

Associate Cooperative Agreement Award

No. AID-0AA-LA-12-00003

under

**Leader with Associates
Cooperative Agreement**

EM-A-OO-09-00006-00

**Conservation and Adaptation in
Asia's High Mountain
Landscapes and Communities:
Semi-annual Report
October 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015**

Date Submitted: April 14, 2015

Submitted by:
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List of Acronyms Used

AHM	Asia High Mountains Project
ASER	Altai-Sayan Ecoregion
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CAUC	Conservation Area Users' Committee
CBT	Community Based Tourism
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COFSUN	Community Forestry Supporters Network
CVCA	Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
DNPWC	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
ECOSS	Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
GB	Gilgit-Baltistan
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSLEP	Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program
Ha	Hectare
HCDO	Hoper Conservation and Development Organization
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICSD	Central Asian Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Survey
KCA	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area
KCAMC	Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council
KCC	Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee
KIU	Karakorum International University
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province
KW	Kilowatt
LDF	Local Development Fund
MG	Mothers' Group
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NRMG	Natural Resource Management Group
NTNC	National Trust for Nature Conservation
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate
PHE	Public Health and Engineering Department
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
SIRD	State Institute of Rural Development
SLCC	Snow Leopard Conservation Committee
SLN	Snow Leopard Network
SLSS	Snow Leopard Survival Strategy
SLT	Snow Leopard Trust
SPA	Strictly Protected Area

UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
USD	United States Dollar
UWICE	Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and the Environment
VCC	Village Conservation Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
VWG	Village Wildlife Guard
WCC	Women's Conservation Committee
WCP	Wangchuck Centennial Park
WMD	Watershed Management Division
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
ZWH	Zero Waste Himalaya

Conservation and Adaptation in Asia's High Mountain Landscapes and Communities

Part 1. Project Highlights October 1, 2014-March 31, 2015

During this reporting period good progress continued to be made toward achieving WWF Asia High Mountains (AHM) Project objectives. Some AHM Project highlights for this reporting period included:

- In Bhutan two International Snow Leopard Day Celebrations were held in gateway communities to snow leopard habitat and plans were developed for conducting springshed restorations at three new sites. Also, the AHM Project established partnerships with the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and the Environment (UWICE) and the Watershed Management Division (WMD) for conducting climate adaptation and integrated river basin management (IRBM) activities, respectively.
- In Sikkim, India, WWF hired an associate researcher who is currently preparing a climate vulnerability assessment for the Upper Teesta River basin in the AHM Project region of Sikkim. A second highlight was the decision of the residents of Lachen Village to impose a monthly trash collection fee that will support and promote AHM Project-sponsored efforts to segregate community trash for re-use and recycling.
- In Kyrgyzstan two International Snow Leopard Day celebrations were held in AHM Project communities and a climate vulnerability assessment for the AHM Project region of Kyrgyzstan was completed. In Engilchek Village, a Local Development Fund (LDF) for providing small loans for the development of sustainable, environmentally-friendly alternative income-generating activities was launched.
- In Mongolia a pasture management data base for the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion was compiled and the 105,200 ha Bayan Nuruu Reserve Pasture was formally established in Khovd Aimag, both with AHM Project support. Other highlights included completion of a knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) survey on climate change in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion and further snow leopard camera trap surveys with citizen scientist participation.
- In Nepal, WWF continued to receive invaluable tracking data from a male snow leopard fitted with a satellite GPS collar in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) in November 2013, which to date has crossed from Nepal into Sikkim, India and back several times during this period. WWF also helped establish a sustainable essential oil community enterprise in Yamphudin Village, KCA, proceeds from which will be used for conducting a variety of community development and conservation projects in this community.
- In Pakistan, WWF developed a conservation and development plan for the Laspur Valley, Chitral through a participatory process and continued work on preparation of a climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for the AHM Project areas of Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan. WWF also began the process of organizing watershed

management surveys that will serve as the basis for site selection for integrated river basin management (IRBM) demonstration activities.

- Regional highlights during this reporting period included holding of a 5-day, mid-project AHM learning and sharing meeting from January 26-30, 2015 in Kathmandu that featured three days of climate change and adaptation training sessions. A second highlight was establishment of a partnership with the Columbia University Center for Climate Systems Research, which is providing AHM Project countries with project site-specific climate data analyses for use in developing future climate scenarios for each site, an important step in developing climate adaptation strategies. This reporting period also saw the formal release of the two AHM-funded climate change reports, titled *Climate Vulnerability in Asia's High Mountains* and *Guardians of the Headwaters: Snow Leopards, Water Provision, and Climate Vulnerability* as well as the release of the Snow Leopard Network's revised *Snow Leopard Survival Strategy* (SLSS) which was prepared with AHM Project support. Another regional highlight was formal establishment of the permanent Global Snow Leopard Forum Secretariat in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Part 2. Project Activity Progress

Objective 1: Promote climate-smart management of high mountain landscapes and snow leopard habitat for sustainable development in specific sites

Sub-objective 1.1: Strengthen local natural resource institution's governance and capacity.

Activity 1.1.1 Train members of local natural resource management groups on principles of good governance, gender and social inclusion, and support adoption of these principles in the groups' by-laws (Country: N)

Country: Nepal (CARE)

In Nepal, CARE and the Community Based Forestry Supporters' Network (COFSUN)-Taplejung office conducted monitoring of CARE-led field activities in the Papung, Olangchung Gola, Yamphudin, Tapethok, Lelep, and Kalikhola VDCs of the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) to ensure the quality. The joint monitoring team reported that most of the activities were effective at raising the awareness of Community Forest Users' Group (CFUG), Mothers' Group (MG), and Natural Resource Management Group (NRMG) members with respect to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management practices, fund raising, and mobilization, thus benefiting local communities. Monitoring included both discussions with community groups and checks of activity records.

Activity 1.1.3: Provide technical support for local associations and NGOs to conduct awareness raising activities regarding sustainable natural resource management and use. (Countries: B, K, M, N)

Country: Bhutan (1.1.3a)

In Bhutan, WWF provided support to Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP) to celebrate International Snow Leopard Day on October 23, 2014. This event was attended by approximately 500 students from four primary schools located within WCP (Zhabjethang Community Primary School, Kharsa Community Primary School, Dhur Community Primary School, and Zangtherpo Primary School) and was held at Zangtherpo Primary School in Chokhortoe, Bumthang. The day-long program began with a traditional Buddhist *marchang* ceremony giving thanks for blessings to all sentient beings followed by a welcome speech by WCP's chief forestry officer on the importance of International Snow Leopard Day and current threats to snow leopards, including both direct threats and indirect threats such as climate change. The day's events included a lecture on snow leopard behavior and ecology; a lecture on current WWF-funded snow leopard survey work in WCP; a camera trap demonstration; snow-leopard themed quiz, debate, and poster contests that pitted school teams against each other, and a school volley ball contest. In addition, all participating students received snow leopard postcards and notebooks containing information on snow leopards. Other guests in attendance included the director of the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute of Conservation and Environment (UWICE), local leaders, school principals, teachers, and park staff.



Activity 1.1.3-Bhutan. International Snow Leopard Day banner, WCP, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Bhutan. International Snow Leopard Day school debate contest, WCP, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Bhutan. International Snow Leopard Day school poster contest, WCP, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Bhutan. International Snow Leopard Day postcard and notebook distribution to students, WCP, October 23, 2014.



Did You Know?

- The snow leopard is an endangered species and only 4000 may survive.
- Snow leopards live above tree line in the Himalaya and high mountains of Central Asia.
- Snow leopards are rarely seen, hiding among rocks during the day and generally only hunting at sunrise and sunset.
- The primary wild prey of snow leopards in Bhutan are blue sheep and marmots, but snow leopards also eat domestic yaks, sheep and goats.



Snow Leopard habitat



Blue sheep (Pseudois nayaur)



Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia)

In Bhutan, snow leopards are found in Wangchuck Centennial Park, Jigme Dorji National Park, Torsa Strict Nature Reserve, and Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary.

Activity 1.1.3-Bhutan. International Snow Leopard Day postcard distributed to students, WCP.

Country: Bhutan (1.1.3b)

In Bhutan, a second International Snow Leopard Day Celebration was held on November 4, 2014 in Haa, the gateway community to the Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (formerly the Toorsa Strict Nature Reserve), which was organized by reserve staff. The honored guest at this event was the speaker of Bhutan's National Assembly, Lyonpo Jigme Zangpo. This event was attended by over 600 students, teachers, government, and community members. Activities at the Haa event included speeches on the need to protect snow leopards and their habitat, a snow leopard quiz contest, ecological theatre, a children's drawing contest, an educational environmental protection exhibit, and traditional Bhutanese dancing. This event was funded with AHM Project co-financing from WWF International and the WWF Bhutan EcoLife Project, and it received extensive coverage by the Bhutanese media.



Activity 1.1.3b-Bhutan. School children and adults watching a humorous skit on the need to protect snow leopards at the International Snow Leopard Day celebration in Haa, November 4, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3b-Bhutan. A winning entry for the International Snow Leopard Day children's drawing contest on the theme of "Conserving Snow Leopards to Secure Healthy Mountain Ecosystems," Haa, November 4, 2014.

Country: Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, WWF and the Sarychat Ertash State Reserve provided support for two International Snow Leopard Day celebrations, the first on October 20, 2014 in Engilchek Village and the second on October 23, 2014 in Akshyrak Village, both in the buffer zone of the Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve. Features of these celebrations were ecological theatre skits and concert programs on the need for snow leopard conservation. In Akshyrak, a children's drawings contest on the theme of "Save the lord of the mountains, the Snow Leopard" and a "best snow leopard costume and make-up" contest were also held. Guests in attendance included local residents and the director of the NGO "Foundation for Sustainable Development of the Altai" based in the Altai Republic, Russian Federation. In total, 42 people (15 men, 14 women, 6 boys and 7 girls) participated in the Engilchek event while 97 people (28 Men, 17 Women, 27 boys, and 25 girls) participated in the Akshyrak event.



Activity 1.1.3-Kyrgyzstan. Telling of "The Snow Leopard Legend" at the International Snow Leopard Day celebration in Engilchek Village, Issyk Kul Province, October 20, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Kyrgyzstan. International Snow Leopard Day participants, Akshyrak Village, Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Kyrgyzstan. Ecological theater, International Snow Leopard Day, Akshyrak Village, Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Kyrgyzstan. Conservation pledge of children and parents, International Snow Leopard Day, Akshyrak Village, Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Kyrgyzstan. Best snow leopard costume and make up contest, International Snow Leopard Day, Akshyrak Village, Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Kyrgyzstan. Children's snow leopard drawing contest, International Snow Leopard Day, Akshyrak Village, Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve, October 23, 2014.

Country: Mongolia

In Mongolia, WWF provided support for International Snow Leopard Day events in the city of Khovd in the Altai Region of Western Mongolia on October 23, 2014. Activities marking this event included a student drawing contest with entries by 60 students, an endangered species protection pledge petition signing in Khovd City that gathered 550 signatures, and local TV broadcast of a documentary on snow leopard conservation. A special article written for this event titled "The snow leopard also has the right to live" was published in daily newspapers in Khovd and Ulaanbaatar.



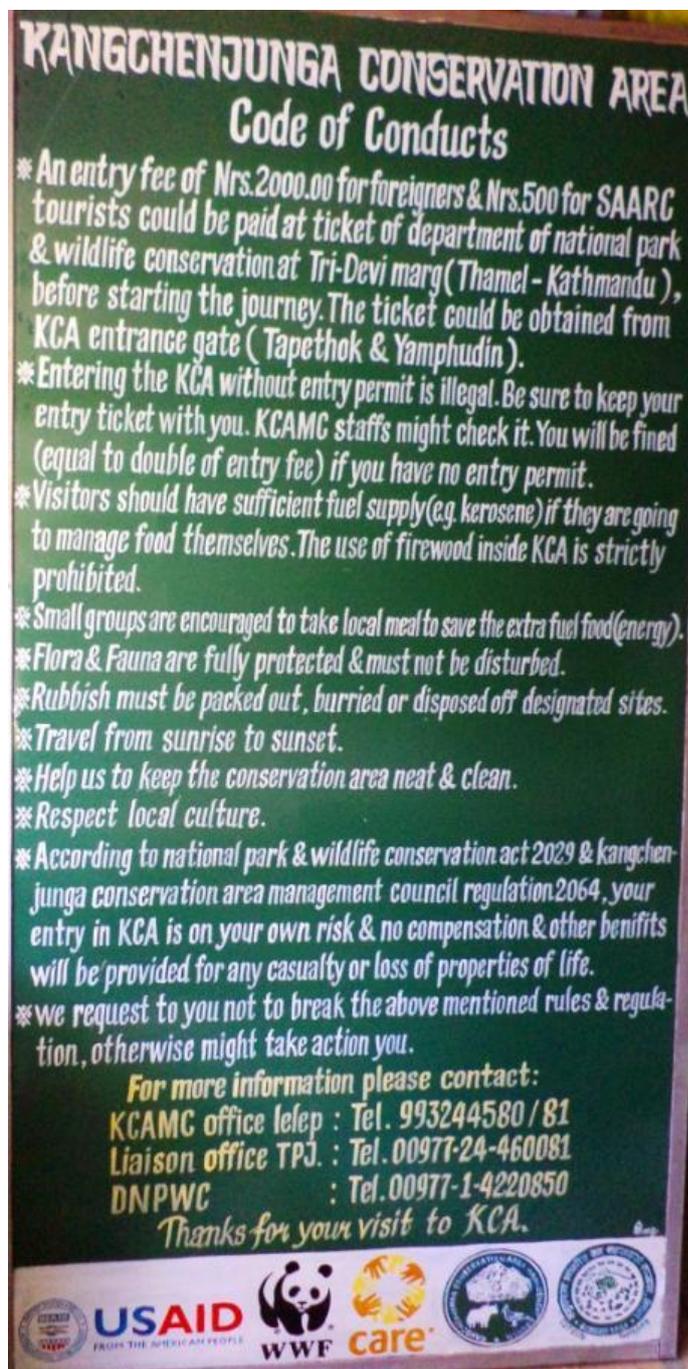
Activity 1.1.3-Mongolia. Khovd University students presenting their entries for the International Snow Leopard Day drawing contest, Khovd City, Khovd Aimag, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.1.3-Mongolia. WWF staff member collecting signatures on a petition pledging support for endangered species protection to mark International Snow Leopard Day, Khovd City, Khovd Aimag, October 23, 2014.

Country: Nepal (CARE)

In Nepal, CARE put up a total of 11 sign boards in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) with information on KCA regulations, biodiversity conservation, awareness messages on environmental issues such as climate change and natural resource management, and KCA project information. These were placed at various locations in the KCA, including the KCAMC headquarters, KCAMC sector offices, and Papung and Kalikhola VDC town centers.



Activity 1.1.3-Nepal. Information sign board erected with AHM Project funding in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area of Nepal.



Activity 1.1.3-Nepal. Information sign board erected with AHM Project funding in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area of Nepal.

Activity 1.1.4: Build governance capacity of local community herder groups to develop sustainable pasture and watershed management plans as well as strategies to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, such as the relocation of winter livestock sheds to low-risk areas. (Country: M)

Country: Mongolia

In Mongolia, WWF provided financial and technical support for compiling pasture databases for five soums (counties) in Khovd Aimag (province) (namely Darvi, Zereg, Mankhan, Must and Tsetseg Soums), which lie within the AHM Project’s Jargalant Khairkhan, Bumbat Khairkhan, and Baatar Khairkhan Mountain project sites. Pasture data collected in each soum was compiled into GIS database and will be used as a baseline for developing soum-level pasture management plans. Data compiled in this database included pasture carrying capacity, land use patterns, livestock population data, human population data, location of wells, surface water resources, hydro-meteorological data, pasture reserve data, and seasonal migration patterns of local herders.



Activity 1.1.4-Mongolia. Meeting between the Zereg Soum governor and Khovd Aimag pasture management specialists on compiling soum-level pasture databases, Zereg Soum, Khovd Aimag, November 10, 2014.

Activity 1.1.9: Conduct leadership skills training in traditionally excluded communities to provide skills necessary for positions in user groups, conservation committees, and buffer zone councils. (Country: N)

Country: Nepal (CARE)

In Nepal, CARE organized two trainings in October 2014 on leadership skills and social inclusion to empower traditionally excluded groups from two communities in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area's Tapethok VDC. Other topics discussed at these trainings included good governance in community sustainable natural resource management, local conservation issues, and equitable sharing of benefits from community natural resource management projects. Through these trainings, 45 people (29 Women) were empowered to hold positions within various local community groups, such as the KCAMC, CFUGs, CAUCs, MGs, etc. It is felt that these trainings will greatly increase participation in community conservation and natural resource management activities.



Activity 1.1.9-Nepal. Participants of a CARE-led leadership skills training for traditionally excluded communities, Tapethok VDC, October 5-7, 2014.

Activity 1.1.10: Work with tribe/community-based traditional resource management groups to build capacity for better resource management, including curtailing illegal hunting and extraction of wildlife resources, regulating free grazing near core snow leopard habitat, and watershed conservation. (Country: P)

Country: Pakistan (1.1.10a)

In Pakistan, WWF signed an MoU with the Hoper Conservation and Development Organization (HCDO) in Gilgit-Baltistan to provide support for establishment of a formal HCDO office. This office will facilitate stakeholder cooperation for HCDO activities and will serve as a work place, meeting place, and central records depository for HCDO members.

According to the signed MoU, WWF will provide initial rent, stationary supplies, computers and furniture to the HCDO. This MoU was signed on December 20, 2014.

Country: Pakistan (1.1.10b)

In Pakistan, WWF developed a conservation and development plan for the Laspur Valley, Chitral, KP through a participatory process. Focus group discussions were held in Laspur on October 4, 2014 with 20 participants (6 Women) attending the discussion sessions, including both village elders and youth. This process assessed the current situation in Laspur and identified issues and actions that can be taken to ensure sustainable utilization of available natural resources. The Findings of the discussion group served as a basis for writing the plan, which was shared with community members and other stakeholder for comments. Comments

received were incorporated into the final plan which was presented to residents of Laspur for approval by local village conservation Committees.



Activity 1.1.10b-Pakistan. Women's breakout group during the focus group discussion facilitated by WWF for development of a Laspur Valley conservation and development plan. Laspur Valley, KP, October 4, 2014.

Country: Pakistan (1.1.10c)

In Pakistan, WWF participated in the Hoper Conservation and Development Organization's (HCDO) Quarterly Progress Review Meeting held in Hoper Valley, GB on March 6, 2014, where AHM Project related matters were discussed at length. One major outcome of this meeting was that it was decided that the community will plant 2000-2500 fruit trees on their lands in spring. A total of 30 persons (All Men: 15 HCDO members and 15 community elders) participated in the meeting.

Sub-objective 1.2: Increase community resiliency to climate change impacts.

Activity 1.2.1: Work with local communities to implement adaptation actions identified in climate change vulnerability assessments that reduce vulnerabilities of communities, high mountain ecosystems, and snow leopards. (Countries: B, K, M)

Country: Bhutan (WCP)

In Bhutan, Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP) staff started the process of planning three springshed restorations at three different sites in WCP. This has included preliminary site selection and scheduling of participatory planning meetings with geog officials and community water users' groups at the three sites. At these meetings the springshed restoration process and labor and materials contracting will be discussed, and feedback solicited from local residents. In addition, work schedules will be developed and agreements signed with communities outlining their responsibilities for participation in this effort.

Country: Bhutan (UWICE)

In Bhutan, the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) is currently doing background research on water security issues in Kharsa and Tangbi Villages, Chokhor Geog, WCP. These two villages will serve as pilot sites for UWICE's climate smart village demonstration work. Kharsa and Tangbi Villages have 82 households and are typical Bhutanese farming villages that practice a mix of crop farming and livestock rearing. Both villages suffer chronic drinking and agricultural water shortages. UWICE is now reviewing agricultural reports and development plans for these villages and the current efforts of local authorities to address issues such as water shortages, crop failures, and climate related disasters. With findings from this ongoing review, UWICE will develop a demonstration climate adaptation strategy for these two villages that addresses the long term water and development needs of these villages, with this strategy being implemented in subsequent AHM reporting periods.

Country: Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, WWF completed a climate change vulnerability assessment for Kyrgyzstan's Central Tian Shan region, which covers all of WWF's main AHM Kyrgyzstan project sites. Both English and Russian versions of the report were produced, which covers climate change impacts on glaciers, biodiversity, and local residents as well as proposing adaptation actions to address these impacts. This report will serve as the basis for development and eventual implementation of climate adaptation strategies for the Central Tian Shan Region.

Country: Mongolia

In Mongolia, in order to gauge local residents' awareness of climate change impacts on their lives and livelihoods, WWF conducted a climate change knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) survey in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion. This survey was carried out between December 2014 and February 2015 in snow leopard range areas of the five western provinces - Khovd, Gobi-Altai, Zavkhan, Bayan-Ulgii, and Uvs Aimags,. In total, 1564 people (608 women) participated in the survey, of whom 1113 were herders. A team of 10 survey takers conducted the survey under harsh winter conditions and survey results are currently being compiled into a report.



Activity 1.2.1-Mongolia. Interviewing livestock herders for the WWF climate change knowledge, attitude, and practice survey in Taishir Soum, Gobi-Altai Aimag, February 2, 2014.



Activity 1.2.1-Mongolia. Interviewing a livestock herder for the WWF climate change knowledge, attitude, and practice survey in Bukhmurun Soum, Uvs Aimag, December 16, 2014.

Activity 1.2.2: Work with local institutions to promote best land management practices, and enhance crop productivity and climate resilience through rainwater harvesting, small-scale storage and drought and pest-tolerant crops. (Countries: B, P)

Country: Bhutan (WCP/UWICE)

Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP) is currently working with the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) to co-organize a week-long climate adaptation training workshop for 20 WCP geog (county) extension officials from the health, agriculture, livestock, forestry, and education sectors. As a first step, WCP and UWICE will hold a joint meeting in April 2015 to discuss workshop content, trainers, and logistics for the workshop.

Country: Bhutan (UWICE)

In Bhutan, the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) began preparations for conducting a water scarcity survey in Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP) that will be conducted in cooperation with WCP staff. These preparations have included design of survey methodology, preparation of a survey questionnaire, survey site selection, and community notification about the upcoming survey. Notably, the questionnaire survey will be conducted in both farming and highland yak herding communities in WCP. Findings of the survey will be used to help design future water security improvement activities in WCP.

Country: Bhutan (WMD)

In Bhutan, WWF established a partnership with the Department of Forest and Park Service's Watershed Management Division (WMD) to develop and implement Integrated River Basin Management Plans for the Nikka Chu and Kuri Chu River Basins in Wangchuck Centennial Park (WCP). The WMD had previously conducted a rapid watershed assessment for the Kuri Chu River in eastern WCP and will now conduct a second rapid watershed assessment on the Nikka Chu River in western WCP at the behest of the AHM Project. The purpose of the watershed assessments is to classify their degree of degradation and will be used as a basis for selecting demonstration IRBM activity sites. WMD will also take a leading role in designing IRBM activities themselves.

Country: Pakistan (1.2.2a)

In Pakistan, WWF has begun preparations for conducting watershed management surveys in two small river basins of the AHM Project areas of Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan. These surveys will serve as the basis for development and implementation of demonstration integrated river basin management (IRBM) plans at these sites. To this end WWF hired a consulting team in February, 2015 to conduct the survey which will examine the effects of climate change impacts, deforestation, and pasture degradation on local watersheds and water provision. To date, the consultants have submitted their work plan, conducted a literature review and made an initial site visit to Hoper Valley, GB from February 28-March 7, 2015.

Country: Pakistan (1.2.2b)

In Pakistan, WWF continued work on preparation of a climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for the AHM Project areas of Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan. During this reporting period, WWF conducted further household interviews and focus group discussions on climate change in Chitral, KP and Hoper Valley, GB in February 2015. Topics discussed at this time included perceptions of the impacts of climate change on rural livelihoods and current local coping strategies for dealing with these impacts. WWF also shared climate data from the project region for the 1980-2010 period with researchers at Columbia University who are currently analyzing it. Results of the household interviews, focus group discussions, and climate data analysis and recommendations put forth will be incorporated into the draft climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy that will then be presented to local stakeholders for final review and comments.



Activity 1.2.2a-Pakistan. WWF climate survey team in Hoper Valley, GB, February 2015.

Activity 1.2.4: Organize local campaigns and workshops to raise awareness on climate change and adaptation actions on agriculture, especially among indigenous, marginalized, and poor populations. (Countries: B, I, P)

Country: Bhutan

In Bhutan, the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) has launched preparations for a training for local WCP community leaders, natural resource managers, and workers on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies. To date, UWICE has collected materials on climate adaptation strategies and training from ICIMOD, CARE, and various WWF country offices that are being reviewed for development of Bhutan-specific materials on this subject. The emphasis of this training will be on building capacity of residents of WCP for development and implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices.

Country: India

In India, WWF is currently preparing a climate vulnerability assessment for the Upper Teesta Basin in the AHM Project region of Sikkim that will have a particular emphasis on the primary AHM Project villages of Lachen and Lachung. In addition to the residents of these communities, the target audience of this vulnerability assessment will also include state government agencies to assist them in climate-smarting the state government's plans for development and environmental protection in this region. To date, a research associate has been hired to lead the vulnerability assessment work for the Upper Teesta Basin, which will be conducted through a participatory process, while a framework for conducting the VA exercise has also been prepared. Ecological, socio-economic, development, and cultural indicators for the assessment have been selected, and a literature review on regional climate change impacts is being conducted. Participatory Rural Assessment (PRA) tools to collect primary data are being developed based on the WWF-USAID Hariyo Ban Project Manual and the CARE Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) Toolkit. Field work for the assessment will commence in spring 2015.

Country: Pakistan (1.2.4a):

In Pakistan, WWF and Radio Pakistan's Gilgit studios produced a 30-minute long radio program highlighting the importance of planting trees for climate adaptation and watershed management. This public awareness-raising program was broadcast in Gilgit-Baltistan on February 12, 2015.

Country: Pakistan (1.2.4b):

In Pakistan, WWF cooperated with ICIMOD, Karakorum International University (KIU), the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), and the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) to hold an International Women's Day celebration at KIU in Gilgit on March 9, 2015. The theme of this celebration was the role of women in development of mountain communities, with a particular focus being placed on improvement of mountain agriculture and pastoralism to improve livelihoods, as highlighted by a series of speakers. 800 people (700 women/girls and 100 men/boys) participated in this event, including students, youth, AHM project community residents and host organization staff.

Sub-objective 1.3: Enhance community engagement in conservation

Activity 1.3.4. Disseminate lessons and best practices for mitigating human-wildlife conflict with stakeholders and decision makers. (Country: M)

Country: Mongolia

In Mongolia in November 2014, WWF initiated and organized a learning and sharing meeting on human-snow leopard conflict for NGO and government workers with the goal of developing a national human-snow leopard conflict management strategy for Mongolia. In attendance were local representatives of WWF, the Snow Leopard Trust, Mongolian Irbis Center, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Biology, and the Environmental Crime Division of the National Police Agency. During this meeting, a conceptual model of human-snow leopard conflict prevention and mitigation was developed that will serve as the basis for preparing the strategy.



Activity 1.3.4-Mongolia. Participants of the WWF-led learning and sharing meeting on human-snow leopard conflict held at the offices of WWF, Ulaanbaatar, November 19, 2014.

Activity 1.3.7: Establish community-based processing facilities and support enterprise development, market linkages, value-added approaches, and market information systems. (Country: N)

Country: Nepal

In Nepal, WWF provided support to the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) to complete establishment of the local essential oil processing plant in the KCA village of Yamphudin that was begun in AHM Project Year 2. Proceeds from this sustainable community enterprise will be used for conducting a variety of community development and conservation projects in Yamphudin. A total of 275 people (140 Women) from 50 households will benefit from the enterprise.



Activity 1.3.7-Nepal. Local essential oil processing plant established by the KCAMC with WWF support in Yamphudin Village, KCA.

Activity 1.3.9: Develop and support community-based eco-friendly income generation training and alternatives (eg. felt production, facilitating market linkages, use of yak/horse milk for medicinal purposes, eco-tourism) (Country: K)

Country: Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan in October 2014, WWF supported establishment and launch of Engilchek Village's Local Development Fund (LDF) in the buffer zone of the Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve. At this time three "jamoats" were established, essentially small, self-organized community groups that will function as a single entity when applying for LDF micro-loans for sustainable development projects. The main purpose of local LDFs is to improve livelihoods of participating high-mountain local communities through the development of sustainable, environmentally-friendly alternative income-generating activities. USD10,000 in seed money for local LDFs was provided through co-financing from WWF-Netherlands while LDF planning and training costs were directly supported by the WWF AHM Project. All micro-loans made under this LDF will be accompanied by lessons on the importance of nature conservation, particularly snow leopard conservation, in the Sarychat-Ertash Region to promote harmonious co-existence between local residents and wildlife. In total 29 people (14 Women) participated in the launch of the LDF.



Activity 1.3.9-Kyrgyzstan. Launch of the Engilchek Village Local Development Fund, Engilchek Village, Issyk Kul, October 20, 2014.



Activity 1.3.9-Kyrgyzstan. Launch of the Engilchek Village Local Development Fund, Engilchek Village, Issyk Kul, October 20, 2014.

Activity 1.3.11 Promote sustainable Community Based Tourism (CBT) by strengthening existing initiatives of home stays and sustainable tourism practices, and engaging private sector, investors, and operators. (Country: I)

Country: India (1.3.11a)

In India, WWF and the Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee (KCC) conducted a two-day training in Lachen Village from December 22-23, 2014 on making handicrafts from waste and discarded material. Techniques for making different useful products from everyday household waste materials such as plastic wrappers, PET bottles, paper, etc. were taught while participants were also taught about the importance of trash segregation at the household level and the ill effects of improper disposal of trash and garbage. In total, 32 women attended the training and showed keen interest in learning more while participants are currently planning to display their products at the upcoming Lachen Village festival. The training was important in bringing women together to tackle the local trash problem and reducing the volume of waste that Lachen generates.



Activity 1.3.11a-India. Women learn to make handicrafts from common household waste items at Lachen Village, Sikkim, December 23, 2014.

Country: India (1.3.11b)

In India, WWF helped organize a community meeting in Lachen on January 7, 2015 where the Lachen pipons (village elders) and community members decided to impose a village trash collection fee to support and promote village efforts to segregate community trash for re-use and recycling. This fee will be a monthly payment of 30 rupees per household and 100 rupees per hotel or shop. At the same time a solid waste management monitoring committee was established that includes dzumsa (village council) members, Buddhist monks, hotel association members, local police, WWF staff, and other community representatives for overseeing the solid waste management in Lachen. To support the ban on bottled water in Lachen village that was implemented to reduce plastic waste at Lachen, WWF assisted the Lachen Tourism Development Committee in preparing to a proposal for installation of a village water filtration system that was submitted to the Sikkim Public Health and Engineering (PHE) Department. Similarly, WWF also helped community representatives

prepare a proposal for development of a nature interpretation center in Lachen that was submitted to the Sikkim Tourism Department.

Country: India (1.3.11c)

In India, WWF and the Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) selected two homestay villages for implementing an ecotourism capacity building training program. These villages are Kitam-Manpur Village, located on the edge of the Kitam Bird Sanctuary in South Sikkim, and Phadamchen Village, located on the in the edge of the Pangolaka Wildlife Sanctuary in East Sikkim. At Kitam, a preliminary meeting was held on March 7, 2015 with the participation of panchayats (local elected representatives) and potential homestay owners along with other community residents. The purpose of this meeting was to build support for the project and to learn more about ecotourism training needs. 22 people (10 Women) attended. On March 13, 2015, a follow-up project orientation meeting for homestay operators was held at Kitam, where 24 people (11 Women), all homestay operators, attended. At this time, a resource person from ECOSS spoke on the benefits and objectives of ecotourism, including improved nature conservation and economic benefits for local communities. An exercise was conducted to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of Kitam village with respect to ecotourism, which helped identify gaps and future opportunities. A tour of local homestays by participants was also conducted.

For homestay operators from the Phadamchen area, WWF and the Khangchendzonga Conservation Committee (KCC) conducted a training on homestay and trash management at KCC headquarters in Yuksam Village from December 8-11, 2014. During this training, participants were introduced to ecotourism concepts and best practices, including how to maintain service standards, hygiene, and sanitation at their homestays. Additional lessons were presented on cooking a varied menu and aspects of managing guests. Participants were also given a tour of working homestays in Yuksam Village, where they discussed various aspects of homestay operations and challenges with homestay owners, including check-in check-out systems and trash management regulations being implemented in the neighboring Khangchendzonga National Park. In total, 18 people (7 Women) from Phadamchen and neighboring villages participated in this training.



1.3.11c-India. Ecotourism capacity building orientation meeting for local homestay operators and community members, Kitam Village, South Sikkim, March 13, 2015.

Country: India (1.3.11d)

In India, at the request of the Sikkim Tourism Department, WWF and ECOSS began drafting of a tourism policy for Sikkim. This draft policy is being prepared through a participatory consultation process with various stakeholder groups who are providing their inputs. The first consultation was organized on March 3, 2015 for representatives of the hotel industry, with 15 people (5 Women) participating while a second consultation session was held for tour company operators' and taxi drivers, in which 25 people (5 Women) participated.



1.3.11d-India. WWF and ECOSS-led tourism policy consultation session for tour company operators and taxi drivers held in Gangtok, March 3, 2015.

Country: India (1.3.11e)

In India, WWF supported the Zero Waste Himalaya (ZWH) group in holding a mobile exhibition promoting the concept of zero waste. During this reporting period, this exhibition was held in Jorethang, South Sikkim on October 20, 2014; in Gangtok, East Sikkim from October 27 – 30, 2014; and in Mangan, North Sikkim from November 14-15, 2014. The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) and the state Rural Management and Development Department also provided support for the exhibition. The exhibition was visited by a large numbers of people, including students, teachers, and the general public, who learned about zero waste concepts, taking individual responsibility for one's own garbage management, and each person's responsibility as a consumer with respect to waste management. WWF also partnered with ZWH group and SIRD to follow up the exhibition by holding a local zero waste festival in Jorethang, South Sikkim from January 14-16, 2015, which raised awareness amongst the general public about garbage management issues and was conducted in a manner that demonstrated methods for generating as little waste as possible.



1.3.11e-India. A volunteers explaining the importance of proper garbage management at the Zero Waste Exhibition held in Jorethang, South Sikkim, October 20, 2014.

Sub-objective 1.4: Conserve snow leopards and their habitat in priority sites

Activity 1.4.1: Develop a monitoring protocol for selected field sites to assess abundance and distribution of snow leopards and their prey base using sign surveys, fixed-point counts, camera traps, and genetic analysis. (Country: M)

Country: Mongolia

In Mongolia, WWF conducted snow leopard monitoring camera trap surveys at Bumbat Khairkhan and Baatar Khairkhan Mountains in Khovd Aimag with the participation of local herders trained as citizen scientists. These camera trap surveys are ongoing and thus far have captured snow leopards and 13 other species of wildlife. Findings of these surveys will be used to better delineate snow leopard distributions at these two sites with the goal of improving conservation planning.



Activity 1.4.1-Mongolia. WWF Researchers with local citizen scientists conducting a snow leopard monitoring camera trap survey at Baatar Khairkhan Mountain, Zereg Soum, Khovd Aimag, January 9, 2015.

Activity 1.4.2: Conduct population survey in Gilgit-Baltistan and develop GIS-based species distribution maps for snow leopard and prey species, and prepare species conservation plan in consultation with partners and with approval of district government (Country: P)

Country: Pakistan (1.4.2a)

In Pakistan from December 8-14, 2014, WWF conducted a week-long snow leopard sign and prey species survey in the Shaltar, Bualtar, Meir, Hamdar, Barpu, and Daranchi areas of the

Hoper Valley, GB. The purpose of this survey was to assess the status of snow leopard and ibex populations in the valley with preliminary results showing thriving populations of both species. Findings of this survey will be used to improve conservation efforts in the Hoper Valley.



Activity 1.4.2a-Pakistan. Domestic goat killed by a snow leopard that was found during a snow leopard sign and prey species survey in Barpu Pasture, Hoper Valley, GB.



Activity 1.4.2a-Pakistan. Snow leopard pug mark found during a snow leopard sign and prey species survey in Barpu Pasture, Hoper Valley, GB.

Country: Pakistan (1.4.2b)

In Pakistan in October 2014, WWF prepared a concept paper for developing a provincial level snow leopard conservation action plan for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province, with the goal of better protecting snow leopards, their prey, and habitat. This concept is currently being shared with major stakeholders and will be reviewed and modified as necessary during

a planned consultative stakeholder workshop. At this time the conservation action plan will be drafted and after the workshop the plan will be presented to the KP Wildlife Department for review and adoption.

Activity 1.4.4: Perform snow leopard population survey by collecting and performing genetic analysis, and potentially using camera traps in sites where snow leopards are present. (Country: K)

Country: Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, WWF worked with the Staff of the Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve to conduct a winter wildlife survey at the reserve from December 12-20, 2014. This survey focused on counting Argali and Ibex, the primary prey of the snow leopard at Sarychat, as well as noting snow leopard sign and other mammals such as wolves. Results of this survey provided valuable information on winter distribution of mammals in the reserve that will be used for planning seasonal management of the reserve.

Activity 1.4.5: Begin radio-tracking of snow leopards using GPS collars to collect information on home range size, habitat type and preferences, hunting behavior and frequency, and activity patterns. (Countries: M, N)

Country: Mongolia

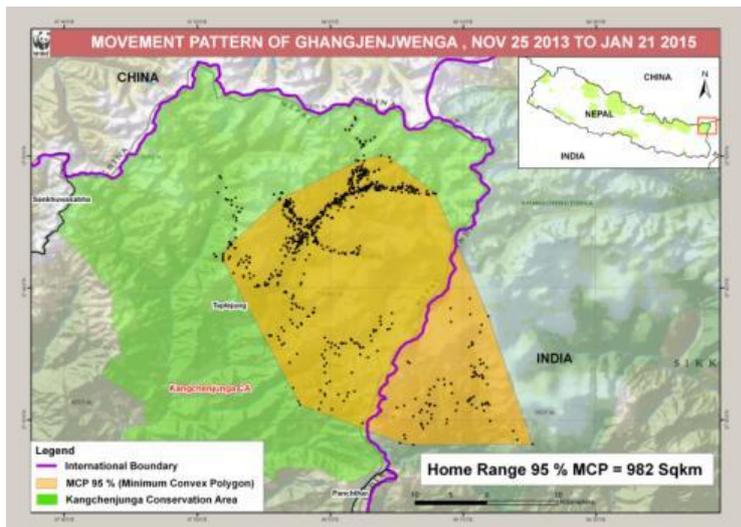
In Mongolia, WWF cooperated with the Mongolian Irbis Center, the Uvs Lake Basin Strictly Protected Area Administration, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Biology, and the Russian Academy of Sciences to place a satellite GPS tracking collar on one female snow leopard in the Tsagaan Shuvuut Strictly Protected Area (SPA) in Uvs Aimag Mongolia. Notably, the Tsagaan Shuvuut SPA is located within the trans-boundary Ubsunur Hollow Biosphere Reserve that overlaps Russia's Tuva Republic. This expedition occurred from October 25-10 November, 2014 and included biologists, a local citizen scientist, and a veterinarian and his assistant who sedated the trapped snow leopard. Scientists and experts from both Mongolia and Russia worked together to take all measurements and will jointly monitor the cat for the 2-year life of the tracking collar. Information collected from this snow leopard will include habitat selection, movement patterns, and home range size, which will be invaluable for improving trans-boundary snow leopard protection work in this region. Note: This activity was entirely funded by co-financing from WWF-Netherlands under the WWFAltai Sayan Ecoregion Programme.



Activity 1.4.5-Mongolia. WWF-funded joint Mongol-Russian research team putting a satellite GPS tracking collar on a snow leopard in the Tsagaan Shuvuut Strictly Protected Area, Uvs Aimag, Mongolia, October 30, 2014.

Country: Nepal

In Nepal, WWF continues to receive data from a male snow leopard fitted with a satellite GPS tracking collar in November 2013 in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA), which has crossed from Nepal into Sikkim, India several times during this period providing invaluable information on transboundary movements and habitat use of snow leopards in the Kangchenjunga Region. In November 2015, a follow-up collaring expedition was launched in the western KCA's Yangma Valley. This expedition was a collaborative effort of WWF, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), the Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC), and local Snow Leopard Conservation Committees (SLCC) and residents. Unfortunately, no snow leopards were snared when four weeks into the expedition a 2-foot snowfall in mid-December put the network of snares out of commission and prematurely brought an end to the expedition. However, an excellent system of snare site locations, trap transmitter alarm monitoring, and team snow leopard sign and trap checking has been set up around Yangma Village, so the network will be quickly and efficiently re-setup in the spring of 2015. Nevertheless, one snow leopard was sighted and briefly filmed before the expedition team returned to Kathmandu.



Activity 1.4.5-Nepal. Location map of the movements of the snow leopard GPS-collared by WWF and partners in November 2013.



Activity 1.4.5-Nepal. Local citizen scientists setting snares for snow leopard satellite GPS collaring work, Yangma Valley, KCA Nepal, November 2014.



Activity 1.4.5-Nepal. Joint snow leopard collaring expedition team members monitoring snow leopard snares in the Yangma Valley, KCA Nepal, December 2015.

Activity 1.4.6: Train local community members such as livestock herders to be citizen scientists conducting monitoring of snow leopard populations, prey species, and threats to snow leopards (e.g. poaching, retaliatory killing, and habitat degradation) and to conduct anti-poaching efforts through local SLCCs and other wildlife protection organizations. (Country: N)

Country: Nepal

In Nepal, as part of the autumn 2015 snow leopard collaring expedition in the KCA (Activity 1.4.5, above), WWF organized one-day training on setting camera traps for snow leopard monitoring and setting snares for capturing snow leopards for collaring with satellite GPS tracking collars. In total, 19 Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC), Snow Leopard Conservation Committee (SLCC), and local community members (All Men) were trained. This training was held at the expedition research base in Yangma Village, KCA on November 24, 2014 and greatly increased community awareness and support for local snow leopard conservation efforts.

Activity 1.4.8 Establish a watch and ward system of Village Wildlife Guides to protect snow leopards and other species against hunting and poaching in Gilgit-Baltistan (Country: P)

Country: Pakistan

In Pakistan, WWF signed an MoU with the Hoper Conservation and Development Organization (HCDO) in Gilgit-Baltistan to provide it with support in the form of a monthly honorarium to pay two village wildlife guards (VWG), who will receive about USD 50/month each for 24 months. These guards are working under the supervision of the HCDO and are tasked with stopping the illegal poaching of wildlife and also stopping the cutting of fragile alpine juniper forest. These guards will make frequent visits each month to high

altitude pasture areas that are home to snow leopards and their prey and will monitor tree planting and pasture improvement projects conducted under the AHM Project. The guards will also help manage grazing of livestock in alpine pasture areas of Hoper that cover 3000 km². In doing so, these guards will not only improve protection of the snow leopard and its prey species but will also contribute to improving local snow leopard habitat.

Activity 1.4.9: Support patrolling by providing anti-poaching teams with field supplies and gear, and conduct trainings to improve capacity of private game management entities (Country: K)

Country: Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, WWF installed a second wind-generator with a capacity of 1.5 KW at the Sarychat-Ertash Gulotock ranger station on October 11, 2014. This generator will both improve living conditions for rangers at this remote site and serve as a useful demonstration of the renewable energy capacity of wind resources in the Central Tian Shan. WWF also provided support to help the rangers of the Sarytchat-Ertash State Reserve perform their work by completing donation of binoculars, tents, walkie-talkies, and 20 sets of uniforms that included camouflage jackets and pants, thermal underwear, fleece jackets, and sturdy boots. These items were presented to the rangers at the Akshyrak Village International Snow Leopard Day celebration on October 23, 2015.



Activity 1.4.9-Kyrgyzstan. Presentation of equipment donated by WWF to the Sarychat-Ertash State Reserve during the Akshyrak Village International Snow Leopard Day Celebration, October 23, 2014.



Activity 1.4.9-Kyrgyzstan. Staff of the Sarychat-Ertash State reserve in their new donated uniforms with ecological theater performers at the Akshyrak Village International Snow Leopard Day Celebration, October 23, 2014.

Activity 1.4.10: Involve local communities in species conservation activities through conservation education, training, and practical experience in snare removal and fire prevention (Country: K)

Country: Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, WWF cooperated with the Hunting Department of the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry to design and distribute a 2015 wall calendar poster that features photos of Tian Shan wildlife and highlights increased fines for illegal hunting of snow leopard, argali and ibex. Through this effort, awareness of illegal wildlife hunting and the new larger penalties for poaching has been greatly increased in the AHM Project region.



Activity 1.4.9-Kyrgyzstan. 2015 WWF Kyrgyzstan Tian Shan wildlife calendar with penalties for poaching of these species.

Activity 1.4.11: Pursue establishment of a system of protected areas for snow leopard conservation that considers recent and predicted changes in key habitats. (Country: M)

Country: Mongolia

In Mongolia during this reporting period, with support from WWF, the Bayan Nuruu Reserve Pasture was formally established with an area of 105,200 ha in Darvi Soum (county), Khovd Aimag (province). This pasture reserve will remain closed to livestock grazing except during times of natural disasters, such as deep snowfalls, at which time the reserve will be temporarily opened to livestock herders as an emergency grazing reserve. This reserve will provide benefits for herders in the form of a reliable source of standing fodder available during natural disasters as well as benefiting local wildlife by creating a livestock-free zone that will provide undisturbed grazing for wildlife and increase the resiliency of local grassland ecosystems to climate change impacts. It is also anticipated that reduced competition with domestic livestock will result in higher populations of snow leopard prey species.

Activity 1.4.13: Provide technical and financial support to forest departments and communities to protect habitat (Country: M, P)

Country: Mongolia

In Mongolia during this reporting period, WWF signed an MoU with the Denver Zoo outlining planned cooperation with respect to promoting and ensuring the long term conservation of the snow leopard in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion of Mongolia. This agreement will provide much needed technical assistance for snow leopard conservation that will benefit both WWF and government efforts to protect this species.

Country: Pakistan (1.4.13a)

In Pakistan, WWF held separate meetings with the technical advisor of the Ev-K2-CNR Project on September 15, 2014 at Phandar, GB and with the Chitral District divisional forest officer (DFO) for wildlife Chitral on March 4, 2015 to discuss plans and possible sites for establishment of a new biosphere reserve. During these meetings, several suitable sites were discussed, and it was tentatively decided to work jointly on designation of an inter-provincial biosphere reserve spanning the Broghal, KP and Karambar Lake, GB regions of northern Pakistan, which are both important snow leopard habitat. At the March meeting, the DFO for wildlife proposed holding a stakeholders' consultative workshop for making further decisions concerning this initiative.

Country: Pakistan (1.4.13b)

In Pakistan during this reporting period, WWF provided support to 10 Pakistani graduate students from several universities to conduct field work on a variety of topics in the Hoper Valley, GB. Field data collected during the course of this field research will serve as the basis for writing their respective Master's theses, and will help these students establish careers in the field of conservation upon completion of their studies.

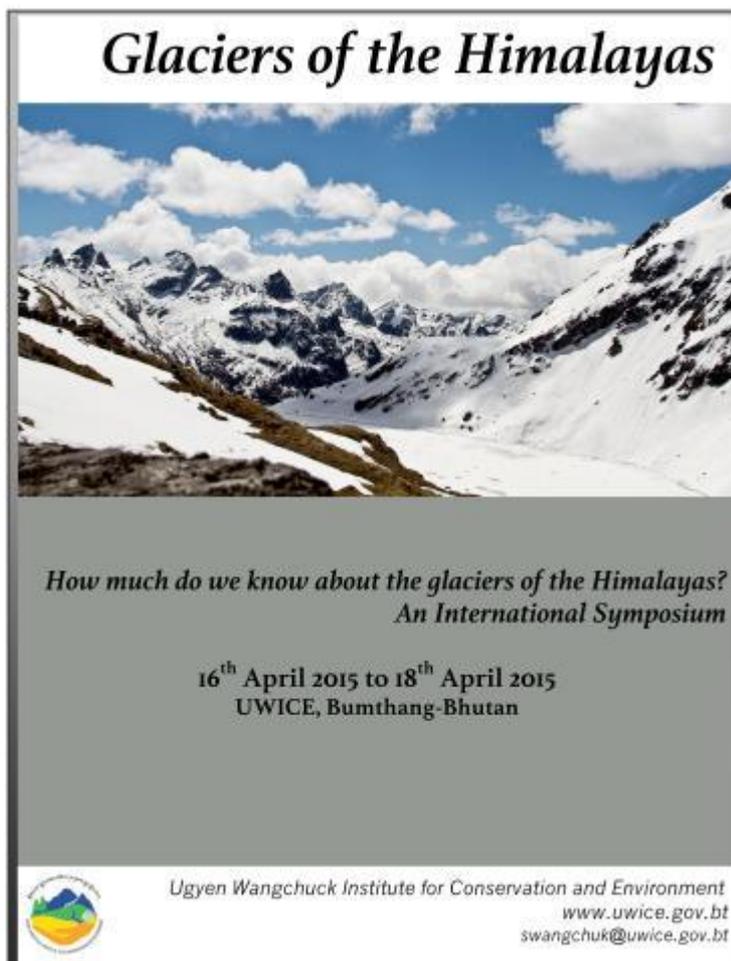
Objective 2: Improve transnational collaboration on climate change adaptation and snow leopard conservation in Asia's high mountain landscapes.

Sub-objective 2.1: Building cooperation through the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas and its regional "Framework of Cooperation" for protection of Asia's high mountain landscapes and snow leopard

Activity 2.1.9: Convene Regional Meeting of Himalayan Experts on Glaciers and the Water Resource Implications of Glacier Retreat.

Country: Regional (UWICE, Bhutan)

In Bhutan, the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) began preparations for holding its upcoming International Glacier Symposium to be held in Bumthang from April 16-18, 2015. This three-day meeting will feature presentations highlighting the water resource implications of glacier retreat. Confirmed participants include experts from Columbia University, Brigham Young University, University of Bern, ICIMOD, WWF and various agencies of the Royal Government of Bhutan.



Activity 2.1.9-Regional (UWICE). Announcement for the upcoming glacier symposium organized by UWICE to be held in Bumthang, Bhutan.

Sub-objective 2.2: Facilitate discussions on climate change and snow leopard conservation among the range countries

Activity 2.2.4: Engage the Central Asian Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) to initiate a dialogue across central Asian countries on snow leopard conservation in the face of climate change, and which feeds into revised national snow leopard conservation action plans.

Country: Regional (WWF Russia)

During this project reporting period, the leaders of the AHM Project's Kyrgyzstan activities participated in the WWF Russia Interstate Conference on the Econet CIS Program. This conference was held in Moscow from October 28-29, 2014 and was co-organized by the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The purpose of this conference was to continue development of cooperation amongst the CIS states in addressing environmental issues recognized as important to all participants of the conference, in particular through implementation of the Econet CIS Program, which is considered to be one of the most promising ways of solving transboundary environmental problems in the CIS states. At this conference, projects proposed for inclusion in the Econet CIS interstate program were discussed, as were transboundary conservation problems, restoration of rare and endangered species, development of protected area systems, and related biodiversity conservation and socio-economic issues. At this time, conference participants expressed continued support for the Econet CIS Program and affirmed the importance of taking a trans-boundary approach to protecting important species, ecosystems, and natural resources. Notably, a conference breakout session on rare species of Central Asia was held which was attended by representatives of six CIS countries. In total, 75 experts from 10 countries of the former Soviet Union participated in the conference (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). Note: This conference was supported with co-financing from WWF Russia.

Activity 2.2.5: Organize a AHM Project-wide learning and sharing meeting for WWF staff and government and NGO partners with a training emphasis on climate vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation strategy development and implementation for snow leopard range areas.

Country: Regional (WWF AHM/WWF US)

During this reporting period, the AHM Project held a 5-day project-wide learning and sharing meeting from January 26-30, 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal. WWF staff from all 6 AHM Project countries attended as well as specialists from WWF US, WWF Russia, the WWF Hariyo Ban and Living Himalayas Projects, and various government, university, and NGO AHM Project partners such as Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) and CARE. Topics discussed included snow leopard research, community conservation, and livelihoods. However, the main feature of the meeting was a three day training on climate change impacts and adaptation that provided opportunities for review and advising sessions on all project climate vulnerability and adaptation work to date for each AHM Project country (see agenda in Annex 1). Notably, guest presenters during the climate change sessions included speakers from ICIMOD,

Kathmandu University, CARE, and Columbia University. In total, 63 people (16 Women) participated in the meeting.



Activity 2.2.5-Regional. Presentation on climate scenarios at the WWF AHM Project learning and sharing meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal, January 30, 2015.



Activity 2.2.5-Regional. Participants of the AHM Project-wide learning and sharing meeting, planning future climate scenarios with data from site-specific climate change analyses provided by Columbia University, Kathmandu, January 30, 2015.

Sub-objective 2.3: Update range-wide information on snow leopard trafficking and provide trafficking information to enforcement efforts at the national and regional network levels

Activity 2.3.1: Update information on commercial hunting and trade of snow leopards

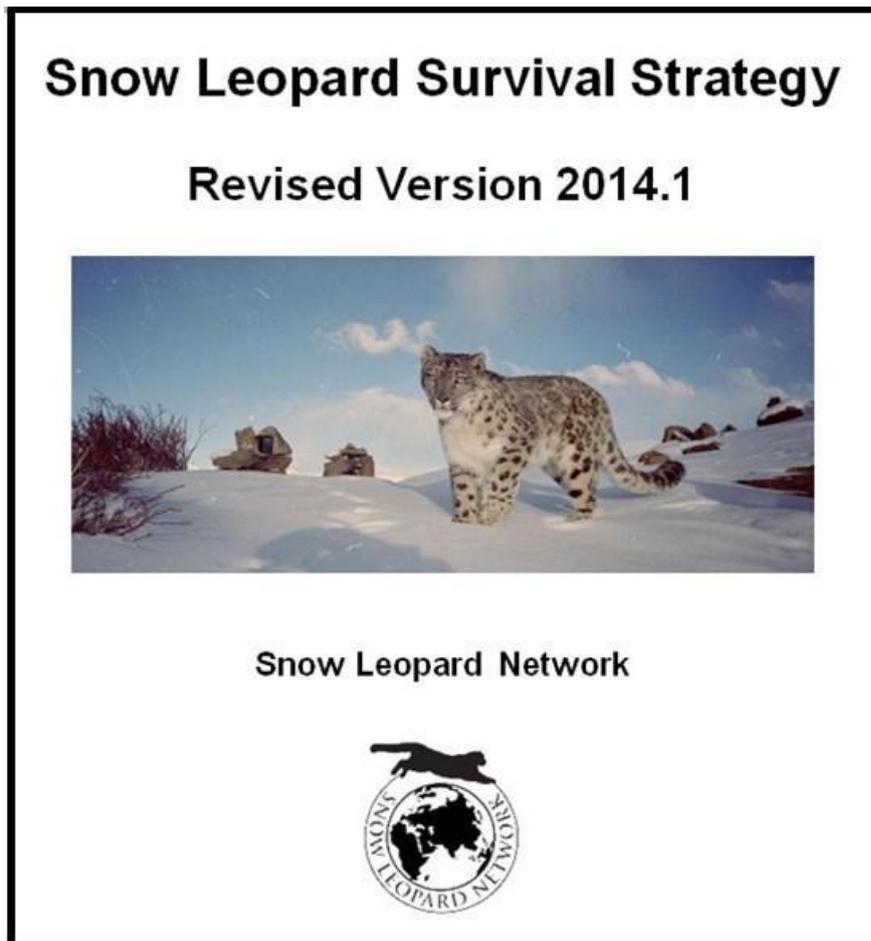
Country: Regional (TRAFFIC)

During this reporting period, TRAFFIC continued compiling snow leopard trade research findings, notably from the September 2014 TRAFFIC market survey of three cities in Afghanistan. A first draft of the planned snow leopard trade report has been completed and is currently being reviewed. It is now planned to release the final draft of the report on October 23, 2015 to mark International Snow Leopard Day during the International Year of the Snow Leopard.

Activity 2.3.3: Incorporate recommendations into range-wide dialogues on snow leopard conservation, revision of Snow Leopard Survival Strategy, national snow leopard conservation action plans, and regional trade initiatives.

Country: Regional (SLN/SLT)

On October 23, 2014, the Snow Leopard Network released the new edition of the Snow Leopard Survival Strategy (SLSS) on the occasion of the first International Snow Leopard Day. Notably, this document is the single most important document informing snow leopard conservation efforts worldwide. The SLSS is now available online at: <http://www.snowleopardsurvival.org/>. This document was updated by a committee of experts and peer reviewed by Snow Leopard Network (SLN) members. In addition, this new edition of the SLSS was reviewed by the WWF US Climate Adaptation Team who checked and edited it to make it “climate smart.” The revised 2014 SLSS is available both as a pdf file and as an online HTML document and is a “living document” that can be quickly updated as new information concerning the status of snow leopards, their prey, habitat, and emerging threats becomes available.



Activity 2.3.3-Regional. Cover of the revised Snow Leopard Survival Strategy, released on October 23, 2014, the single most important document informing snow leopard conservation efforts worldwide.

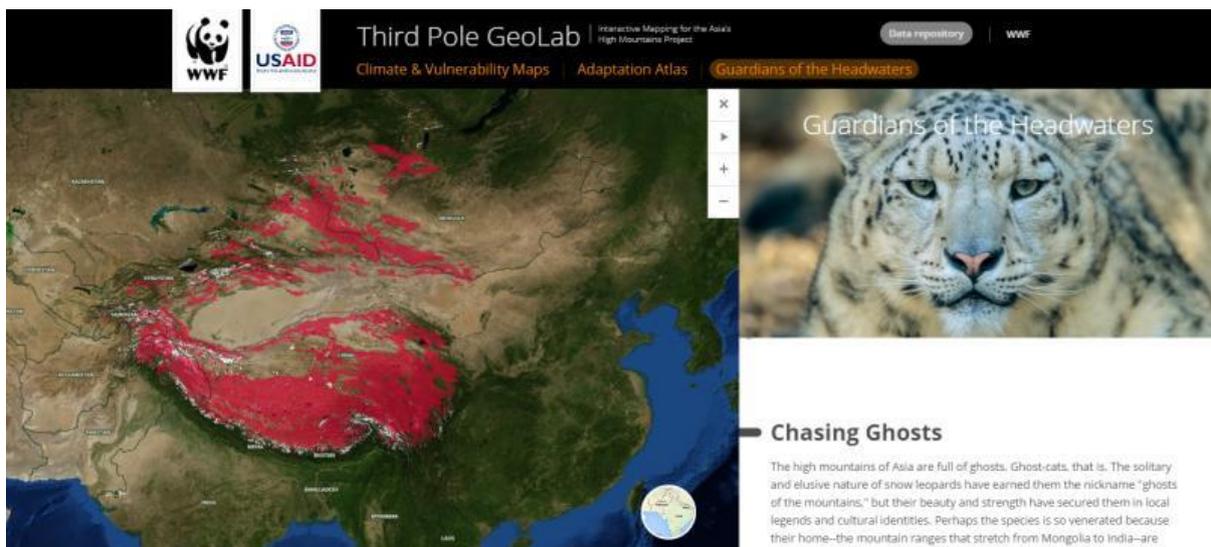
Sub-objective 2.4: Building momentum through a range-wide network for snow leopard conservation

Activity 2.4.1: Conduct a range-wide snow leopard vulnerability and grassland degradation analysis using GIS and remote sensing, and use this analysis to identify core snow leopard habitat, potential snow leopard habitat, and the impacts of grassland degradation on water supply (Note: Project Activity 2.4.2 has been merged with this activity).

Country: Regional (WWF US)

During this reporting period, WWF completed and released the two AHM Project reports concerning climate change impacts on snow leopard range areas titled *Climate Vulnerability in Asia's High Mountains* and *Guardians of the Headwaters: Snow Leopards, Water Provision, and Climate Vulnerability*. A limited number of these reports were printed and are available from WWF US while the reports are available in their entirety as pdf files at the following link: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/initiatives/asia-high-mountains>.

WWF-US is also currently working with a web developer to create an interactive, dual purpose, website that will utilize a mapping tool to highlight key findings of the above two reports and serve as a go-to database for climate, water resource, and ecological spatial data for snow leopard range areas, such as the maps depicted in the *Guardians of the Headwaters* report. In addition, WWF has begun discussions with AHM Project partners on using a standardized approach to produce a coordinated set of more detailed country-scale map layers to assist in improving conservation planning and management efforts for snow leopards and water provision. Data layers produced will eventually be available from the interactive website described above.



Activity 2.4.1-Regional (WWF US). Screen shot of the interactive project website currently under development that will highlight findings of the AHM regional climate reports and host a database of climate, water resource, and ecological spatial data for snow leopard range areas.

Activity 2.4.5: Support a small grants program for site-based and national activities through SLN's Snow Leopard Conservation Grant to support programs across the snow leopard range

Country: Regional (SLN/SLT)

In the second year of WWF AHM Project sponsorship of the Snow Leopard Network's Snow Leopard Conservation Grant Program's climate change category, one award was made for a proposal titled "Analysis of temporal variation in prey use and livestock depredation of snow leopards (*Panthera uncia*) in Pakistan and potential links to climate change." This proposal was awarded a total of USD 6416, leaving a balance of just over USD 30,000 for the 2016 and 2017 Snow Leopard Conservation Grant Program. In addition, final reports on proposals funded under the 2014 Snow Leopard Conservation Grant Program are currently being received and compiled.

Sub-objective 2.5: Launch the beginnings of the Alliance on Asia's High Mountain Landscapes

Activity 2.5.2: Launch the beginnings of an inter-governmental Alliance on Asia's High Mountain Landscapes.

Country: Regional (SLT/ WWF AHM)

From March 19-20, 2015, SLT, WWF, UNDP, and the Kyrgyz State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry co-sponsored the first steering committee meeting of the Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum Secretariat in Koi Tash, Kyrgyzstan. High level representatives of 10 of the 12 snow leopard range nation governments participating in this process attended, with only the governments of India and Uzbekistan not represented at the meeting. Also in attendance were representatives of other interested partner organizations, such as GEF, GIZ, FFI, NABU, Christensen Foundation, and the U.S. Embassy in Astana. At this meeting, the major outcomes were: 1) the adoption of steering committee operating guidelines, 2) selection of Bishkek as the location for establishment of the permanent secretariat, 3) election by government representatives of the director of the Kyrgyz State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry and the Pakistan Minister of Climate Change as co-chairs of the secretariat steering committee for a two year term, and 4) adoption of the Landscape Management Plan Outline as the major tool for developing plans to secure the 23 priority snow leopard landscapes identified by the 12 range countries in Issyk Kul in June 2014. In total, 75 people (20 Women) attended this meeting (see Annex 2 for meeting agenda). In addition, throughout this reporting period, SLT has seconded an SLT staff member to work with the recently hired secretariat staff to get them up to speed on the Global Snow Leopards and Ecosystems Protection Program (GSLEP) goals and their role in supporting achievement of those goals. Although based in Delhi, this SLT staff member will be residing in Bishkek for several months this summer to work more closely with the secretariat. Next steps for the secretariat and GSLEP implementation will be developing Landscape Management Plans for the 23 selected priority snow leopard landscapes.



Activity 2.5.2-Regional. First Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum Steering Committee Meeting, Koi Tash, Kyrgyzstan, March 20, 2015.

Reported Implementation Issues and Challenges

One major challenge was launch and execution of the autumn 2014 Nepal snow leopard collaring expedition, which was delayed, first by a shipment of critical field equipment being returned to Canada and then unexpectedly heavy snow which cut the expedition short in mid-December. A second challenge during this reporting period was the continued turnover of staff at TRAFFIC which has further delayed completion of the snow leopard trade report.

Reported Measures and Adaptive Management

WWF established new partnerships with the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) for climate adaptation activities and with Bhutan's Watershed Management Department (WMD) for integrated river basin management activities. However both UWICE and WMD will work closely with WCP on field implementation of activities. In Kyrgyzstan, due to protracted delays in establishment of the Khan Tengri National Park resulting from changes in UNDP GEF Project implementing staff, the AHM Project team is currently discussing possible collaboration on AHM Project ranger training and public awareness activities with other nature reserves neighboring the main Sarychat Ertash Reserve project sites. In order to speed up development and implementation of climate adaptation activities, the WWF India Gangtok field office hired an associate researcher to oversee this aspect of AHM Project work.

Annex 1: Activity 2.2.5: AHM Project Learning and Sharing Meeting Agenda



**WWF Asia High Mountains Project
Learning and Sharing Meeting
and Climate Change Adaptation Training**
a workshop for project staff and partners
26-30 January 2015
Kathmandu, Nepal

Monday, 26 January – Snow Leopard Research Day

6:30-8:30	Breakfast
8:30	Workshop Registration
9:00	Welcome and News Introductions: Answer with your feet!
9:30	Bhutan AHM Snow Leopard Research
10:00	India AHM Snow Leopard Research
10:30	Kyrgyzstan AHM Snow Leopard Research
11:00	Group Photo Tea Break
11:30	Mongolia Snow Leopard Research
12:00	Pakistan AHM Snow Leopard Research
12:30	Mongolia AHM Snow Leopard Research
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Nepal AHM Snow Leopard Research
14:45	Wildlife DNA Research
15:30	Introduction to Wildlife DNA Collection from Snow
16:00	Tea Break
16:30	Asia High Mountains Project Reporting Discussion
17:00	Group Discussion
17:30	Recap and Wrap Up
19:00	Dinner

Tuesday, 27 January – Community Conservation and Livelihood Day

9:00	Session Introduction and News Community Conservation
9:30	Bhutan: Community Conservation and Livelihood Work in Wangchuck Centennial National Park
10:00	India: Community Conservation and Livelihood Work in Sikkim

10:30	Kyrgyzstan: Community Conservation and Livelihood Work in the Central Tian Shan
11:00	Tea Break
11:30	Mongolia: Community Conservation and Livelihood Work in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion
12:00	Nepal: Community Conservation and Livelihood Work in the Kangchenjunga Conservation Areas
12:30	Pakistan: Community Conservation and Livelihood Work in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Community Anti-Poaching Operations: Short Presentations and Discussion
15:00	Livestock Insurance and Predator Proof Corrals Short Presentations and Discussion
16:00	Tea Break
16:30	Regional Activities – SL Secretariat, SAP, APGS
17:00	Group Discussion
17:30	Recap and Wrap Up
19:00	Dinner

Wednesday, 28 January – Climate and Water Seminar and Adaptation Training – Day 1

9:00	Session Introduction and News Climate Change
9:30	Climate Impact on Glaciers and Water Resources
10:00	Impact of Permafrost Thaw in Mountain Areas
10:30	Current and future water availability in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region
11:00	Tea Break
11:30	Climate Adaptation in the Himalayas
12:00	WWF Hariyo Ban Climate Adaptation Work
12:30	Findings of the Snow Leopard Range-wide Climate Review
13:00	Lunch
14:00	What is Climate Smart Conservation?
14:45	Group exercise: Is it climate smart?

15:15	Climate-smarting Strategies and Work Plans
16:00	Tea Break
16:30	Country Team Exercise: Review Work Plans
19:00	Dinner
20:00	Special WWF Staff Session: Introduction to the WWF Network-wide Snow Leopard Strategy Action Plan

Thursday, 29 January – Climate Adaptation Training – Day 2

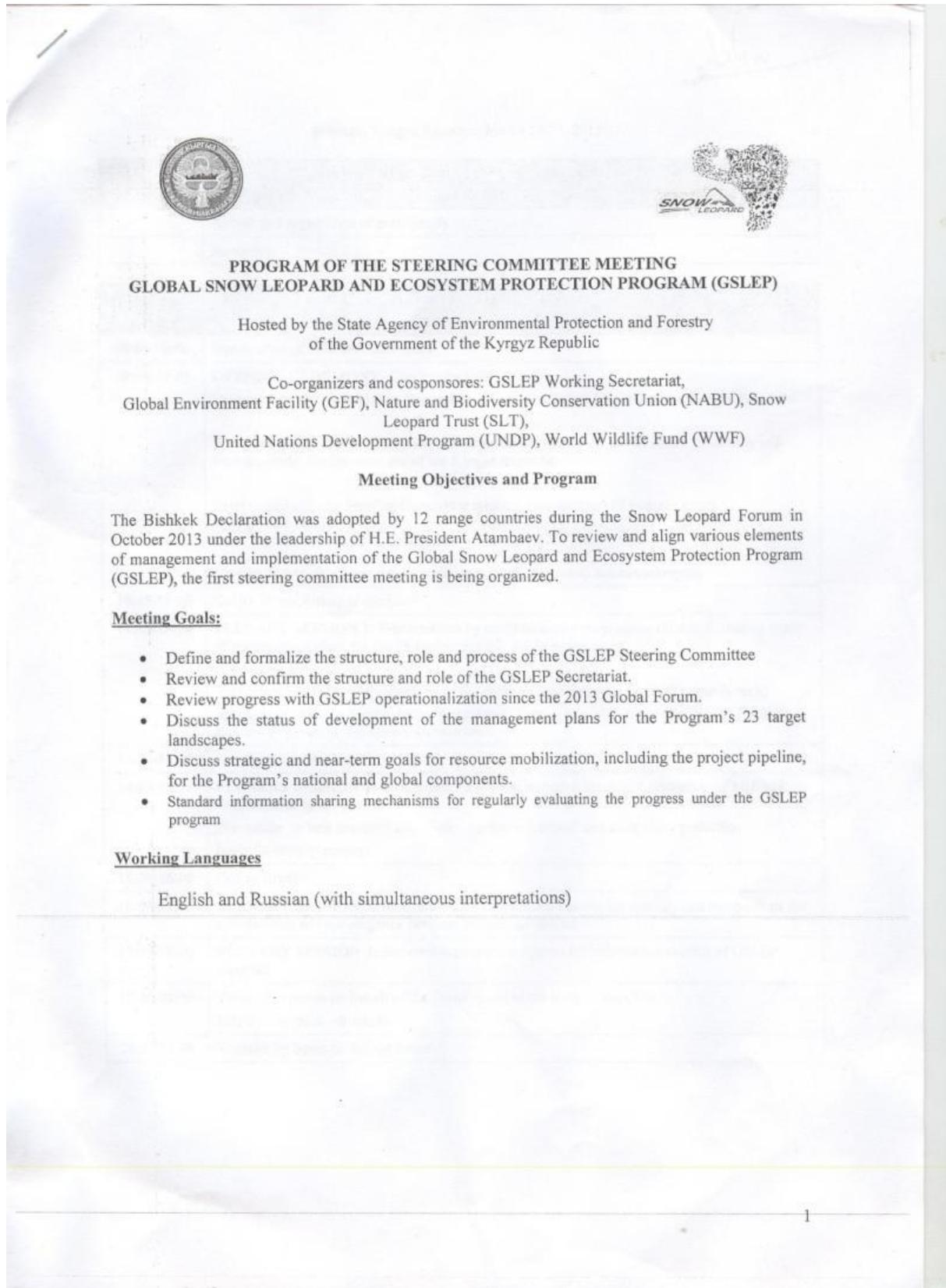
9:00	Session Introduction and News Country Group Exercise: Observed Changes
10:00	Overview of Vulnerability Assessments (VAs)
11:00	Tea Break
11:30	Country Team Exercise: Planning VAs for AHM Work –Country Teams Consider Key Questions for VAs
13:00	Lunch
14:00	AHM Project Communications: Storytelling Exercise
15:00	Species Vulnerability Assessment Tool: The Snow Leopard
16:00	Tea Break
16:30	Group Exercise: Use the Species Tool to Assess Vulnerability of other Local Species (e.g. Prey species) Group Exercise: Develop adaptation stories from your landscape
17:30	Film: The Last Yak Herder of Dhe
19:00	Dinner

Friday, 30 January – Climate Adaptation Training – Day 3

9:00	Session Introduction and News Introduction to Climate Scenario Planning
9:45	Presentation of Observed Trends and Projections for Project AHM Sites
10:30	Country Team Exercise: Scenario Planning Prep- Conservation Targets, Key Livelihoods, Social Targets
11:00	Tea Break

11:30	Country Team Exercise: Use project site scenarios to assess projected types of change for conservation and social targets
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Review of Morning Activities and Implications for Work Plans: Guided Report Back
14:30	Time for country teams seeking special help from trainers and experts on specific problems
15:30	Training Wrap Up
16:00	Tea Break
7:00	Dinner

Annex 2: Activity 2.5.2: Global Snow Leopard Conservation Forum Secretariat Steering Committee Meeting Agenda, March 18-21, 2015, Koi Tash, Kyrgyzstan.



Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, March 19-21, 2015

DAY 0: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 (Jannat Resort)	
	Arrival and registration of participants
	Reception

DAY 1: THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015 (Jannat Resort)	
09:00-10:00	Registration- Conference hall lobby
10:00-10:45	<p>OPENING CEREMONY- Conference hall</p> <p>Opening Remarks– Tayirbek Sarpashev, First Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Welcome speech- Sabir Atadjanov, Director, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Brief remarks by the Steering Committee meeting co-organizers (3 minutes each) UNDP, SLT, NABU & WWF</p> <p>Introduction to objectives and expected outcomes, processes, and housekeeping</p>
10:45-11:15	Coffee Break, Group photo (tbd)
11:15-13:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION 1: Presentations by range countries on progress till date including status of management plans for the 23 landscapes and future action plans</p> <p>Statements by Heads of Delegations of the snow leopard range countries (7 minutes each) <i>Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch (Jannat Resort)
14:00-15:30	<p>PLENARY SESSION 2: Management Planning including economic evaluation of high altitude landscapes & green growth</p> <p>Discussion on best practices concerning the Snow Leopard and Ecosystem protection (specific activity results)</p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	PLENARY SESSION 3: Innovations, new initiatives, knowledge sharing, and mechanisms for coordination and convergence between Partners of GSLEP
17:00-18:00	PLENARY SESSION 4: Standard management system for information sharing of GSLEP program
18:30-20:30	Dinner Reception on behalf of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic Ethno - Complex «Supara»
20.30-21.00	Transfer by buses to Jannat Resort

DAY 2: FRIDAY, MARCH 20 (Jannat Resort)	
09:30-10:30	PLENARY SESSION 5: Resource mobilization strategies
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-12:45	PLENARY SESSION 6: Consulting and designing the regional GEF Medium Sized Projects, and enhancing coordination among the different National GEF projects
12:45-14:00	Lunch « Jannat Resort »
14:00-15:30	PLENARY SESSION 7: Defining and formalizing the structure, role and process of the Steering Committee & Program Secretariat
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT: Finalizing and signing the Resolution
17:00-18.00	Closing Ceremony: Summary - Next Steps
18:30-20:30	Dinner « Jannat Resort »

DAY 3: SATURDAY, MARCH 21 (Bishkek)	
	Nooruz Cultural celebrations
	Transfers to airport