



IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND GOVERNANCE THROUGH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

(IGLNRM)-A Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society supported by USAID
Cooperative Agreement: 306-A-00-10-00516-00

Fourth Quarterly Annual Report

Including: Q2FY2014 (January, February and March 2014) and 4th Project Year Annual Report (10 April 2013 to 9 April 2014)



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Fourth Quarterly Annual Report

This fourth quarterly annual report serves as for the Q2FY2014 of USAID's fiscal year (January, February and March 2014) and the annual report of fourth ILGNRM project year report (April 10th 2013 to April 9th 2014). Progress and achievements toward objectives of the approved work plan are listed as bullet points separately for Q2FY2014 and the fourth 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 with clear links of each highlight to an activity area for the annual report.

An up-to-dated Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report is attached in to this report which Status of Mitigatory Measures are updated as project progressed and are reported against the relevant EMMP approved by USAID.

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List of Acronyms

ACEP partner)	Afghanistan Clean Energy Program (USAID-funded, IRG is implementing
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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1. 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 project over the period of its no-cost extension will continue to advance communities' capacity for long-term livelihood and governance independence and push the program

towards long-term sustainability while significantly strengthening central institutional capacity and linkages with the communities impacted by national level policies and management activities. The extension will not involve any change in the approved objectives or scope of the project, but it will allow WCS and its partners to ensure that the past and current USAID support to natural resource management will achieve enduring results and will constitute a significant contribution towards achieving the US Government's goal of effective Transition by the end of 2014. Three key objectives will be finalized at local and national level during this period:

- 1- The community associations already established in Band-e-Amir and the Wakhan will have their capacity strengthened to operate as independent, community-led natural resource management institutions capable of providing a host of benefits to their communities.
- 2- The second and fourth protected area in Afghanistan's history, the Big Pamir and Teggermansu Wildlife Reserves in Wakhan, will be established and subsequently co-managed by national and community counterparts.
- 3- A viable and professional authority for the management of Afghanistan's natural heritage, the Afghan Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA) will be established and the process of operationalizing it commenced with the support of MAIL and NEPA.

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.

1.1. 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.

1.2. 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.

2. Highlights of the Fourth Project Year

- Organizing the EEP committees in 6 schools of Band-e-Amir and Saighan district, Bamyan and 14 schools of Wakhan, Badakhsha.. 46 teachers (3 female and 43 male) and 551 students (338 male and 213 female) were trained and participated in the EEP

committees for basic environmental data collection. Also assisted celebration of wildlife days in these schools.

- Conducted four separate short term training workshop for local government and NGOs working on NRM in Bamyan about the Band-e-Amir National Park, community based wildlife monitoring and wildlife survey methods, use of camera trap and GPS. 64 individuals (4 female) participated the training sessions.
- Assisted the Department of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) to recruit and provide terms of reference for 4 female rangers and 8 cleaners (6 males & 2 females) from the villages in the National Park. WCS provided equipment, designed uniforms for them and trained them on their day to day duties and principles of protected areas. Training topics included the BANP management plan, and ecotourism.
- Continued providing technical and raining supports and assistance on day to day park management and wildlife survey to the rangers at BANP, Bamyan Plateau and Wakhan Corridor. Uniforms and basic field trip equipment such as sleeping bags also were provided for them.
- Provided six TMPs about Community Market Chain Workshop, Community Household Finance Workshop, Environment and Hygiene Workshop, Governance of Community Associations Workshop, Environment and Gender Index Workshop and the Women and Environment Workshop.
- Renovated of a shelter by the traditionally important spring area and upgraded the campsite and a ablution facility in Band-e-Amir national park.
- Completed the process of final management plan of Band-e-Amir National Park and copies of the plan were provided to the local communities and the relevant national park authorities
- Conducted Mammal surveys in Ishkashim, Zebak and the proposed Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve, completed a mist-net bird survey in Goz Khun and assisted the Wakhi Snow Leopard ranger team to conduct a wildlife survey in upper Big Pamir of Wakhan, Badakhshan accompanying the Kirghiz community rangers
- Two adult Snow Leopards, one female and another male were successfully captured, tranquilized and collared with a satellite tracking device in the lower Wakhan Corridor
- Successfully carried out two mass-vaccination campaigns against foot and mouth disease on 5,051 cattle and yaks by two veterinarians from DAIL under supervision of two veterinarians from WCS and 2,312 yaks were identified with metal ear-tags and their information were compiled into a new database.
- Information on the 2,312 yak identified with metal ear-tags were compiled into a new database.
- Renovated three foot bridges in a critical access route for Little Pamir on the Uchoron stream, Gurom Deh stream and Qara Jilga. These are key points for the Kyrgyz Little Pamir community and tourists who want to visit little Pamir.
- Initiated the management planning process for the Teggermansu proposed wildlife reserve. The boundary demarcation process of Teggermansu proposed protected area was conducted with participation of local communities and government representatives from local and national government
- Continuing monitoring on zoonotic and other animal disease in Wakhan and completed the glanders detection activity. Mallein intradermal tests were conducted of 54 horses and 63 donkeys and 400 sheep and goats from were tested serologically across the Wakhan Valley.
- Conducted two days training workshop in Ishkashim and a one-day training workshop in Faizabad covering the principles of ecosystem health; wildlife toxicology; and techniques

for tranquilizing wildlife; and domestic and wild animal health for 14 male veterinarians and para veterinarians from Zebak, Ishkashim and Wakhan and 21 (19 male and 2 female) veterinarians from Wakhan and Para veterinarians from AKF, Mercy Corps, OXFAM, COAR, MESFA, and veterinarians from Animal Health Directorate and NEPA

- Conducted a two-day GPS and GIS training for MAIL and NEPA technicians. 14 male and 1 female staff members from each organization participated in the training.
- WCS together with NEPA conducted a workshop on Wildlife Conservation in Afghanistan in the remaining 17 District Police stations of Kabul city, the National Customs Academy, Kabul Customs Department and National Defence University. A total of 268 Male and 16 Female police officers and government officials participated in the workshops.
- A Dari version of the “Environmental Education in the Light of Islam” handbook has been published with the support of NEPA and WCS. The book covers a wide range of topics, such as pollution, the importance of protected areas, the relationship between humans and nature, wildlife protection, environmental protection, and natural resources, etc. Also facilitated print of 2,000 copies of the special edition of an environmental magazine for NEPA.
- Facilitated eighteen representatives of the WCS-trained Ulama (religious scholars) to travel to nine different provinces (Kabul, Herat, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Kapisa, Wardak, Laghman, Nangerhar, Parwan and Takhar) to train provincial Ulama members on Environmental Education as per Islamic teachings. A total of 207 Ulama members received training.
- As per the request from the Faculty of Agriculture - University of Kabul, conducted a GIS and GPS orientation training which was followed up by a practical training on use of GPS. 34 students from the Faculty of Agriculture participated in the training.
- Provided technical and logistical assistance to MAIL and NEPA in conducting field surveys in Darqad District of Takhar Province, Afghanistan. Also assisted NEPA on celebrating Environment Day at two different venues and drafting the major snow leopard ranger country documentation required for the Moscow Conference and the Snow Leopard Global Forum in Bishkek city, Republic of Kyrgyzstan.
- Trained 150 veterinarians, para-veterinarians, veterinary assistants and last-year students on principles of ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization in collaboration with the Afghanistan Veterinarian Association (AVA), the Veterinary Institute in Kabul, the Veterinary School at the University of Kabul, and the Kabul Zoo.
- A total of 1,530 books on Wildlife Diseases in Afghanistan were delivered to government and NGO partners who are involved with wildlife-livestock disease and veterinary.

3. Component 1. Bamyan Province

Objective 1.1: Build technical capacity for natural resource management at all levels

Activity 1.1.1: Environmental Education Program

In the fourth year of programming, the WCS EEP team will continue implementing its environment education program in the four schools within the Band-e-Amir National 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:

- The field team worked in Kabul office closely with the training and education outreach team to enrich the EEP and prepare the field team for upcoming field season.

During 4th Project Year:

- Established the EEP committees and conducted EEP teacher training in 6 different schools in Band-e-Amir and Abdara-e-Begal (Saighan district) and provided them with relevant TMPs and data collection forms. 31 teachers (3 female and 28 male) and 551 students (338 male and 213 female) participated in the training. Each participant was provided with take home materials that included a booklet on *Islam and the Environment*, and the EEP Annual 2012 report. Also the EEP committees have been regularly visited during the field season for technical assistance and data collection.



- In coordination with BACA, four large USAID-donated Alaskan tents were delivered to Band-e-Amir and Bamyan plateau and distributed to the schools that were surveyed and in need of extra classrooms.
- Delivered one microscope unit to each school in Kupruk, Kuchukak-e-Naqshi, Abdara-e-Begal, Shahrstan, Shahid Mahmoodi and Zard Giyah villages of Band-e-Amir National Park and Bamyan plateau. In total 20 male teachers have been trained on how to use and maintain the microscope.

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 2014:

- Prepared content for the environment and hygiene workshop and a Training management Package (TMP) has been developed for hygiene training.
- Prepared four lectures for students and faculty at Bamyan University as part of WCS's public outreach and environmental education program. Topics include an introduction to Band-e-Amir National Park, protected areas, wildlife, and environment.

During 4th Project Year:

- Conducted two community education outreach awareness workshops in Qaraytaq and Dume Jangal villages in the Bamyan plateau, in Saighan district. Thirty male individuals from three villages attended the workshops.



- Delivered 120 posters and 300 brochures of Afghanistan's wildlife and protected species to the provincial NEPA office to be distributed to schools, hospitals and other public areas in Bamyan province. 315 posters were also distributed to partner NGOs, relevant local government offices and local communities during field visits, training workshops and meetings.

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 holding 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 Q2FY2014:

- Assisted NEPA's gender unit with preparations for the "Women and Environment" workshop which will be delivered in June 2014 in Bamyan for local authorities, NGO members and local community representatives.
- WCS's annual plan for Bamyan was shared with local government counterparts and NGO partners working in the agriculture sector during a sectoral coordination meeting in Bamyan province.
- Prepared materials for a community education and outreach awareness training to be delivered for the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army in Bamyan. The presentation includes information on the importance of establishing protected areas such as Band-e-Amir national park, and protecting wildlife, natural resources, and the environment from an Islamic perspective.
- Based on lessons learned over the last few years, the BACA's bylaw has been reviewed and amended to improve functionality and facilitate proper operation of BACA among local communities in BANP.

During 4th Project Year:

- Conducted two separate training sessions on Protected Areas and Band-e-Amir National Park in Bamyan. In total 45 (43 male & 2 female) representatives from government and NGOs working on NRM projects in Bamyan participated in the workshop.
- Conducted a training workshop on community based wildlife monitoring for Conservation of Afghan Mountains (COAM), a local NGO based in Bamyan working to get Shah Foladi declared as a protected area. Seven national staff participated the training.
- Conducted a training workshop on camera traps use, and GPS and wildlife survey methods for 12 COAM staff (4 women).
- At the request of Bamyan's Provincial NEPA office, facilitated a joint visit to Dar-e-Chasht valley to see the marsh / lake area. Bamyan NEPA is interested in determining whether this area could be turned into a future protected area.
- Participated in BAPAC's regular meetings in Band-e-Amir, and the monthly agriculture sector meetings in Bamyan which focuses on coordination and project reporting. Technical support and advice on park management issues were provided for BAPAC and the Park Office.
- Facilitated the drafting of swan boat regulations for usage in the Band-e-Amir lakes. Participants included the Bamyan's Provincial Director of Culture and Information, Director of the Afghan Tourism Organization, and representatives from the Bamyan's MAIL and NEPA Offices.

Objective 1.2: Facilitate community livelihood development by securing sustainable sources of direct benefits to local communities

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 Band- e-Amir National Park, and seek MAIL approval and support for their 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 the 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.

During Q2FY2014:

- Drafted a ranger handbook. The handbook provides overall guidance on the duties performed by rangers, covering some of the more technical aspects of their job. It will be printed and distributed to rangers in 2014.
- A simple design and cost estimation has been developed for the construction of a new campsite in Band-e-Amir national park, as well as first-aid, and information booth. These were included in the original facilities zone development plan to be implemented during the 2014 field season.

During 4th Project Year:

- Visited all 16 rangers in the Bamyan plateau to collect data from their field patrols and observations. Per-diems and new data sheets were also distributed.
- Continued close contact with the national park office. Technical support has been provided on a daily basis to help the park management.
- Continued providing English language training courses for 18 BANP rangers until end of November 2013.
- Assisted the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) to recruit and provide terms of reference for 4 female rangers and 8 cleaners (6 males & 2 females) from the villages in the National Park. WCS provided their equipment, designed and provided their uniforms, and trained them on how to carry out their duties and on the principles of managing a protected area. Training covered the BANP management plan, and ecotourism.
- 47 Uniforms and 35 sleeping bags were purchased and sent to the rangers in Band-e-Amir and Northern Plateau. These included the uniforms for the four newly-hired female rangers in Band-e-Amir.
- WCS assisted BANP rangers with the arrest of 3 falcon trappers/poachers in Zard Giyah. This was a joint operation with the Park rangers, ANP and NDS. The poachers were caught with one Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and trapping equipment including pigeons for use as bait. The arrest was processed at the park office after which the trappers were taken to the Bamyan Police station.

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 signage containing park rules and regulations 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 WCS guidance will be encouraged, wherever 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 Q2FY2014:

- Designed a brochure for local tourists visiting Band-e-Amir national park.

- Prepared presentations and relevant supporting documents (organized as a TMP) for a community household finance workshop. The workshop will be conducted for local community members from BANP and Bamyán plateau villages.
- Prepared a Training Management Package (TMP) for the community market chain workshop.

During 4th Project Year:

- Completed campsite upgrades in Band-e-Amir national park and the ablution facility near it. These projects were contracted out to one of the villages inside the national park by the Jarubkhashan Community Development Council (CDC).
- Continued providing English language training to 18 BANP rangers, 27 local women, and 65 school students (30 male and 35 female) in Band-e-Amir until the end of November 2013.
- Contributed to the Silk Road Festival in Band-e-Amir. The festival is held once a year to promote the ecotourism industry within Bamyán and Band-e-Amir.
- Completed renovation of a shelter by the sacred spring area below Band-e-Haibat Lake. This is a local pilgrimage destination for many park visitors. Renovation was implemented by the Dehe Ab Khana village CDC of Band-e-Amir national park.



- Installed 26 trash bins around Band-e-Amir national park and in nearby schools.
- Facilitated the visit of two journalists who wrote articles on local tourism within the park.
- Contributed to a community-organized awareness festival held in Band-e-Amir. The event was initiated by the local community and supported by the Bamyán Governor.
- Conducted the community market chain workshop and the Gender and Livelihoods Feasibility Assessment in Band-e-Amir villages. 50 local people (25 female, 25 male) participated in the training, and 150 people (132 women and 18 men) were interviewed.
- Received final endorsement for the Amenities Development Plan by MAIL's Deputy Minister.

Objective 1.3: Create and strengthen community governance institutions

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 Q2FY2014:

- Provided the curricula for “proposal writing,” “hygiene and environment,” and “project cycle management” workshops. The workshops will be held for BACA and BAPAC members, and local community members in Band-e-Amir national park.
- Prepared the content (as separate TMPs) for the proposal writing, project cycle management, and financial management workshops. The workshops have been planned and will be held for BACA and BAPAC members.
- Completed a TMP on the management of Community Associations.

During 4th Project Year:

- Technical support and advice on Park management were provided for BAPAC, and WCS actively participated in monthly BAPAC meetings.
- Assisted BACA with drafting and submitting two small grant proposals to UNDP for livelihoods development and ecotourism promotion.
- Held meetings with the Band-e-Amir Community Association (BACA) to discuss a dispute among two main community opposition groups. During the winter renewed our efforts in this regard by providing amendments in to the BACA’s bylaws.
- Facilitated survey and repairing of the drinking water system of Jarobkashan village of Band-e-Amir.

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 the Government. Afterward, 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 4th Project Year and Q2FY2014:

- Completed the process of final management plan of Band-e-Amir National Park and copies of the plan were provided to the local communities and the relevant national park authorities including the Provincial Governor’s office, Department of Information and Culture, DAIL, NEPA, the Bamyan municipality, Ecotourism Committee, Department of Urban Development, UNEP, AKF and the Department of Economy.
- Revenue sharing initiatives are pending due legal ambiguity at the national level over the creation of Afghanistan’s Parks and Wildlife Authority (APWA), but all other activities have been completed.

Objective 1.4: Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions

Activity 1.4.1 Study and draft resource use rules and regulations

WCS will coordinate with the CMA to issue penalties within the National Park as per Park regulations stated in article 70(2) of the Afghanistan Environment Law, and will coordinate the issuing of a *Tarzulemal* for Park entry fees 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 fourth Project Year and Q2FY2014:

- Initial meetings have been held between WCS and MAIL to plan the process for drafting a penalty regulation for protected areas, but actual progress is pending due to inadequate action by government.

4. 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

Environmental education will be given to students in the 14 schools of the Wakhan Corridor. Additionally, an education kit containing a notebook, pen and 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 in Wakhan, positive change can be achieved in this rural society with regard to the expectations and role women can play in modern society.

During Q2FY2014:

- Continued preparations for the Environmental Education Program to be implemented in Little Pamir, Badakhshan for the first time.

During 4th Project Year:

- Conducted a two-day EEP teacher training workshop in Qala-e-Panja involving a total of 15 teachers and head masters, and implemented EEP in all 14 schools of Wakhan.
- Assisted with Wildlife Day celebrations in 14 schools in Wakhan Corridor. The Wakhan-Pamir Association, Wakhan District Education Department, are collaborating to ensure the delivery of this program.



- An assessment was conducted on the EEP and inputs were provided to enrich the program.

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 starting this year. 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 4th Project Year:

- The wildlife tranquilization training, and hiring/training of both Kyrgyz men accomplished.
- Afghan veterinarians trained by WCS successfully captured, tranquilized and collared two snow leopards with a satellite tracking device in the lower Wakhan Corridor.

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.

During Q2FY2014:

- Continued snow leopard identification from the camera trap data.

During 4th Project Year:

- As part of our long-term, on-the-job training and capacity development for local rangers, WCS supervised the Wakhi ranger teams with the installation of six camera traps in Pikut, Ishmorgh, Pigish and Sarkand Valleys of the Hindu Kush Range, Wakhan Corridor. These cameras will run during the winter in order to capture wildlife video footage for further wildlife studies and promotional purposes.
- Conducted an on-the-job training for 6 Big Pamir Kyrgyz community rangers. This program was delivered by the local Wakhi Snow leopard ranger team under WCS supervision. A wildlife survey of the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve was also conducted. The rangers also learned to use survey equipment (GPS, compass, binoculars, etc) and how to record practical data on the datasheets provided.
- Provided technical assistance and on-the-job training to the Wakhan ranger teams to conduct mammal surveys in Ishkashim and Zebak districts. 12 local rangers were briefed and issued equipment for the Zebak-Ishkashim wildlife survey. Coordination meetings were also held with the Ishkashim and Zebak District Governors regarding the survey.

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 population estimates obtained from the camera trap survey will enable WCS and USAID to develop Afghanistan's first ever broad-scale snow leopard population estimate. Two biodiversity assessments will be carried out in northern Badakhshan in the Darwaz and Maymai regions.

During Q2FY2014:

- Health Interface Team is analyzing photographs of snow leopards taken during the camera-trap detection operation carried out in Wakhan between 2011 and 2013. The work involves identifying individual specimens according to their unique spot-marking patterns.
- Published two small articles on Afghanistan's Wildlife and Habitats (in Dari version) in the Environment Special Magazine, a national magazine produced by NEPA.
- Inspected stalls selling furs and pelts at the US Embassy's Friday bazaar. Sellers were generally found to be complying with Afghanistan's Environmental Law, however there were two items listed on the protected species list (Jackal/*Canis aureus*, and cape hare/*Lepus capensis*) that were available for sale. The team shared their findings with the Embassy's Environmental Officer.

During 4th Project Year:

- The vet team carried out a mist-net bird survey in Goz Khun. The aim of the survey was to attempt to document new species during the current bird migration season. The Veterinary Authority Department of Agriculture in Faizabad also participated in this survey.
- The snow leopard team continued their camera trap and snare program in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Wakhan and continued to record data transmitted from the satellite tracking collars for all tagged snow leopards.
- Two adult Snow Leopards, one female and another male were successfully captured, tranquilized and collared with a satellite tracking device in the lower Wakhan Corridor.
- Completed a wildlife survey in the proposed Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve. Direct sighting of over 500 Marco Polo sheep, around 45 ibex, one brown bear, four red foxes, and evidence of snow leopard and brown bear were also recorded. Many bird species were also observed.
- Mammal surveys in Ishkashim and Zebak districts were conducted by 12 local rangers with technical assistance from WCS.
- Published an article in the "Cat News Journal" about the first radio-telemetry study of snow leopards in Wakhan.

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 so that stoves can be 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 with 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 4th Project Year:

- 80 FES were transported to the Little Pamir and delivered to households in the Kyrgyz community. Manufacturing and delivering FESs to little Pamir Kyrgyz community will continue over 2014.

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 Q2FY2014:

- Drafted a short report on corral monitoring and assessments. This report will be a useful tool in garnering small-scale funding support for future construction under the direction of the Wakhan Pamir Association.

During 4th Project Year:

- Assisted Wakhan Pamir Association with the drafting of a proposal to the World Food Program that would fund more predator proof corrals in Little Pamir.
- Carried out monitoring and evaluation of 12 predator-proof corrals that the Wakhan-Pamir Association constructed under a 2012 World Food Program grant, and the corrals were found to have been built to a high standard.

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 Q2FY2014:

- Continued working on snow leopard identification by analyzing camera trap photos.
- Purchased 65 uniforms and boots for the Wakhan, Big Pamir and Little Pamir community rangers and delivered them to Wakhan for distribution.

During 4th Project Year:

- WCS assisted the District Government (DG) and the Wakhan-Pamir Association to select new rangers for the Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve. The DG and WPA also selected a new community ranger for Sarkand village, as the previous ranger had failed to document hunting incidents in the area and took no action against those involved. WCS also facilitated the signing of contracts between the rangers from Little Pamir and MAIL.
- Assisted the Wakhi Snow Leopard ranger team to conduct a wildlife survey in upper Big Pamir (accompanying the Kyrgyz community rangers), and a mammal survey in Ishkashim and Zebak to gain on-the-job training and skills. Big Pamir Kyrgyz community rangers training was also completed.
- Issued tents and sleeping mats to each ranger team in Lower Wakhan to assist with carrying out their fieldwork.

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 periods each year, thus strengthening protection of the area. The Little Pamir Kyrgyz rangers will begin patrolling Teggermansu protected area in 2012.

During Q2FY2014:

- Provided a brief justification document for NEPA for declaring Wakhan district as Afghanistan's second National Park.

During 4th Project Year:

- Renovation of the ranger station in the Big Pamir has been completed and the Wakhi rangers are actively using it during their patrols in the area. The Kyrgyz rangers are patrolling the proposed protected area in Teggermansu of Little Pamir.

Activity 2.2.6 Tourism Development

WCS will continue promoting tourism for Mount Noshag. 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. Females from the communities will be trained to carry out 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 business center in Ishkashim. Female entrepreneurs from Wakhan will be able to sell handicrafts at this Tourism Center. WCS's gender team will also provide recommendations for further female involvement in all possible aspects of tourism development in the Wakhan.

During Q2FY2014:

- Assisted WPA with providing a Business Plan to raise their organizational and financial capacity.

During 4th Project Year:

- Continued supporting WPA on drafting funding proposals for WFP and GEF Small Grants for development and livelihoods including development of the tourism center, construction of additional predator proof corrals and watershed management.
- Continued the tourist survey. Data from the Ishkashim Commissary and District Tourism Office was received and will be used in the tourism strategy document that will be written from the survey data. This strategy document will help guide the development of the local tourism industry.
- Assisted WPA to set up and run a local tourism taxi service in Wakhan corridor and account for their revenues.
- Assisted the Wakhan-Pamir Association (WPA) to develop a draft strategic business plan and worked with WPA's Administrative Officer on their financial balance sheet.
- Conducted an institutional capacity assessment and business planning workshop for 11 WPA board members (8 male and 3 female).
- Assisted WPA to complete the construction of a stone boundary wall around their land in Ishkashim, upon which they will build the tourism center.
- Prepared the WPA Capacity Assessment tool. This assessment tool is designed to help WPA board assess the competency of the organization in 6 areas: strategic planning, internal governance, financial management, project management, human resources, and fundraising.

- Carried out a cost analysis of fuel consumption for driving tourists into Wakhan. Extremely high taxi costs are deterring tourists from travelling up the Wakhan valley. Addressing this issue and sharing results of the survey, met and discussed with WPA chairman about the prices they should be charging for the taxi enterprise which WCS is helping them establish. It was agreed to lower WPA taxi fares.

Activity 2.2.7 Support Kyrgyz Little Pamir Community

WCS will set up a center for community livelihood support in Little Pamir, and assist WPA with implementing livelihood projects for LP community. WCS will also conduct workshops on business planning and enterprise development for LP community.

During 4th Project Year:

- Issued field equipment including sleeping bags, sleeping mats and duffel bags to six community rangers from the Kyrgyz Big Pamir.
- Renovated three foot bridges in a critical access route for Little Pamir on the Uchoron stream, Gurom Deh stream and Qara Jilga. These are key points for the Kyrgyz Little Pamir community and tourists who want to visit little Pamir.

Activity 2.2.8 Gender

WCS will conduct feasibility assessments for business opportunities for women in Wakhan and Band-e-Amir.

During 4th Project Year:

- Collected samples of ‘namad’ with wildlife designs from 30 women in Kyrgyz Little Pamir and Wakhi communities (Kret, Khandud and Qazi Deh villages) to assess the marketing potential and to create further economic opportunities for women in Wakhan.
- Assessing the possibility for local production of ranger uniforms in Badakhshan and Bamyan, and potential training opportunities for local tailors in this regard; met and interviewed two private companies in Kabul. The primary focus of this activity is to provide job opportunities and income for local women.
- Conducted community market chain workshops in the Wakhan Corridor for 75 villagers (40 men and 35 women). Market chain workshops and the feasibility assessments aim to support and raise potential opportunities for women in Wakhan villages.



- Conducted a livelihoods feasibility assessment on women's activities and the market value chain workshop in Wakhan villages for potential opportunities that can be linked to our NRM/protected area program for local women.
- Conducted a feasibility study on the trans-boundary market in Ishkashim (as part of the general livelihoods feasibility assessment for women's activities). It was assessed that this market had limited opportunity for Wakhi products produced by women.

Objective 2.3: Create and strengthen community governance institutions

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. WCS will also provide on-the-job training and advice to the Little Pamir WPA.

During Q2FY2014:

- WCS brought together the chairman of the Wakhan-Pamir Association, Border Police Commander, Ishkashim District Governor, the District Chief of Police and Intelligence representative in Ishkashim District to discuss an illegal hunting incident that allegedly took place in the Wakhan Corridor.
- Translated the Ishkashim tourism center business plan for WPA.
- Participated in the agricultural sector meeting in Faizabad for coordination and information sharing with government and NGO counterparts in Badakhshan province. A presentation about WCS's activities during 2013 was given.

During 4th Project Year:

- Continued supporting WPA by providing logistical and technical support, helped monitor their finances involving the handicraft center and taxi service in Ishkashim, held meetings and maintained working relations with partners and local communities. Support included assistance with proposal writing and facilitating follow up meetings with WFP and GEF for final grant approval.
- Hosted a Kyrgyz delegation from the Little Pamir in Kabul and briefed them on the 2014 activities for their area. The delegation also met with the President of Afghanistan and the Director General at NEPA to discuss separate matters concerning the community.
- Provided driver training for the Wakhan-Pamir Association driver.
- Held a meeting in Kabul with members of a "youth council" from Wakhan where issues regarding local communities and WCS's programs were discussed. It was agreed to continue such coordination and information sharing meeting in future.
- Facilitated a meeting between 41 Wakhi community leaders, WPA and CDC's, the Director General and Deputy Director General of NEPA, and the Wakhan District Governor. WCS Country Director and Country Manager were also present at the meeting.

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 the Teggermansu protected area. WCS will also facilitate a Teggermansu management planning workshop for the Little Pamir WPA.

During Q2FY2014:

- Translated the Summary Management Plan of the Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve in Dari

During 4th Project Year:

- Initiated the management planning process for the Teggermansu proposed Wildlife Reserve. The boundary demarcation process of the Teggermansu proposed protected area was conducted with the participation of local communities and government representatives from local and national government. As a result of this process, the first detailed wildlife survey of Teggermansu was conducted.

Objective 2.4: Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions

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 was recently 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 gazetted as a provisional national protected area. This will make it Afghanistan's second national protected area.

During 4th Project Year and Q2FY2014:

- The BPWR Management Plan was reviewed and approved by the community, District Government, Provincial Government. The plan is presently with the central government and is expected to be approved in 2014. Final approval of the management plan is pending due to an internal the required bureaucratic processes between MAIL and NEPA.

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

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

WCS Afghan veterinarians, local paravets and rangers will be trained in wildlife tranquilization and capture. 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 urial feces 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 Q2FY2014:

- One technical report on second FMD mass vaccination campaign and yak identification results completed and circulated among partners.
- One bird mist-netting training carried out in Wakhan in February 2014. Training report completed and circulated among partners.

During 4th Project Year:

- Two veterinarians, two paravets, four rangers and two assistants have been trained in snow leopard capture and immobilization procedures. Two snow leopards have been captured, three GPS collars have been successfully retrieved and refurbished. Also, two veterinarians and one biologist were trained in bid-mist netting techniques for research purposes.

- Successfully carried out two mass-vaccination campaigns against foot and mouth disease on 5,051 cattle and yak by two veterinarians from DAIL under supervision of two veterinarians from WCS
- As part of our efforts toward rangeland and grazing management in Big Pamir, 2,312 yaks were identified with metal ear-tags and their information were compiled into a new database.
- Two paravets from Wakhan and the senior veterinarian from Kabul Zoo were trained at measuring fecal parasite load in feces of livestock and wild ungulates.
- In collaboration with the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory, 309 sheep from populations sympatric with urial were sampled for further testing to disease exposure at the CVDRL.
- One technical report on snow leopard capture, two technical reports on foot and mouth disease vaccination and yak identification, one technical report on livestock counts in Big Pamir, two technical reports on bird mist-netting refresher training were completed and circulated among partners.

Activity 2.5.2 Control disease spread at wildlife/livestock interface

Risk of disease dissemination between livestock and wildlife will be evaluated. 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 Q2FY2014:

- A winter livestock census and health survey in western Big Pamir was conducted in February 2014 by a team of WCS rangers accompanied by a paravet. Results were debriefed to WCS veterinarians.

During 4th Project Year:

- Continuing monitoring on zoonotic and other animal disease in Wakhan, the vet team examined donkeys and horses in Pikut, Panja, Sarkand, and Pak villages for Glanders Disease. Also the status of zoonotic diseases in Wakhan District was discussed and updated by the veterinary team with national counterparts at the National One Health Symposium in Kabul.
- Completed the glanders detection activity with the participation of the two Wakhi paraveterinarians in Wakhan. Mallein intradermal tests were conducted of 54 horses and 63 donkeys across the Wakhan Valley. None reacted positively. Together with serological and bacteriological investigations carried out in 2012, these results support that the disease is either absent or at best rare in the Wakhan corridor.
- 400 sheep and goats from Wakhan Valley were tested serologically for exposure to brucellosis, a transmissible disease to wildlife, using Rose Bengal test.
- One of WCS's veterinarians together with an official from the Veterinary Authority, Department of Agriculture, Faizabad, travelled to Big Pamir to carry out livestock disease monitoring in the BPWR.
- A WCS vet team and a Wakhan community ranger completed a livestock census survey in the Wakhi Big Pamir. These surveys have been carried out for the past few years as a means to monitor the level of threat posed by livestock on the resident Marco Polo sheep and ibex. The team also visited the Kyrgyz Big Pamir and assessed the health of livestock and the demography of the human population. The human demography will be checked against 2007 records to assess the population trend.

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 cattle and yaks for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis.

During Q2FY2014:

- All 4th Project Year tasks completed

During 4th Project Year:

- In collaboration with AKF, the health interface team provided a two day workshop in Ishkashim on principles of ecosystem health, wildlife toxicology, wildlife tranquilization and domestic and wild animal health of Wakhan District for 14 veterinarians and para veterinarians from Zebak, Ishkashim and Wakhan districts of Badakhshan province. The wildlife disease book published by WCS in 2011 was also distributed as supportive material to those attending the training course.
- In collaboration with DAIL in Badakhshan, the health interface team conducted a one-day training workshop in Faizabad covering the principles of ecosystem health; wildlife toxicology; techniques for tranquilizing wildlife; and domestic and wild animal health. Participants included 21 (19 male and 2 female) veterinarians from Wakhan, and Para veterinarians from AKF, Mercy Corps, OXFAM, COAR, MESFA, and veterinarians from the Animal Health Directorate and NEPA. The wildlife disease books (published in 2011) were distributed to all participants

5. Component 3. National Programs

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

Activity 3.1.1 Training support for NEPA and MAIL

A training needs assessment for 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 fourth year of the project.

WCS's GIS unit will provide follow up GIS and GPS training to students from the Department of Agriculture (Kabul University), by providing a GIS/GPS introductory orientation presentation for the Faculty of Agriculture upon request. This will help students from the Agriculture Department in their fieldwork, and will enable them to begin using GPS units 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, focusing on Afghanistan's 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 Q2FY2014:

- Conducted offered a week long GIS training Workshop during a study tour in Nepal to the government officials from MAIL and NEPA by the Foundation for Ecological Research and Advocacy Institute. Theoretical aspects of GIS and its applications were covered in this training workshop.



- Attended a pilot training for the Women and Environment workshop in NEPA.
- Provided a bird identification and survey methods presentation for a winter training package. The training will be conducted for MAIL and NEPA technical staff in 2014.
- Environment and Gender Index (EGI) TMP is completed. A relevant training workshop will be delivered for NEPA and MAIL staff during 2014.

During 4th Project Year:

- The Health Interface Team organized two separate training workshops in collaboration with the Agriculture and Veterinary Institute of Kabul, Kabul University's faculty of veterinary science, and the Kabul zoo on ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization. 75 (61 male and 14 females) veterinarians and recently graduated veterinary auxiliaries participated the training.
- Finalized the CITES Training Management Packages (TMP), and a two-day training was conducted for 8 staff members from NEPA and 3 WCS staff in this regard.
- Conducted a two-day GPS and GIS training for MAIL and NEPA technicians. 14 male and 1 female staff members from each organization participated in the training.
- The National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Priority Protection (NSLEP) document for Afghanistan was finalized and sent to NEPA. NSLEP is a key document that describes

progress and activities conducted for snow leopard conservation in Afghanistan. This document will inform Afghanistan's contribution to the 2013 Global Snow Leopard Forum.

- WCS together with NEPA conducted a workshop on Wildlife Conservation in Afghanistan in the remaining 17 District Police stations of Kabul city, the National Customs Academy, Kabul Customs Department and National Defence University. A total of 268 Male and 16 Female police officers and government officials participated in the workshops.
- Developed the relevant TMPs and conducted a workshop on fuel-efficient stove and predator-proof corral construction TMPs. 14 MAIL and NEPA staff (10 male and 4 female) attended the workshop.
- Facilitated the installation of two large billboards for NEPA in the urban center of Faizabad displaying messages on Badakhshan's wildlife and environment.
- Designed the initial interface of NEPA's Web-Portal.
- Adopted the TMP for EEP teacher-training to be applied in Kabul schools.
- Updated the EEP with new presentations and lesson plans, games and practical exercises based on the Ministry of Education's curriculum. The education and public outreach team delivered a total of 30 posters to Nadrai high school.

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 Q2FY2014:

- Provided input into the planning for the next iteration of the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan being drafted by UNEP
- Conducted meetings with ICIMOD to discuss trans-boundary collaboration in the Wakhan, Badakhshan.

During 4th Project Year:

- A Dari version of the "Environmental Education in the Light of Islam" handbook has been published with the support of NEPA and WCS. The book covers a wide range of topics, such as pollution, the importance of protected areas, the relationship between humans and nature, wildlife protection, environmental protection, and natural resources, etc. This publication will help national and international NGOs and local communities to have a better understanding of environmental concepts in an Islamic religious and cultural context.
- Provided training programs to the Conservation Organization for Afghan Mountains (COAM) about wildlife survey and NRM techniques and use of relevant technical equipments

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 Q2FY2014:

- Conducted meetings with the US Embassy officials regarding wildlife trade and animal health issues and presented on conservation works in Afghanistan.

During 4th Project Year:

- Officially signed a 10-year memorandum of agreement (MOU) with Afghanistan's National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) which demonstrates NEPA's long-term interest in continuing its partnership with WCS. A copy of the MOU has been submitted to the Ministry of Economy with whom WCS is officially registered.
- Continued coordination meetings with senior officials at NEPA and MAIL.

Objective 3.3: Create and strengthen community governance institutions

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 Q2FY2014

- Facilitated eighteen representatives of the WCS-trained Ulama (religious scholars) to travel to Herat and Takhar provinces to train provincial Ulama members on Environmental Education as per Islamic teachings. A total of 45 Ulama members received training and training materials to promote environmental sustainability in communities during public gatherings but primarily at mosques.
- As part of WCS's ongoing national awareness campaign, photographs of Afghanistan's wildlife and landscapes at Galleria restaurant were exhibited. A brief presentation on WCS's work was also made to an audience of 20 Afghans and internationals (8 male and 12 female) from the Rotary Club of Kabul. The exhibit will go on for the next 2 weeks.

During 4th Project Year:

- Supported NEPA and the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Affairs (MoPRA) to conduct a two-day training workshop on environmental issues and Islam for 38 Islamic Scholars (Ulama) and 15 NEPA staff who would serve as master trainers in order to train other Ulama in their district and equip them with tools to better promote the importance of implementing suitable NRM options.
- Met with various government departments, UN agencies and NGOs in Faizabad including the Provincial Governor, Mayor, NEPA, DAIL, Departments of Economy, Health, Education, Tourism, UNAMA, UNODC, WFP, AKDN; and in Mazar-e-Sharif with WFP and UNICEF to encourage and offer to facilitate greater engagement and coordination by government departments and Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA) in Wakhan.
- As per the request from the Faculty of Agriculture - University of Kabul, conducted a two-hour GIS and GPS orientation training which was followed up by a practical training on use of GPS. 34 students from the Faculty of Agriculture participated in the training.
- Coordinated a photo display on Afghanistan's wildlife, landscapes and protected areas,

for an awareness campaign in Le Bistro restaurant.

- Facilitated a visit to Wakhan for the Director General and Deputy Director General of NEPA to meet with the local communities, WPA representatives, local government and other stakeholders about the creation of a protected area across the entire Wakhan District.
- For the national awareness campaign on wildlife and wild landscapes in Afghanistan, photos of wildlife, wild places and protected areas of Afghanistan were displayed at the USAID and US Embassy Cafeterias, at Le Bistro Café, and Rotary Club of Kabul.

Objective 3.4: Strengthen laws, policies, and institutions

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 Tazulemal for the entry fees and have Band-e-Amir declared as a "Prohibited Area" under the Mining Act. WCS will also draft a management plan for the Teggermannsu protected area and assist in the drafting of a National Forestry Management Plan.

During 4th Project Year:

- As per MAIL's request, attended two meetings about drafting of a new Hunting Law. Progress in finalization of this draft hunting law and protected areas penalty regulation was discussed in follow on meetings with NEPA.
- CoP and WCS legal adviser met with MAIL legal adviser and members of PAD and agreed a rationale and process for converting the schedule of penalties for Band-e Amir National Park to a regulation

Activity 3.4.2 Ongoing management and technical support to MAIL and NEPA

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

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 Q2FY2014:

- Two water samples (Haybat Lake and Shafa spring) from Band-e-Amir national park submitted to the Ministry of Public Health for bacteriology and mineralogy tests as requested by MAIL for further assessment of water supply possibilities for BANP HQ.
- Provided NEPA with a list of birds and other information in response to the fourth call for proposed protected species list. Also assisted in the process of preparing a presentation on bird identification and survey methods for a winter training package.
- Reviewed and edited the Darqad draft Report provided by NEPA staff.
- As per NEPA's request, WCS drafted a Justification Proposal for Wakhan to be declared a protected area, and for the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Facilitated the development and print of 2,000 copies of the special edition of an environmental magazine for NEPA. WCS provided NEPA with 1,700 copies of the magazine for distribution.
- Support to NEPA in completion of survey on species conservation conducted by the Secretariat on the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS). CMS had conducted an online survey to know the conservation status of mammalian species across ten Asian countries including Afghanistan.
- With technical feedback provided by WCS, NEPA officially submitted its 4th Protected Species List (PSL). Afghanistan's Environmental Law provides the highest level of protection for species listed in the PSL.

During 4th Project Year:

- Assisted the Deputy Director General of NEPA to participate in the First Asia Parks Congress. Delivered presentations to the congress on ILGNRM's environmental education program, and collaborative management of protected areas in Afghanistan.
- Assisted NEPA's gender unit with preparations for the "Women and Environment Workshop" and with developing their presentations. The workshop will be delivered in Bamyan by NEPA's gender unit with technical and logistical support from WCS.
- Facilitated the travel of a high-ranking delegation from NEPA to the Wakhan corridor and met with the community elders and local government in Wakhan and Ishkashim.
- Provided technical and logistical assistance to MAIL and NEPA in conducting field surveys in Darqad District of Takhar Province, Afghanistan. During the 25-day mission the survey team (staff from WCS, MAIL and NEPA) interviewed 74 people and visited

the forest areas where they spotted six mammal species including Bactrian deer, around 60 bird species and three types of fish.

- Conducted a technical workshop about the methods and results of an Impact Assessment for the Avian Flu Training. The original Avian Flu Training was provided by WCS in 2007. 14 officials (10 male and 4 female) from NEPA, MAIL and Kabul zoo participated in the training.
- WCS provided NEPA with the available information on Asiatic black bear population status, trends and major threats in Afghanistan. NEPA had been asked to provide this information for updating the IUCN red List for the Asiatic black bear.
- Provided technical information to NEPA concerning snow leopard distribution, conservation, and its legal status in Afghanistan. The Snow Leopard Survival Strategy Editorial team asked NEPA to provide them with this information in order to complete an SLSS document for the Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Priorities Protection conference.
- Continued meeting MAIL and NEPA and facilitated the second meeting of the APWA oversight committee following the process towards establishment of APWA. It was agreed that NEPA should assume the role of secretariat to the oversight group and that whatever modality was adopted the new institution would operate under the umbrella of NEPA.
- At the Government of Afghanistan's request, WCS agreed to support them with the development of a National Bird Policy document. MAIL, NEPA and IDLG have been appointed to prepare the draft policy, which will be discussed at the Council of Ministers meeting.
- Assisted NEPA with drafting the major snow leopard ranger country documentation required for the Moscow Conference and the Snow Leopard Global Forum in Bishkek city, Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The documentation includes 1) National Snow Leopard Ecosystem Priority Protection (NSLEP); 2) A list of the conservation actions addressing snow leopard conservation programs from 2014 to 2020; 3) Afghanistan's feedback on Moscow conference declaration; and 4) Two PowerPoint presentations that NEPA would deliver on the first and second day of the Moscow Conference.
- Supported NEPA with organizing and celebrating Environment Day at two different venues. One event took place at the Civil Service Institute while the other at Amani High School. Large banners were designed and printed as well as 500 invitation cards sent out. Over 900 people including President Hamid Karzai, The Director General of NEPA, the Speaker of Lower House of Parliament, the Mayor of Kabul, The Head of Ulama, representatives from international organizations and civil society community, and national/international mass media participated in these events. Over 1000 posters were distributed.
- Designed and printed two new posters for NRM public outreach. 400 of each poster were sent to NEPA, and 200 to Wakhan. 20 of each were provided to the Kabul Zoo.

Objective 3.5: Build capacity to manage the health interface between livestock, wildlife, and people.

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 the 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 Pashto that summarizes results of 4 years of animal health screening in Wakhan, emphasizing on the methodology used so that the approach could be replicated to other areas in Afghanistan.

During Q2FY2014:

- WCS Health Interface Team attended a stakeholder's consultation workshop for developing a national animal disease testing strategy on March 16th, 2014.
- The two resident WCS veterinarians participated in a training course on "Sanitary Mandate, Basic Epidemiology and passive surveillance and Sampling of Notifiable Disease" which was conducted from 15 March to 24 March 2014 in Darulaman, Kabul. This course was organized by the Animal Health Directorate and implemented by NHLP (National Horticulture Livestock Project), and funded by the World Bank.
- One WCS veterinarian attended the National Zoonotic Committee meeting at CVDRL on 31st March 2014.
- CVDRL and WCS members co-authored an article on contagious caprine pleuropneumonia epidemiological results published in BMC Veterinary Research 2014.
- Discussions were started with CVDRL over next year's collaboration on sample analysis.

During 4th Project Year:

- Blood samples, ELISA kits for detection of Q fever, blue tongue, PPR and brucellosis, and further technical support were provided to CVDRL. Remaining sera samples shared with the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory of Kabul were retrieved to be stored at WCS's headquarters.
- Trained 150 veterinarians, para-veterinarians, veterinary assistants and last-year students on principles of ecosystem health, wildlife diseases, wildlife toxicology and wildlife tranquilization in collaboration with the Afghanistan Veterinarian Association (AVA), the Veterinary Institute in Kabul, the Veterinary School at the University of Kabul, and the Kabul Zoo.
- A total of 1,530 books on Wildlife Diseases in Afghanistan were delivered to government and NGO partners who are involved with wildlife-livestock disease and veterinary.

6. Gender Balance and relevant efforts

During the fourth project year WCS has been mainstreaming gender into its governance and livelihoods development efforts so as to achieve a better balance between men, women, boys and girls in our activities as a way to obtain their support for conservation and natural resource management initiatives. For this purpose WCS:

- Continued participating and assisting with the AOG-USAID-MAIL Implementing Partners gender working group to share experiences and provide technical assistance to promote integration of gender equality into the overall MAIL strategy and all key programs and projects for better gender balance and effective involvement of women throughout Afghanistan.
- Set up specific gender targets for women's involvement in its new annual work plan for 2014 and included a general requirement in all of its TMPs for inclusion of women in WCS training programs.

Specifically in relation to each activity area during its fourth project year, WCS achieved:

Activity 1.1.1

- Three female teachers and 377 female students are actively participated in the Environmental Education Programs under supervision of our local female EEP officer in Band-e-Amir and Bamyán plateau area, strengthening involvement, role and awareness of female members of local communities in natural resource management practices.

Activity 1.1.2

- The recruitment of a third female employee for the Bamyán team brings the female representation on the Bamyán team to 43%.

Activity 1.1.3

- Six women received technical training on NRM, conservation and protected areas from WCS (15% of all participants).

Activity 1.2.1

- For the first time in Afghanistan, in coordination with MAIL, the 4 female rangers and 2 female cleaners from the villages of the National Park are successfully performing duties. WCS also provided them with equipment, uniforms and training.
- A ranger handbook was drafted and will be distributed to the rangers to be used by both female and male ranger in Band-e-Amir National Park and other protected areas in Afghanistan to improve their duty performance. Currently four women ranger are employed for the conservation of Band-e-Amir National Park.

Activity 1.2.2

- Developed a Household Finance TMP for delivery in 2014. The primary audience is women.
- Continued the English language training for 27 local women and 35 school student girls from BANP villages.
- 25 women (50% of participants) attended "community market value chain training workshop", in Band-e-Amir.
- WCS reached 132 women (88%) in Bamyán and 57 women (72%) in Wakhan during implementation of the Gender and Livelihoods Feasibility Assessment.

Activity 2.1.1

- A total of 1892 female students and 422 adult females (39%) participated in Wildlife Day school celebrations in 14 Schools in Wakhan Corridor.

Activity 2.2.6

- 3 female WPA board members participated in the WPA Capacity Assessment workshop conducted by WCS.

Activity 2.2.8

- Thirty five women participated in the community market chain workshops from the villages of Wakhan Corridor.

Activity 2.3.1

- Facilitated participation of 30 women in Namad quality control, marketing and pricing discussions, as part of WCS efforts to promote women's livelihoods in Wakhan and help WPA to improve its handicraft center.

Activity 2.5.1

- Provided training for 2 female veterinarians (10% of participants) on principles of ecosystem health training.

Activity 3.1.1

- A total of 14 female police officers and technical Customs staff (6% of participants) received training on Wildlife Conservation and awareness in Police districts of Kabul, Kabul Customs Department and Afghanistan Customs Academy.
- At two technical workshops on wildlife health and ecosystem health, 14 females (10% of participants) learned about toxicology, tranquilizing wildlife, and livestock health interfacing with wildlife.
- At the request of NEPA, WCS provided technical support for preparations of the "Women and the Environment" workshop. WCS will facilitate implementation of this workshop in Bamyan province in 2014.
- WCS prepared a workshop "Environment-Gender Index" which will be delivered to MAIL and NEPA in 2014.
- A gender-balanced Participant Guide was developed for the planned International Study Tour (late 2014), to help tour participants gather information and record observations about community-based tourism livelihoods and wildlife conservation as practiced by men and women in the host country of Nepal. (The guide can be adapted to other international study tour destinations). A list of potential visit sites in Nepal were identified that showcase women's participation in ecotourism.

Activity 3.3.1

- The female director of the NEPA Gender Unit attended a two-day master training. The training program was implemented by participation of NEPA and Ministry of Pilgrimage and Religious Affairs (MoPRA), to better promote the importance of suitable management of natural resources and environment amongst public.

Activity 3.4.2

- Four women (29% of participants) attended a technical workshop to learn about the methods and results of an Impact Assessment conducted on an Avian Flu Training provided by WCS in 2007.