** During this quarter, the Training and Capacity Development (TCD) Team worked with the Gender Advisor to draft a short, affordable impact assessment tool for participants in an avian flu training conducted by WCS-Afghanistan in 2007. A majority of participants were women, in accordance with WCS' emphasis on equal educational opportunities for women and minorities. The purpose is to assess the long term-impact of the training in two areas: the application of the skills learned, and the perceptions of natural resources in their lives today. The assessment is planned for May or June 2013 by the junior TCD staff, giving these women on-the-job experience with the planning, design, management and reporting of a simple impact assessment.
- **Gender and Conservation Learning.** The Gender Advisor developed a resource guide for the TCD team, applying the Gender Lens to Conservation Learning (Technical Brief). The guide is practical and simple. It is intended to help WCS-Afghanistan staff understand and apply gender mainstreaming principals to its learning work, such as the Environmental Education Program; its publications; and capacity building. As a result of the guide, the TCD team conducted a thorough review of the lesson plans and materials being developed for this year EEP, and made some adjustments. Applying the gender lens is an ongoing effort; the guide includes a checklist to facilitate this process.

